

Persian Power on Display at British Museum



LONDON (Guardian) – The struggle for power between ancient Greece and the Persian empire is seen in a radical new light at the British Museum in London, from May 4 to August 13.

When Greek soldiers captured the royal command tent of the Persian king during the Greco-Persian Wars (499–449 BC), they were confronted suddenly and spectacularly by luxury on an unimaginable scale. To many ancient Greek writers, the victories of the small Greek forces against the mighty Persians were a triumph of discipline and restraint over an empire weakened by decadence and excess.

Drawing on dazzling objects from Afghanistan to Greece, this exhibition moves beyond the ancient Greek spin to explore a more complex story about luxury as a political tool in the Middle East and southeast Europe from 550–30 BC. It explores how the royal Achaemenid court of Persia used precious objects as markers of authority, defining a style of luxury that

resonated across the empire from Egypt to India. It considers how eastern luxuries were received in early democratic Athens, self-styled as Persia's arch-enemy, and how they were adapted in innovative ways to make them socially and politically acceptable. Finally, it explores how Alexander swept aside the Persian empire to usher in a new Hellenistic age in which eastern and western styles of luxury were fused as part of an increasingly interconnected world.

Featuring star loans as well as objects from the British Museum collection, the exhibition brings together exquisitely crafted objects in gold, silver and glass, including the extraordinary Panagyurishte Treasure from Bulgaria. Whether coveted as objects of prestige or disparaged as signs of decadence, the beauty of these Persian, Greek and Hellenistic luxuries shaped the political landscape of Europe and Asia in the first millennium BC – and their legacy persists in our attitudes to luxury today.

First Aerospace Museum of Iran Opens in Kerman

TEHRAN – The first aerospace museum of Iran has been unveiled in southeastern province of Kerman.

The museum boasts a collection of intriguing aerospace artifacts.

The opening ceremony held on Saturday was attended by a number of senior officials.

The museum itself is the result of years of planning and hard work by a dedicated team of experts and aerospace enthusiasts.

The museum provides visitors with a unique opportunity to learn about the history of aerospace research and development in Iran.

The museum can inspire younger generations to take an interest in aerospace and pursue careers in this field.

The opening of the first aerospace museum in the country is an important milestone for Iran, signaling the country's strong presence in the industry.



'Next Door Neighbors' Features Rumi-Inspired Music

TEHRAN – In a music video, the actors of Iranian series 'Next Door Neighbors' lip-sync to a Rumi song in perfect synchronization.

The main cast of Iranian television series 'Next Door Neighbors' has come together to feature in a music video lip-syncing to a song whose lyrics are adapted from the poetry of

world-renowned Persian poet Rumi.

The song performed by Mohsen Chavoshi and titled 'Thousands of Dreams' is themed on the love of God and highlights that the material world is worthless and should be abandoned before reaching immortality.

The music video features male and female

stars of 'Next Door Neighbors' including Pejman Jamshidi, Roya Teymourian, Homayoun Ershadi, Farhad Ayeesh, Vishka Asayesh, Gohar Kheirandish, Azadeh Samadi, and Reza Naji.

The fusion of Rumi's poetry in this music video is quite creative.

French Festival to Feature Iranian Documentary

TEHRAN – Directed by Iranian filmmaker Morteza Payeh Shenas, the documentary "Wood" will be screened at the Trés Court International Film Festival in France.

"Wood" and 39 other short films are set to compete at the French film festival.

The Trés Court International Film Festival is a film festival that takes place annually in June in multiple cities simultaneously. It is dedicated to short films that are no longer than four minutes.

The 2023 edition of the event is slated to be held on Jun 2-11, 2023.

