

Kandinsky painting fetches record £37.2m at auction



● GETTY IMAGES

A Wassily Kandinsky masterpiece that had been stolen by the Nazis, who killed its owner in the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1944, has been sold for a record £37.2m at auction in London.

The painting was sold at Sotheby's on behalf of the great-grandchildren of the owner. They were recently reunited with the 1910 work, titled Murnau mit Kirche II (Murnau with Church II), which had been discovered in a museum in Eindhoven in the Netherlands, the Guardian reported.

The descendants of Johanna Margarethe Stern-Lippmann and Siegbert Stern, the founders of a textile company and keen art collectors, said they would use some of the proceeds of the sale to try to track down more of the family's vast art collection that was seized by the Nazis in the 1930s. The painting, which depicts the Bavarian village of Murnau in a burst of color, had hung in the couple's dining room in their villa in Potsdam, Berlin. It is said to have heralded the Russian master's move towards abstract art.

The £37.2m sale to an asset unknown telephone bidder was the star of Sotheby's 36-lot modern and contemporary sale this week and set a fresh record price for a Kandinsky. The previous highest amount paid at auction for a Kandinsky was £33m for Painting with White Lines (1913), sold at Sotheby's in 2017. Its original owners were friends with some of the most influential writers and thinkers of their day including Thomas Mann, Franz Kafka and Albert Einstein. The couple's collection of more than 100 artworks ranged from Dutch old master paintings to Renoir and modern artists including Munch and Kandinsky.

Everything changed, however, after the Nazis rise to power. Although Stern died of natural causes in 1935, Stern-Lippmann was forced to flee Germany and was later murdered in Auschwitz.

Persian Gulf water: Lifeline for Iran's central deserts



EXCLUSIVE



● IRNA



Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

The implementation of the second line of the large desalination and water transfer project, which conveys the Persian Gulf's water to the central parts of Iranian plateau, is one of Iran's largest land and water projects and considered a lifeline for the central deserts of Iran, according to an MP.

In an interview with Iran Daily reporter, Mohammadreza Sabbaghian referred to the dry condition of the central plateau regions and the severe lack of rainfall in those regions, and said, "Unfortunately, with the continuation of the process of climate change and the decrease of precipitation in all parts of the world, we have to wait for the expansion of arid areas

in the country."

He emphasized the importance of water in the progress and development of different regions, saying, "Unfortunately, the lack of water has prevented the progress and development of many regions of the country, and instead we are witnessing mass migrations from these regions."

The representative of the constituency of Mehriz, Abarkuh, Bafq, Behabad, Khatam, and Marvast (all in Yazd Province) in the Parliament said, "A large part of our country is covered with desert and parched areas, and the possibility of living in these areas depends on the availability of water from other areas."

"Due to the location of Yazd Province in the heart of the desert, this province has a difficult situation in terms of water resources, and as a result of dehydration, many

trees and gardens have dried up and villages have been deserted."

Sabbaghian went on to state that based on this fact, providing sustainable drinking water for the region should be urgently put into consideration.

"Part of Yazd's drinking water was supplied through the tributaries of Zayandeh Rud river in previous years, but in order to solve the problem of water shortage in Yazd Province and many other desert areas, we need to consider supplying water from the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman."

According to the MP, in previous years, steps have been taken in the implementation of the desalination and transfer of water through pipelines from the Persian Gulf to the central regions of Iran.

"We have witnessed the inauguration of parts of the

first pipeline of the project in the past years."

The second pipeline of the project is designed to transfer 200 million cubic meters of desalinated water from the Persian Gulf to Yazd and Kerman provinces along a route of 730 kilometers. Currently, the second pipeline of this large national project has progressed by 30 percent and the estimated time for its completion is 48 months.

The Yazd representative believes that the implementation and operation of the large project of transferring water from the Persian Gulf to the central plateau of Iran can lead to the boom of production in the agricultural and industrial sectors of desert areas and create sustainable employment in those regions.

