

Iranian 'Juliet & the King' to compete at Annecy



MEHR – Directed by Ashkan Rahgozar, the Iranian animation 'Juliet & the King' is set to vie at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival in France, slated to be held on June 11-17.

Rahgozar's second animated feature is scheduled to be screened in the Work in Progress section of the French festival.

The animation is a comic narration of the history of theater in Iran.

Over the course of its 60 years, the Annecy has established itself as a global event dedicated to animation, bringing together the most esteemed professionals from the sector to celebrate animation's creative and diverse styles and techniques.

37th Tunis Int'l Book Fair kicks off in Tunisia



AFRICA NEWS – The 37th Tunis International Book Fair is being held at the Kram Exhibition Center in the Tunisian capital of Tunis. Under the theme "Fly with the wings of the book," the book fair kicked off on Friday and will continue till May 7.

A total of 279 exhibitors from 22 countries attended the fair, with about 500,000 books on display, according to its official Facebook page.

During the event, six literary and intellectual writing awards and two publishing awards will be presented.

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Tajikistan picked as guest of honor at TIBF

Arts & Culture Desk

Tajikistan was selected as the guest of honor at the 34th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), announced Iran's Deputy Culture Minister, Yaser Ahmadvand.

The Tajik delegation includes Zulfiya Davlatzoda, the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as cultural managers and a number of Tajik writers, who will be in attendance at the TIBF.

Ahmadvand revealed that the motto for the 2023 book fair is "The Future Is Readable," according to IRNA.

He also stated that a memorandum of understanding is expected to be signed with Tajikistan during the book fair.

"Last year, during the Tajik Culture Week, various cultural sectors showcased their cultural products. However, in the field of books the country could not have an active participation, which will be strengthened in the book fair," Ahmadvand added.

The book fair's first guest



of honor was Afghanistan in 2014, which was followed by Oman, Russia, Italy, Serbia and China, Ahmadvand noted, adding that last year Qatar was the book fair's special

guest. Majid Sahhaf, director of the public relations committee of the 34th TIBF, said the motto "The Future Is Readable" was selected from 40 submitted

suggestions in response to a public call for ideas. The speaker of the book fair, Ali Ramezani, announced that 3,000 foreign and domestic publishers and 200 book

stores have registered to participate in the event. The 34th edition of TIBF will be held from May 10 to 20, and promises to be a rich celebration of literature and culture.

Iran's Istgah Orchestra to undertake two international projects



Arts & Culture Desk

The founder and manager of Istgah Orchestra, Mehdi Norouzi, announced that the musical group will be undertaking two international projects.

Norouzi said that, in the course of time, the orchestra has collaborated with Richard Clayderman and Nasser Cheshmazar for musical

programs, according to IRNA.

The first project will be a concert at the Folk Music Festival in Iran, which is being organized in conjunction with cultural centers of Iran and other countries.

The orchestra has spent two years preparing for this project.

The orchestra manager added that the second

project is a theatrical concert with the theme of 'Shahnameh'.

The concert will be staged in eight countries across Europe, South America, and Africa, he said, a lot of research has been conducted to ensure the success of the project.

Norouzi said, "Istgah Orchestra's international projects seek to promote peace through art

and music, showcasing national ideas and projects. These programs demonstrate the cultural diversity of different countries and their efforts to promote their native art on a global stage."

Norouzi also mentioned that the orchestra has made efforts to perform concerts in other countries such as China, Canada, Brazil, and Mexico.

Eurasian creative guild, British Hertfordshire press publish works of five Kazakh artists



Five artists from Kazakhstan had their works published in 'The Great Steppe Treasury,' a long-awaited art catalog launched

by the Eurasian Creative Guild (ECG) and the British publishing house Hertfordshire Press, the ECG press service reported on April 19.

"The Great Steppe Treasury' is a vibrant collection of visual artworks of the Eurasian region, covering the theme of the Great Steppe and its heritage. The works collected in the art catalog reveal the true treasure of the Great Steppe – people, art, ethnic costumes, and lifestyle – showing Eurasian culture's great diversity, beauty, and depth, astanatimes.com wrote.

The first presentation of 'The

Great Steppe Treasury' took place on April 7 in London, featuring the works of 17 artists from six countries, including five Kazakh ECG members: Said Ashirbayev, Zeinelkhan Mukhamejan, Zhazira Janabayeva, Kuttybek Zhakyp, and Darya Zaleskaya.

They all presented their works in different areas of visual art: painting, art photography, arts and crafts, and fashion design. Ashirbayev, 16, from Shymkent, completed a National Geographic photography course and became a Turan Models agency photographer.

Mukhamejan is one of the few

artists who establish a close connection with ancient customs, combining ancient folklore art with modern painting techniques in his embroideries. The artist moved to Kazakhstan in 1992 and has since lived in the picturesque city of Almaty.

Artist from Almaty Janabayeva has made mandala (a symbolic picture of the universe) paintings for the past 10 years. She uses the techniques of color psychology, ornamental symbolism, ancient signs of the Kazakh tribes, and numerology. The artist says her works aim to integrate tapestry and batik into contemporary art discourse to preserve national traditions in Kazakh arts and crafts.

Zhakyp is a prominent artist of Kazakhstan's applied arts, an honored cultural figure, and a

laureate of many international awards. His works gave a new breath to traditional craft through the prism of modern vision.

An artist from Astana, Zaleskaya, works in different techniques ranging from digital illustration to acrylic and watercolor painting. She took part in various ECG creative competitions and projects.

The art catalog explicitly designed for visual arts will be presented in 10 leading galleries in London. Several presentations of the art catalog took place in Almaty, Astana, and Shchuchinsk. The city of Shymkent will be the next destination.

The ECG provides the opportunity for visual artists to showcase the uniqueness and beauty of Eurasian art in their works in the art catalog every year.