

Minakari, Enchanting Art of Colors



TEHRAN -- The captivating art of Minakari or enameling creates Iranian handicrafts that elevate metal and ceramic surfaces into breathtaking works of art.

Beginning as a simple technique of painting, coloring, and embellishing, this exquisite art form transcends traditional boundaries by infusing mesmerizing hues and intricate patterns onto metal surfaces, iFilm reported.

Caressed by the skillful hands of master craftsmen in Iran, each creation bursts forth with vibrant colors, unparalleled brilliance, and awe-inspiring designs.

Greek Museum Displays Grandeur of Islamic Art



ATHENS (BelTA/Anadolu Agency) -- In Athens' old city, the Benaki Museum of Islamic Art stands as a testament to the cultural bridge between Greece and the rich artistic traditions of the Muslim world.

Since 2004, the museum has been exhibiting some 12,000 artifacts of Islamic artwork.

The exhibits include ceramics, jewelry, wood engravings, and processed glass from across parts of the world where, through history, Muslims have lived — from Spain and Sicily to Anatolia, Mesopotamia, and India.

Most of the collection was amassed by Antonis Benakis, a prominent Greek art collector, who later founded the Benaki Museum, one of the largest and oldest museums in the Greek capital.

Visitors are mesmerized by vivid blue and turquoise hues adorning tiles and ceramics from Anatolia's Iznik and Kutahya regions.

One distinguished exhibit is a collection of 17th-century tiles of from Iznik, an area in present-day Türkiye famed for its ceramics.

These tiles depict the Miraj, a single-night journey by Islam's Prophet Muhammad from the city of Mecca to Al-Quds, followed by his ascension to heaven.

In a central part of the museum, visitors can also view the office of the "kethuda," a senior lieutenant to the governor during the rule of the Ottoman Empire.

Mina Moraitou, the museum's curator, underlined that this is

just one of two collections in Greece that "do not display parts of any Greek civilization."

In fact, this museum bridges Greece to a region geographically close by yet culturally different, she said.

"Of course, we have Greek visitors who regard Islamic art as complicated and dazzling," she explained.

"Islamic art is a different thing. It is Arab art, it is Iranian art, it is Turkish art, so this is quite complicated and quite daunting for somebody who doesn't know about Islamic art, so education is very much part of our objectives."

The museum offers training programs and seminars, seeking to introduce Islamic civilization and art to locals and visitors alike.

Such initiatives serve to add interest in the museum and garner steady attention to Islamic art, Moraitou said.

The museum also collaborated with the Turkish Embassy in Athens and Turkish Culture Ministry in 2016 to host an exhibition of drawings depicting the city of Istanbul by 18th-century Dutch and British designer Thomas Hope, she said.

The next year, the Benaki Museum opened the exhibit on Iznik ceramics, while Moraitou later co-authored a book with John Carswell on the same subject.

"We have a lot of foreign students and foreign visitors, people who are interested in Islamic art, people who know about this collection ... Sometimes, I feel it's more known abroad than it is in Greece," she added.

Calligraphers Create Art on Muharram

TEHRAN -- As the mourning Islamic month of Muharram approaches, Iranian calligraphy artists create new works of art.

The second edition of the calligraphy art event, known as "Love Sign," hosted their works.

Out of the 350 talented artists who submitted their works for the event, 160 exceptional pieces were chosen and moved forward to the practical phase of implementing their works on symbols for mourning ceremonies in Muharram.

Their works honor Imam Hussein's (AS) martyrdom anniversary, and each stroke carefully executed by these skillful calligraphers serves as a visual depiction of the spiritual devotion felt during this solemn period.

Iran, a country renowned for its rich artistic heritage, has a long-standing tradition of calligraphy, an art form that merges the written word and artistic expression.



Bangladeshi Filmmaker Hails Iranian Women

TEHRAN -- Prominent Bangladeshi filmmaker Naznin Begum has praised Havva International Film Festival currently underway in Iran for highlighting the importance of family and women.

"The theme of the festival which focuses on family and women is so interesting to me, as you know everything begins with the family and the family is the core of society. In an ideal, happy family, there is neither discrimination nor violence, and that can spread to the society," said Begum, who is also one of the directors of Dhaka International Film Festival.

She noted that organizing



festivals focusing on movies about women helps society to get more familiar with the important role they play.

"Focusing on family-oriented movies and women's issues is necessary for all societies and

countries, and is one of the indicators of development," Begum said, adding, "If you want to have a developed country, you can't ignore the role of women in the society and their activities in the family, and or-

ganizing such festivals makes the society more familiar with those issues."

She said many Iranian filmmakers have made various movies about women and their issues.

"This is so interesting," she said, adding the movies show how Iranian women are independent, intelligent and powerful.

The 1st edition of Havva International Film Festival kicked off Tuesday and will run until July 14.

Films from various countries, including Russia, China, Bangladesh, France, Italy, India, Iraq and Lebanon, are being featured in the festival.

Italian Festival Features Iranian Animation

TEHRAN -- Iran's animated short film 'It's a Gray, Gray World!' has made it to Cartoon Club, an international festival of animations, comics and games, which is currently underway in Italy.

The film is taking part in the 39th edition of Cartoon Club.

Directed by Mohsen Pourmohseni-Shakib, the film is about a young man who lives in a completely gray world.

"He is forced to change his color in order to live in that society, but his real identity scares people as it has been accidentally revealed by a playful boy," the film's synopsis reads.

'It's a Gray, Gray World!' won the Best Animated Short Award at the 47th edition of the Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF), an Oscar-qualifying festival, in the United States.

Cartoon Club is one of the most famous festivals in Italy.

"It is a remarkable window for animation works, short films in particular — fiction, educational, experimental, computer graphic — and with a whole section solely dedicated to comics," an online submission platform read.

The festival kicked off on July 10 and will run until July 16.

Print Expo in Tehran Wraps Up

TEHRAN -- The second Iran Future Print Expo (IFPEX) on Friday wrapped up at the Iran Mall International Exhibition Center in Tehran.

With the motto, "Brand Printing Solutions for Tomorrow's Retail", the event aimed to display the improvement of our country in terms of printing, publishing and packaging.

IFPEX director Babak Abedin who is also the head of Iran's Print Industry Exporters' Union said: "One of the marketing tools for the IFPEX exhibition is holding dialogue in various expos to invite visitors and clients to create an environment for dialogue among them."

"We always follow this measure

by attending expos of various industries related to printing and packaging," he added.

Creating economic, social and cultural connections between Iranian print industry activists with the countries of the region and establishing business and professional interactions between them were among its objectives.

Picture of the Day



Papaya is a tropical fruit native to Central America that provides a lot of healthy properties. It is both used as a fruit and a processing raw material. A papaya greenhouse at the Imam Reza greenhouse complex in Northern Khorasan province has now reached production in an area of 7,000 square meters.

Photo by IRNA