



## Iran Daily's cartoonist Rajabi awarded at Fajr Visual Arts Festival



Iran Daily's cartoonist Mohammad-Ali Rajabi was awarded during the closing ceremony of the 15th edition of the Fajr Visual Arts Festival.

In the Peaks Section, which was newly added to the festival, Mohammad-Ali Rajabi was named best cartoonist, while miniaturist Reza Badrossama won an honorable mention. Mohammad-Saber Sheikhezai was selected as best graphic designer.

Born in Natanz, Isfahan Province, in 1974, Rajabi received his B.A. in the field of painting from Shahed University in Tehran. Since 1997, he has worked with various cartoon publications in Iran and some Arab countries.

The 15th edition of Fajr Visual Arts Festival opened on February 17 and wrapped up on February 24.

## Iranian actor Shahram Abdoli dies at 46



IRNA – Iranian actor Shahram Abdoli died on Saturday at a hospital in Mashhad, days after he slipped into a deep coma due to cerebral hemorrhage.

According to Iranian media, Abdoli, 46, suffered a brain hemorrhage and suddenly lost consciousness days earlier in the northeastern city of Mashhad, where he was acting in a TV series titled 'Rest Assured'.

He first rose to fame in Iran in the early 2000s with a role in a highly popular TV series titled 'The Red Line.'

Abdoli had since played roles in many TV shows and movies including 'Unfinished Secret,' 'Kamal Stories,' 'Eclipse,' and 'The Years of Constitution.'

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# Iran attending India's New Delhi World Book Fair

Iranian publishers are attending the 31st New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF), which opened on Saturday, after a two-year hiatus.

This is the eighth time Iran is attending the book fair, IRNA wrote.

The Iranian delegation will also have joint meetings with Indian publishers, Federation of Indian Publishers, Sahitya Akademi, which is India's National Academy of Letters.

The event will be underway until March 7.

French culture, literature, heritage, and cuisine will be celebrated at the 31st edition of the book fair, as France has been invited as the guest of honor to one of the most significant literary events, which opened in the presence of 2022 Nobel Laureate for Literature, Annie Ernaux, according to thehindu.com. Organized by the National Book Trust (NBT) in collaboration with the India

Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) at Pragati Maidan, the festival's theme is Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (elixir of energy of independence).

To commemorate 75 years of India's independence, 75 writers — who were selected following a competition and mentored by established authors under the Prime Minister's YUVA (Young Upcoming Versatile Author) scheme — will launch their books at the nine-day-long fair.

Two iconic books, the original copy of the Constitution of India and a semi-burnt diary of Bhagat Singh, are being showcased at the venue. Visitors will be treated to book discussions, special talks, workshops, seminars, meet-the-author sessions, theatre, and performances by army and police bands along with other cultural programs.

France will be represent-



ed by the biggest delegation of house heads from 12 publishing houses and 16 authors across literary genres, including fiction, non-fiction, children's books and graphic novels. Their pavilion has been designed by French graphic novelist Simon Lamouret to resemble a French

bookstore with a café inside.

Even as technology drives our reading habit nowadays, the number of people who read printed books has not diminished. "Books are fundamental and will always be an integral part of our lives," said NBT director Yuvraj Malik.

He added, the million-plus visitors at the NDWBF in the past years are testimony to that.

With Indian publishing poised for accelerated growth, the idea is to offer a nurturing business environment to the exhibitors, said NBT Chairman Gopal Sharma.

# Iran's 'The Mattress' to be screened at St. Louis Int'l Film Festival

The Iranian short film, 'The Mattress,' directed by Arash Hassanpour, will be screened at the St. Louis International Film Festival (SLIFF) in Missouri, the U.S., slated to be held from November 9 to 19. The SLIFF is a regional, internationally themed film event dedicated to exploring

cross-cultural understanding through the art of the cinema. The organization's mission is to showcase the best in international, documentary, and American independent cinema.

The festival is especially concerned with providing local filmmakers the opportunity to

see works that would otherwise never be screened in St. Louis.

The short film has already made its way to the 36th edition of the Cinekid International Film Festival in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

"A wet mattress with a yellow

stain on it and hanging to dry on the balcony of the house of Mohsen, an eight-year-old boy, causes a misunderstanding such that his friends mock and judge him, but Mohsen wants to make an important decision and face his fears," the synopsis of the short film reads.



# Sculpture of Picasso's corpse draws crowds at Madrid's top contemporary art fair

Among the aisles and booths of ARCO, Madrid's contemporary art fair, lurks the apparition of a man who looms large over the history of modern art.

Picasso's lifeless body forms the basis for a work by the Spanish artist Eugenio Merino, titled 'Aquí Murió Picasso' (Picasso Died Here), 2017. Rather than being

based on Picasso's actual corpse, it draws inspiration from the image of the artist that many associate with him: the blue-striped Breton shirt, white linen pants, espadrilles, artnews.com reported.

The work is also quite literally larger than life. Picasso was said to stand 5 feet 4 inches tall, whereas the sculpture is just over 6 feet long.

According to the Spanish publication El País, the sculpture "managed to concentrate groups of onlookers" on opening day. La Vanguardia described the work as "death as a souvenir," one of the "main centers of attraction for selfie

addicts" and the "safe way get likes on Instagram."

Curated by Los Intervenores and presented by ADN Gallery, the sculpture was conceived as a critique of mass tourism, the art fair industrial complex, and the general selfie-fication of the cultural sphere. The work all but begs fairgoers to snap pictures of themselves next to Picasso's body.

"The sculpture is basically a tourist attraction we made based on the Dean MacCannell's 1976 book 'The Tourist,'" Merino wrote in an email to ARTnews. "In the book, the author explains the characteristics of an at-

traction, and for us, it was basically what the art world and the art fairs have turned into.

"Institutions and companies wash their image in culture," Merino added, "that's why it's important that this work presents itself, openly, as an object to be sold but also from which to extract symbolic value. A place where a 'tourist art consumer' can have its selfie...a souvenir that reminds us they were here, where Picasso died. Obviously, [it's] as fake as any tourist attraction."

The work comes in an edition of three and sells for a tidy €45,000. ARCO runs through February 26.