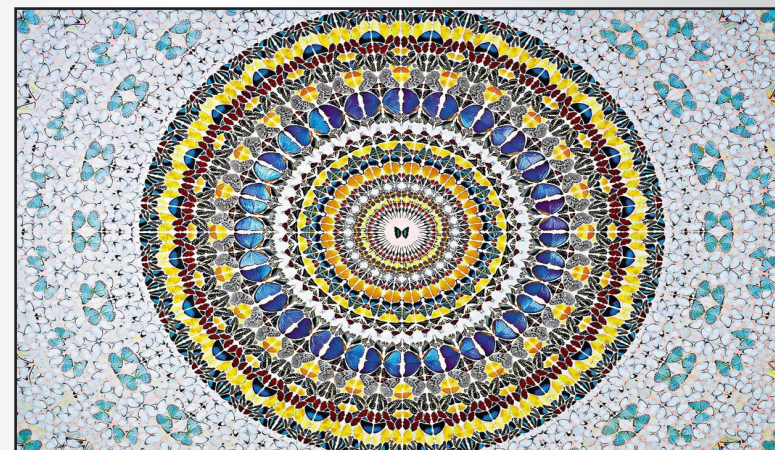
Christie's Online Auction to Showcase Mideast Art

DUBAI (Dispatches) -- A new online auction at Christie's Middle East will showcase modern and contemporary Middle Eastern art from May 1-16.

The sale comprises 63 works across mediums including paintings, sculpture and photography, from the period 1963 to 2021.

Leading the sale is the renowned work by Moroccan artist Muhammad Melehi, "Wilde," 1963, estimated to sell for between \$100,000 to \$150,000. Coming from the private collection of Toni Maraini, this rare work hails from the artist's time in New York and was exhibited in Galleria Trastevere in the same year of its making, and was also recently exhibited at London's New Waves exhibition at The Mosaic Rooms in 2019.

The sale covers artistic production from across the Middle East and North Africa, including works by artists from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Iran,



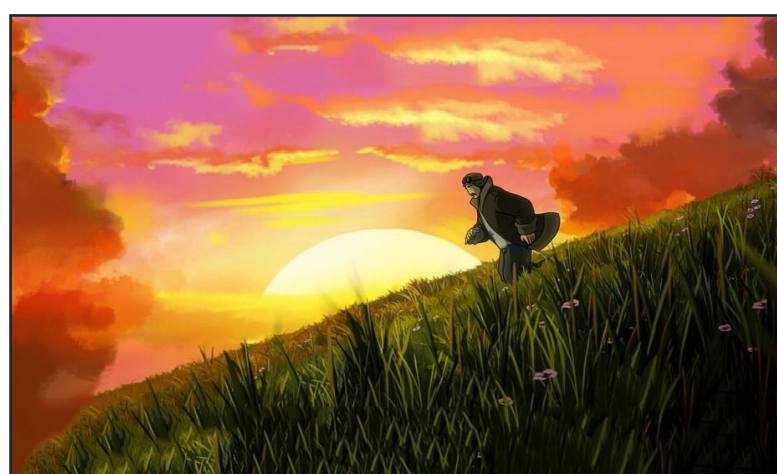
Iraq, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

Contemporary names from the region such as Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim, Ali Banisadr, Hassan Hajjaj, Reem al-Faisal, Thameur Mejri and Jawhara al-Saud, will be shown alongside strong modern works including Etel Adnan's "Khat wa Rasm" (Line and Hand Drawing), 1986; Dia Azzawi's "Gill-gamesh Epic no 4," 1966; and Shak-

er Hassan al-Said's "Kitabat a'la jidar raqam," 1978.

Leading modern female artists include Samia Halaby, Helen Khal, Etel Adnan, Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, Huguette Caland and Behjat Sadr, alongside contemporary female artists Hayy Kahraman, Tala Madani, Nadia Kaabi-Linke and Dana Awartani who comprise a third of the works on offer in the auction.

Zlin Festival to Debut Iran's 'The Lovely Sky'



TEHRAN -- Iranian animation 'The Lovely Sky' has been selected to go on screen at the 63rd edition of the Zlin Film Festival in the Czech Republic.

Written and directed by Amir Mehran, 'The Lovely Sky' has been produced at the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults – Kanoon.

