

British Museum puts Palestinian heritage on view



MIDDLE EAST MONITOR – The Palestinian art of tatreez (embroidery) is on display at the British Museum in London.

Making up part of the Islamic Gallery, thobes – traditional dresses – are being exhibited to reflect “the powerful and unique expression of Palestinian women’s skill, creativity and attachment to the land,” the Palestinian Mission in the UK said on its Facebook page.

The British Museum described the items as: “The festive dresses of the villages near Gaza were notable for the huge chevrons and ‘cypress tree’ motifs with which they were decorated.”

An ancient artform and means of expression for Palestinians, “The practice of tatreez originated in Palestine over 3,000 years ago. It is a unique form of embroidery that brings together colored threads in various patterns to create traditional motifs. Motifs were area-specific, as well as symbolic of important events, such as a wedding or pregnancy.”

Tatreez is a recognizable form of Palestinian heritage and culture and is noted as a unique Palestinian artform.

Archaeologists in Peru find adolescent mummy



REUTERS – Peruvian archaeologists unearthed a more than 1,000-year-old mummy on the outskirts of the modern capital, in the latest discovery dating back to pre-Inca times.

The mummy was probably an adolescent and found in an underground tomb wrapped in a funerary bundle, along with ceramics, rope and bits of skin and hair.

The mummified adolescent was found in a “good state of conservation,” said archaeologist Yomira Huaman, in charge of the Cajamarquilla research project affiliated with the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos.

While best known for the mountain-top Inca royal retreat of Machu Picchu, Peru was home to various pre-Hispanic cultures that thrived in the centuries before the Inca empire rose to power, mainly along the country’s central coast and in the Andes.

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TIBF to offer comprehensive programs for all walks of life

Arts & Culture Desk

The Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) is the biggest cultural event in Iran offering various programs for all people, said the head of the Cultural Think Tank of the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI).

Mohammadreza Zarei add-

ed that in the wake of the successful experience of the international book fair in the previous 33 editions, other press and Qur’an exhibitions were formed and held in the country, according to IBNA. Despite all the changes that have occurred in the social fabric of society, the expansion of virtual space and its

capacities, development of e-books, the publishers and consumers of paper books are still athirst for the book fair, Zarei noted.

The book fair will embrace people from different strata, ethnicities, and religions, he said.

Visitors of the Tehran book fair include laypersons, uni-

versity students and professors, he said, adding that there is no such diversity in other international book fairs, where people mostly interact in various fields of publishing, specialized and professional communication.

Iranian journalist Azim Mahmoud-Abadi said that the

book fair shows the country’s cultural diversity.

He added that many books from world countries in various fields are quickly translated in Iran, and publishers from different countries will showcase their cultural products at TIBF.

American writer John Dunn believes that Iranian novels

should be translated and introduced for non-Iranian audiences.

He added that Iranian books are not as famous in the world as Iranian films, asking for more efforts to introduce Iranian books to the world.

The 34th edition of TIBF will run from May 10 to 20.

Karlovy Vary Film Festival puts Iranian cinema in spotlight



The 57th edition of Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, which runs June 30-July 8, planned a retrospective program focused

on Iranian cinema with a selection of films made in the past four years.

Commenting on the Iranian cinema program, the festival said in a statement: “Collectively these works offer an insightful testimony of the burning creativity of Iran’s artists. Nine mostly young filmmakers who palpably bear a spiritual connection to the previous generations of their country’s greats.” Variety wrote. “Melancholic dramas, comedies, war movies, sci-fis... films about love, and films within films. Together, these nine unique and intensely

personal testimonies form a multi-dimensional mosaic that reflect the collective spirit and openness of Iran’s young cinema of today.”

The nine Iranian films including ‘The Locust’ (Faeze Azizkhani, 2022), ‘Zapata’ (Danesh Egbashavi, 2023), ‘The Skin’ (Bahram Ark, Bahran Ark, 2023), ‘A Trip to the Moon’ (Mohammadreza Shayan-Nejad, 2021). ‘The Locust’ is a film within a film: a comic drama and a docu-fiction. The second directorial effort from Kiarostami’s protégé Faeze Azizkhani is an ingenious hybrid of a movie, anchored

by the director’s authentic female perspective.

‘Zapata,’ Danesh Egbashavi’s rousing genre blend of comedy, detective fiction, and mockumentary, was filmed with two iPhones, a small hand-held camera, a GoPro action camera, and the appreciable influence of Roger Corman.

‘The Skin,’ the debut from the Ark brothers, hotly anticipated since 2017 when they won a Cinéfondation prize at Cannes for their short piece ‘AniMal,’ is an innovative fantasy horror flick blending genre elements with local folk legends.

Produced by the filmmaking collective Kamja, ‘A Trip to the Moon’ by Mohammadreza Shayan-Nejad follows the zany exploits of a man venturing to recover the sounds left to him by his partner in a bottle before leaving on a trip to the Moon.

The retrospective’s curator Lorenzo Esposito said: “This cinema should not be read with the regular tools we use to decode most films. This cinema compels us to reinvent our tools, to reinvent how we see and interpret film, in order to engage with the intentions of these filmmakers.”

Shakespeare First Folio goes on display in London

A copy of the first collected edition of William Shakespeare’s plays went on display in London on Monday, to mark the 400th anniversary of its publication.

The public was given the chance to see the First Folio held at London’s Guildhall Library -- for one day only. The edition, published on November 8, 1623, seven years after the playwright’s death on April 23, 1616, is one of the best preserved copies in the world, AP reported.

Others will go on display

around the world to mark the anniversary of the publication between now and the end of the year.

The Guildhall Library stands where the folio’s editors, Shakespeare’s friends Henry Condell and John Heminges, once lived, and opposite the churchyard where they were buried.

The First Folio contains 36 plays, including 18 that had not been printed before, such as “Twelfth Night”, “Measure for Measure”, “Macbeth”, Julius Caesar” and “The Tempest”.

Condell and Heminges divided the plays into comedies, histories and tragedies, shaping the way Shakespeare was performed and understood. None of the dramatist’s original manuscripts survive from the time they were written.

“Without the First Folio, we might have lost most of Shakespeare’s heritage,” Guildhall Library principal librarian Peter Ross told AFP. The copy we have here is regarded as one of the finest in the world. It’s abso-

lutely complete. Nothing’s been made up from another copy.

“Nothing’s in facsimile. We have one tiny bit of the corner of a page missing which has been repaired, but apart from that it’s a fantastic copy.”

“Shakespeare is so much part of our culture, and when you see something like that, and you think it’s amazing that it survives, but how wonderful that it has survived,” said psychologist Robert Richards, 81.

“And it’s awe-inspiring



really.” One First Folio sold for nearly \$10 million at auc-

tion in New York in October 2020, setting a record for a work of literature.