

Iran Designs Medal to Honor Ferdowsi Experts



TEHRAN -- Iran has established an international medal to honor Ferdowsi experts from all over the world.

According to a statement by the Iranian Society of Cultural Works and Luminaries (ISCWL), the medal has been designed to be granted to experts with distinguished studies on Hakim Abul-Qasem Ferdowsi Tusi, one of the most renowned Persian poets whose magnum opus 'Shahnameh' revived Persian Lan-

guage, iFilm reported.

The first medal is set to be awarded on Ferdowsi Day in 2024, IS-CWL director Mahmoud Shaloui said during a press conference held to brief the media about the programs the society designed to celebrate the upcoming Ferdowsi Day, which will fall on May 15, 2023.

"Numerous priceless studies on Ferdowsi and the Shahnameh are being carried out worldwide every year," he noted and added,

"All the works promoting the Persian language and culture will be acknowledged by the granting of financial support."

Ferdowsi is famed as one of the most influential figures in Persian literature, and his name will shine throughout history due to his great effort to save the language.

Ferdowsi's 'Shahnameh', which is the world's longest epic poem created by a single poet, has been translated into many languages and has influenced literary works in other countries.

Ferdowsi's masterpiece covers all aspects of humanity, calling all people to the highest human status.

'Shahnameh', meaning "The book of kings", took 30 years to be written, which is twice as long as Homer's 'Iliad' and 'Odyssey' combined.

The book about Persian kings, written entirely in Persian, played a key role in the revival of this language and made a significant contribution to the development of Persian literature.

Islamic Art Institute Showcases Works of Iranian Artist



NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- The Institute of Arab and Islamic Art (IAIA), NYC, is presenting the first institutional solo exhibition of Behjat Sadr (1924 — 2009) in the United States from May 15. The exhibition unveils Sadr's diverse practice, which spanned painting, photography, photomontage and kinetics.

Born in Arak, Iran, Sadr broke through the male-dominated pre-Revolutionary Iranian art world, establishing herself as one of the foremost artists of the 20th century with her biomorphic gestural abstractions that defied the status quo. The current exhibition explores her engagement with painting, often made with a palette knife, by unearthing the deep relationships between body, memory and medium and surface and form. Sadr was formally trained at the University of Tehran, Iran, before being awarded a grant to study at the Rome Academy in Italy (1955) and at the Fine Arts School of Naples (1958). Shortly after completing her studies in Fine Arts at the University of Tehran — where she would later go on to teach — she received a grant to study at the Rome Academy in 1955. She rose to prominence there. During her years in Rome, her

friendship deepened with the Persian poet Forough Farrokhzad, who had been her student in Tehran. In Rome, she also met her second husband, Persian composer Morteza Hannaneh, whom she married in 1975 and with whom she had her only child, Kakuti (Mitra) Hannaneh.

In 1957, Sadr decided to return to the University of Tehran as a professor, despite opportunities to continue her painting in Rome and Paris. She continued teaching in Tehran for almost 20 years. Awarded the Royal Grand Prize at the Tehran Biennial 1962, she participated in international art fairs such as the Venice Biennial and Sao Paulo Biennial, and in many personal and group exhibitions.

In cultivating a different visual language which stemmed from the narratives of Western modern art and Persian visual culture, she experimented with new modes of expression. With her abstractions evolving into organic forms and after placing her varied surfaces on the floor, she was able to engage her body as a vehicle for painting.

Sometimes her gestural paintings appear thick and impermeable; in others, organic forms, such as tree trunks and logs, coolly float across

the surface. The thick black pigments, reminiscent of oil, serve as a reference to the deeply politicized Iranian situation. The use of textured, wandering lines, meanwhile speak of how nature is being constantly redefined.

By the 1980s, she left Iran to exile in Paris. She was ill, and her battle with cancer constrained her work. The resulting collages, composed of photos she had taken of Iran's landscapes with those showing a glimpse into her new city life, are framed tightly. Throughout, her signature brushstrokes, ever present in her oeuvre, are visible. The late works best exemplify Sadr's commitment to the experimentation of medium and the excavation of memory. They also reveal the fecund landscape of her mind.