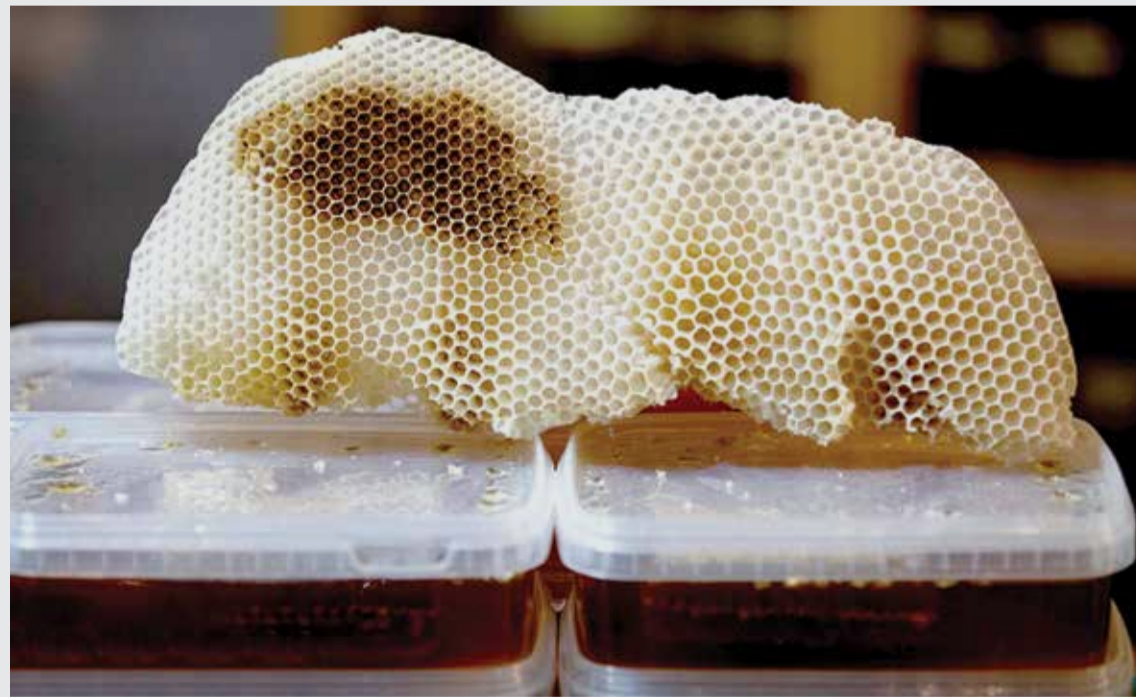
According to Sabbaghian, in order to speed up the implementation process of the

water transfer project to the central desert of Iran, the private sector's participation is needed.

Also, in reference to the country's increased rainfall this year, he stated, "Fortunately, this year, the amount of rainfall in different regions of the country has been satisfactory, and Yazd Province is not an exception."

According to him, the amount of precipitation in Yazd Province this year was unprecedented compared to the amount of precipitation in the province in the last 10 years.

"Of course, considering that Yazd Province has been suffering from drought for many years, this year's extra rainfall is not sufficient to compensate for the dryness and reduction of water reserves of the past years, and the concerns about water shortage still remain."



PIC OF THE DAY

The photo shows a quality beeswax showcased at the first Beekeeping, Honey, and Its By-Products fair held in the city of Hamedan, Hamedan Province, western Iran. The fair also includes free workshops for the public about different aspects of the trade.

● MAJEDE SHIRDEL/IRIB NEWS



UNESCO #Education #Sciences #Culture @UNESCO

Happy #WorldWildlifeDay! From the smallest insects to the largest mammals, every species plays a critical role in maintaining a healthy & balanced ecosystem. Let's commit to making positive changes to protect & conserve our wildlife: on.unesco.org/3qCRjhH #ForNature

11:30 AM - Mar 3, 2023



UNICEF @UNICEF

"Wake up! There's an earthquake!" This is what 6-year-old Musa in Syria heard his mother say, moments before the earthquakes hit. In Syria and Türkiye, thousands of children like Musa are living in shelters. As we meet their needs, boost UNICEF's response by donating now.

4:30 AM - Mar 3, 2023



American Museum of Natural History @AMNH

Goodnight, sleep tight... don't let the parrot snake bite. This snake, which is active during the day, seeks out nocturnal tree frogs to eat—ambushing the amphibians while they're asleep! Fun fact: This snake grows up to 68 inches (172 cm) long.

1:06 AM - Mar 3, 2023