It will compete at the animation category of the festival, which will

take place in the Czech city of Zlin on June 1-7.

The animation follows an impatient fighter pilot who bombs cities every day. He returns to his little girl every night after completing his mission.

The girl loves to fly, but the father doesn't fulfill his daughter's dream because of the bitter memory of his wife's death. The war is getting closer every day. One day an inci-

dent changes their lives, forever.

'The Lovely Sky' is the winner of the best animation prize at the 2022 edition of the Roshd International Film Festival in Iran.

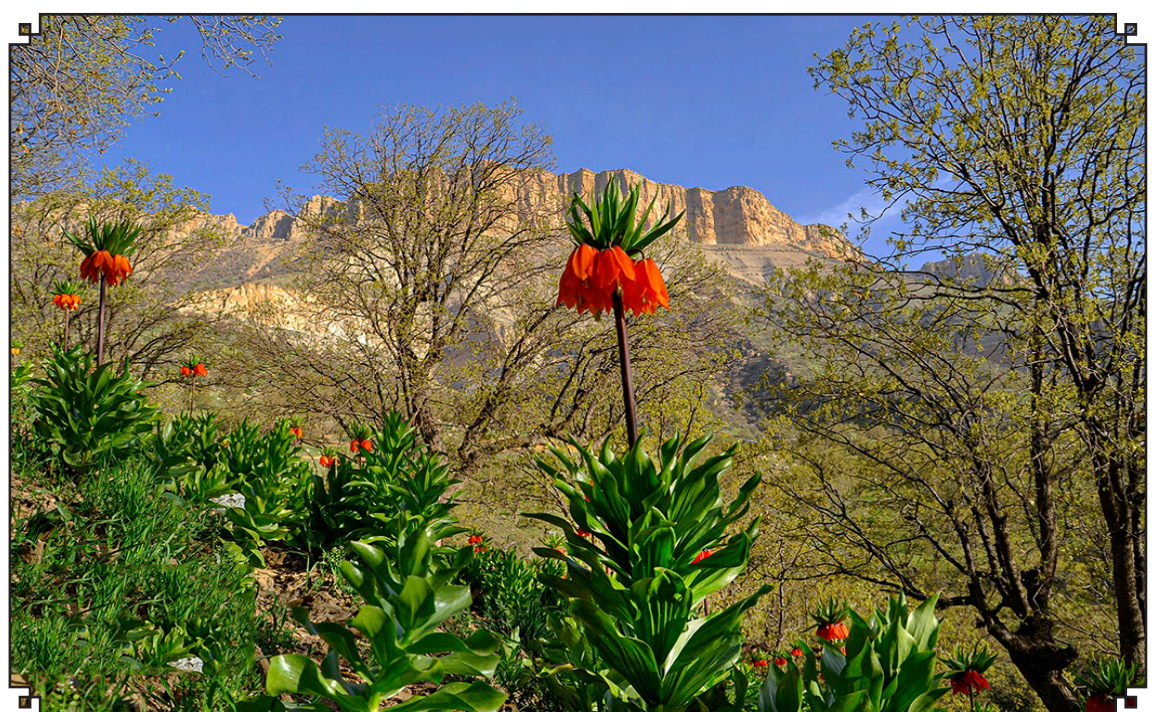
Earlier reports said that 'Katvoman' is the other representative of Iran to be screened at the Zlin Dog section, which presents a selection of student fiction, animation and documentary work from all over the world.

The Zlin Film Festival is an active member of the European Children's Film Association. The festival organizes an extensive supporting, professional and charitable program.

Iranian filmmakers have always been frequent visitors to the festival.

Iranian director Majid Majidi's child labor drama 'Sun Children' won the Golden Slipper for best feature film at the junior category of the 2021 edition of the festival.

Picture of the Day



Overturned tulips emerge from the soil in the highlands of Manesht in Ilam province in the spring. The drooping flowers of the plant are one of the most unique species, indigenous to the wild mountains of Iran.

Photo by Fars