By tracing her continuing engagement with abstraction over the course of five decades, the show unveils the psychosis of living in a period of instability, exile, modernity and tradition in the communities she inhabited. Sadr was diagnosed with breast cancer in the 1980s, but continued to paint. She died of a heart attack at the age of 85, while swimming in Corsica. Several times in her writings, she had spoken of her wish to die in the sea.

Her works have been exhibited in many institutions internationally, including Galleria La Bussola, Rome (1958); Venice Biennale (1956, 1962); Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (1963); Grey Foundation, Saint Paul, Minnesota (1971); Grey Art Gallery, New York (2010); Asia Society, New York (2013- 2014) and The Mosaic Rooms, London, UK. This year, her work was included in the exhibition Action, Gesture, Paint: Women Artists and Global Abstraction 1940-1970 at the Whitechapel Gallery in London.

Hamadan Monuments Listed as National Heritage

TEHRAN -- Three historical monuments of the Hamadan city have been registered on the National Heritage List.

The Tork Historical House in Tuyserkan, the Abaei Historical House in Nahavand and Golshan Tower in Famenin are the registered monuments.

"The law of registration of national works was first approved in 1920 by the National Assembly and it was decided that the works that have dignity and national status until the end of the Zandiyeh

era will be identified and be registered on the National Heritage List," director general of the cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts of Hamadan Masoom Alizadeh said.

The legacy left by the past is effective in the study of human history stating, he said.

"Preserving them tells the needs of the past and there is a story behind each one, and preserving the works can help to validate the memories of the past."

Tehran International Book Fair Opens

TEHRAN -- The 34th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) opened here at the Imam Khomeini Grand Mo-salla on Wednesday.

Deputy director of the fair Ali Ramezani said nearly 100 foreign publishers, 200 booksellers, and 2,700 domestic publishers are participating either virtually or in person in the exhibition.

Culture ministers of Tajikistan and Venezuela are attending the exhibition as do the directors of Muscat, Doha, and New Delhi fairs.

Tajikistan, Ramezani said, is a guest of honor at the fair which is being held with the motto of "The Future is Readable" for ten days from May 20.



'World Cup' to Compete at Irish Festival



TEHRAN -- Iranian short film 'World Cup' has made it to the Fastnet Film Festival (FFF) in Ireland, the Iranian Youth Cinema Society reported.

"On the night of a couple's migration, the child of their friend, who has been entrusted to them,

gets lost, and then a secret is revealed," a synopsis for the film reads.

'World Cup' is written and directed by Maryam Khodabakhsh.

The short film bagged four awards at the Silent River Film Festival in the US, including the Best

Narrative Short, the River Rock Award for the Best Actor, the River Pearl Award for the Best Female Actor, and the River Rock Award for the Best Child Actor.

'World Cup' also won the Best director award at the 5th Short Focus Film Festival in the UK.

The Fastnet Film Festival is "an independent festival dedicated to bringing together established and first-time filmmakers in a forum that celebrates short film", according to the event's website.

The upcoming edition of FFF will take place on May 24-28.

'October' to be Released Soon

TEHRAN -- The feature 'October', a co-production between Iran, Turkey and Georgia, is set to be screened soon.

'October' was filmed late last Persian year, which ended on March 20.

The film is currently undergoing the post-production stage. It will be streamed online in Iran and screened in Turkey simultaneously.

It is written and directed by Abbas Moradian. The

film is based on a true story taken from the book "October 6".

'October' is starring Narges Muhammadi, Pouria Poursorkh, Sayyed Khan Kimaz, and Ibrahim Dukan.

Picture of the Day



Chah Nasr in Mian Jolgeh city of Razavi Khorasan province is the first Iranian village using solar panels to power homes. Photo by Mehr