

Miniature: Iranian Art With a Long History

TEHRAN -- Iranian miniature painting is an intricate, vibrant, and minimalist traditional art form that often depicts mythological or religious themes.

In 2020, Iranian miniature painting was added to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, iFilm reported.

Although the term "miniature" originates from French, the Iranian interpretation differs significantly from the Eastern Asian and European versions.

Beyond the shared trait of being small in scale, Persian miniature painting boasts unique features.

The first one is the delicate detail that catches every viewer's eyes. No slight detail is missed by the artist to the extent that some details require a magnifier to see.

In Iran, miniature art expanded beyond standalone works to include illustrations within Iranian manuscripts and poetry book margins, gaining prominence in the 14th century and adorning handwritten books with scenes of hunts, battles, and feasts.

During the Islamic era, Persian miniature art blossomed, adorning historical sites with colorful paintings that travelers can explore across Iran.

Isfahan, renowned for its Islamic architecture, holds a treasure trove of such art, particularly from the Safavi era.

Noteworthy examples include Chehel Sotoun, Ali Qapu, Hasht Behesht, and Qeisariyeh Bazaar in Isfahan, as well as Boroujerdi House in Kashan.



Isfahan is also the birthplace of the globally acclaimed Mahmoud Farshchian, a Persian miniature master. His astounding works, at 93 years of age, grace museums and exhibitions worldwide.

Farshchian's paintings have been presented as gifts and symbols of Iranian art to prominent politicians during high-profile meetings, including the 68th U.S. secretary of state, John Kerry.

Among Farshchian's remarkable paintings is his depiction of the tragedy of Ashura, recognized and honored by the National Library and Archives of Iran.

Iranian miniature painting is listed as a National Intangible Cultural Heritage, and artists like

Farshchian have been designated Living Human Treasures.

Other revered artists on this list are Majid Mehrgan, Mahin Afshanpour, Ardashir Mojarrad Takestani, and Muhammad Bagher Aghamiri.

If you are interested in art and especially Iranian miniature, we strongly suggest you visit National Museum of Iran in Tehran where there are various ancient artworks such as pottery, textiles and adobe calligraphy, from Iran's post-Islamic era.

Collectors of Iranian miniature art have the opportunity not only to adorn their walls with these masterpieces but also to acquire decorative containers adorned with this precious art form.

UNESCO, Tehran University to Mark Persian Poetry Day

National Day of Persian Poetry and Literature, Legendary Iranian Poet Shahriar



TEHRAN -- The Cultural Foundation of Maestro Shahriar's Mausoleum will hold the first festival of top dissertations on Persian language and literature in cooperation with the UNESCO National Commission in Iran and Tehran University.

The event is planned for September 18 concurrent with the National Commemoration Day of Persian Poetry and Literature.

Those interested may send their dissertations files not later than September 16 to: norooz1347@yahoo.com.

The National Day of Persian Poetry and Literature has been dedicated to Muhammad Hussein Behjat-Tabrizi, mainly known by his penname as Shahriar.

Shahriar, a legendary Iranian poet of Azerbaijani ethnicity, was born in 1907 in Tabriz and died in 1988 in Tehran aged 81.

'Left Handed' to Premiere in Italy, Indonesia, Turkey, Korea Festivals



TEHRAN -- Iranian short film 'Left Handed' will take part in five international film festivals in Italy, Indonesia, Turkey and South Korea.

The short piece is scheduled to be screened at Minikino Film Week – Bali International Short Film Festival in Indonesia, the TRT World Citizen Humanitarian Film Festival in Turkey, Cheongju International Short Film Festival in South Korea, the Salento International Film Festival and Fernando Di Leo Short Film Festival in Italy.

The 'Left Handed' is directed by Nasrin Muhammadpour and produced by Fariba Arab in Chosen Image Company. It has been filmed in Mashhad, north-east Iran, for seven days.

"Maryam is thinking of a big decision and intends to

do something and prepare herself for it, but ...” reads part of the story.

Like other films directed by Muhammadpour, 'Left Handed' is also about women and society. The screenplay of the work has already won two awards at domestic festivals.

Yasman Nasiri, Roham Assadi, Soheil Rezaei, Leila Dalir, Reza Mouszadeh Golestani, Ali Javan, and Nasser Shojaeifar are among the cast of the short piece.

The 'Left Handed' has been previously screened in many international film festivals, including Seoul International Women's Film Festival, Positively Different Short Film Festival in Greece, Kaohsiung International Film Festival in Taiwan and International Adana Golden Boll Film Festival in Turkey.

Tunisia, Panama to Screen Iranian Short Films

TEHRAN – Iranian short film 'The Fifty Thousand' directed by Hamed Karivand will take part in two international film festivals in Tunisia and Panama.

Cinéma International Short Film Festival in Tunisia which started on July 20 and will continue until July 25 is scheduled to screen Karivand's short film.

The Panama Series Festival will be another international festival which will screen 'The Fifty Thousand'.

Written by Fardin Rahmampour, the short piece is about the life of a boy who lives with his father in a house down town and struggles with many challenges and is forced to sell his pigeon



for 500,000 rials.

The cast of 'The Fifty Thousand' includes Amir Hussein Ghalandari, Elahe Jami, Hus-

sein Kiani, and Mehdi Parhizkari.

Meanwhile, the short film "Penniless Cinema", directed

by Iranian filmmaker Ali Arefnasab, will be screened at the 59th edition of the Festival International du Film Amateur de Kelibia (FIFAK) in Tunisia.

Hadi Aghahusseini is among the cast of Arefnasab's short film.

Created in 1964, the FIFAK is a film event organized by the Tunisian Federation of Amateur Filmmakers and supported by the ministry of cultural affairs in collaboration with the National Center for Cinema and Image and the municipality of the city of Kelibia.

The 59th edition of the event will be held from August 19 to 26 in Kelibia.

'The Lovely Sky' to Represent Iran at Varna Animation Festival

TEHRAN -- Iranian animation 'The Lovely Sky' has made it to the World Festival of Animated Film in the Bulgarian city of Varna.

Written and directed by Amir Mehran, the animated piece will represent Iran at the competition section of the 2023 edition of the event, iFilm reported.

'The Lovely Sky' has been produced at the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults – Kanoon.

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 incident 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.

Established in 1979, the World

Festival of Animated Film is dedicated to animations from around the world.

The 19th edition of the festival will screen the animated piece on September 6, 2023.

Picture of the Day



The historical village of Kandavan, 53 km south of Tabriz, is one of the rare rock villages in the world, where homes have been excavated inside sugarloaf shaped volcanic rocks.

Photo by ISNA