

Iran's 'Knife, Chocolate' wins at U.S. women festival



IRNA – The short film 'Knife, Chocolate,' directed by Hooshmand Varsaei, won the Exceptional Merit Award at WRPN Women's International Film Festival, said Head of Iranian Youth Cinema Society of Kermanshah Province Kamran Rezaei. The festival, which is about female filmmakers or films with women's concerns, is held in Delaware, the U.S. Rezaei said that the movie narrates the story of the end of an abnormal family and is against gender discrimination. The film has already taken part in Milano Film Festival in Italy, Saint Petersburg International Film Festival in Russian, Belgrade International Film Festival in Serbia, Zurich Film Festival in Switzerland, International Istanbul Film Festival in Türkiye, Nairobi Film Festival in Kenya, and Mumbai Film Festival in India. It was awarded the Honorary Diploma for the Best Experimental Short Film Award at the 26th Tehran International Film Festival.

Iranian Artists Forum to host six exhibitions



Arts & Culture Desk

IRNA – Six exhibitions will open at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran on April 21. A solo exhibition titled, 'Disruption,' will feature Anahid Peyman's paintings at Momayyez Gallery. Elnaz Rasekh will show her photo collage works in an exhibition called 'Existence and Timelessness' at Zamestan Gallery. Another to-be-held exhibition 'Telvase Hamoon' will feature photos taken by Hamed Gholami at Paez Gallery. Mirmiran Gallery will host Zahra Khavari's photos in an exhibition titled 'The Look'. The stone sculptures of Seyyed Rahim Hosseini, entitled 'Turbulence,' will be on display at Tabestan Gallery. Bahar Gallery will host a group calligraphy exhibition titled 'Sea of Love'. All six exhibitions will run through May 1st.

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Iranian arts on display at Qur'an exhibition in Pakistan



Arts & Culture Desk

An exhibition of Qur'an manuscripts opened in Pakistan's parliament on Tuesday, with Iranian works on display. With the cooperation of the Iranian Embassy, the exhibition's opening ceremony was enthusiastically welcomed by the representatives of the country's parliaments, political and cultural figures, as well as the ambassadors of Islamic countries, IRNA reported. According to the National Assembly of Pakistan in Islamabad, the exhibition's opening coincided with the last days of the month of Ramadan, on the eve of Eid al-Fitr.

Those attending the ceremony were: Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf, the head of the Pakistan-Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group, Naveed Qamar, Iran's Ambassador to Islamabad Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, and Cultural Attaché of the Iranian Embassy Ehsan Khazaei. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Qamar expressed appreciation for the initiative of the Iranian Embassy and the efforts made to hold the two-day Qur'anic exhibition. "The people of Pakistan have the opportunity to serve Islam and, today, along with our Iranian brothers, we are blessed to see valuable Qur'an manuscripts and other magnificent Islamic arts in this exhibition," he said.



● IRNA

He added that the presence of the 850-year-old manuscript of the Holy Qur'an in this show indicates the boundless love of the followers of Islam to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an. The Iranian envoy said, "The message of this precious copy reflects the deep and lasting love and interest of the designers of these historical and

unique work that is indicative of how they used whatever art they had in writing the Qur'an." He added, "As Muslims, all of us must highlight the role of the Qur'an in our lives; holding this exhibition in Ramadan is to this end." The works on display include 200 original manuscripts of the Holy Qur'an, some of which were written with a Persian transla-

tion, over 800 years old, in various Persian scripts of nasta'liq, thuluth and naskh. Some others are decorated and gilded with gold water, and colorful patterns of flowers and bushes. In addition, a significant number of original calligraphic works of the Holy Qur'an are presented by the Persian Research Center of Iran and Pakistan.

Iran holds programs to mark World Heritage Day

Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts held several programs on the occasion of World Heritage Day, or the International Day for Monuments and Sites (April 18), said Director-General of the Preservation and Restoration of Historical Buildings, Textures and Areas of Iran Fatemeh Davari. Davari announced that

three scientific meetings focusing on climate change, such as floods, earthquakes and subsidence were held in Yazd, Isfahan and Ourumieh, IRNA reported. She added that a meeting entitled, "Reading Local and Traditional Knowledge of Historical Textures," will be held on April 24, in Shiraz, Fars Province.

In addition to holding two exhibitions on cognitive technology of cultural heritage and restoration developments, the people who made significant efforts to protect the cultural heritage were honored on April 18, Davari noted. The concept for World Heritage Day was proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in

1982, and was subsequently endorsed by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) during the 22nd General Meeting in 1983. The date of April 18 was chosen to recognize the day in 1982, when the ICOMOS was established. World Heritage Day aims to promote participation in the preservation and

protection of historical sites and monuments for the benefit of future generations, and to raise public awareness of the significance of cultural heritage, according to Business Standard. "Heritage Changes" is the theme for World Heritage Day 2023. ICOMOS said that the UN Decade of Action theme of "Heritage Changes" gives people a chance to answer questions on learning the traditional ways of knowledge systems in relation to climate action.



UK publishing industry reports record-breaking year in 2022



The UK publishing industry had a "record-breaking year" in 2022, with a total income of £6.9bn. A Year in Publishing, a look at the state of the book market by trade

body the Publishers Association, found that sales were up 4% from 2021. In 2022, 669m physical books were sold in the UK, the highest overall level ever recorded.

The export market saw an increase of 8% in 2022, with £4.1bn in total sales. The UK's biggest export was Alice Oseman's Heartstopper, which was adapted for a hit Netflix show. A fifth book in the series is due to be released later this year, and Oseman this month announced that there will be a sixth and final instalment, the Guardian wrote. However, domestic sales were down slightly, by

1% to £2.7bn, with increases in print sales driven by the export market. Rebecca Smart, chair of the Association's consumer publishers council and co-CEO of DK Books, said that while it was "disappointing to see a modest decrease in overall sales at home, it is great to see fiction and audio doing particularly well as people continue to seek entertainment and discovery through books".

Production costs for books have increased, largely due to the rising costs of paper and energy and the effects of Brexit. In addition, the cost of living crisis has also had an impact, with research finding that one in five parents and carers spent less on books for their children and that the people most affected by rising costs expected to reduce their spending on books, with up to 30% expecting to buy fewer

books in the next year. But Conway said 2022's sales were "a testament to the timeless appeal of books; they offer comfort and escapism for readers, can be a good source of education and learning, and can last a lifetime". "With the cost of living crisis continuing, reading as a comfort for adults and to encourage creativity and learning in children must be cherished," he added.