

Iran attending 29th Beijing Int'l Book Fair after five years



Arts & Culture Desk

IRNA – After a five-year hiatus caused by the global coronavirus pandemic, Iran has made a remarkable comeback at the 29th Beijing International Book Fair.

Iran's House of Books and Literature is proudly showcasing a collection of over 300 titles that span a wide range of subjects, including Iranian studies, religion, contemporary and classical literature, literature of the Sacred Defense (Iran-Iraq War), children's and young adult literature, as well as various forms of art. Notably, Soureh Mehr Publishing House, Nakhle Sabz Publication, and Mehrestan Publication are actively participating in this prestigious exhibition. In addition to these esteemed publishers, the Al-Mustafa International University and the Cultural Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran have set up a booth at the event, offering translated editions of significant religious and literary works in the Chinese language.

The Beijing International Book Fair, which commenced on June 15, has drawn participants from 56 countries and regions, spanning a four-day duration. This highly anticipated event, held both physically and virtually, boasts a staggering 2,500 exhibitors who collectively present over 200,000 books in Chinese and other languages to the visitors.

Banksy first solo art exhibition



THE GUARDIAN – Graffiti artist Banksy announced his first solo exhibition in 14 years titled 'CUT & RUN: 25 years card labour'.

The exhibition will open at the Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art on June 18. It will showcase works from across Banksy's career, stretching from 1998 to 2023. New stencil versions of some of his famous pieces along with the original sketches behind them will be featured as well as some which have never previously been seen. A few of Banksy's famous pieces such as 'Girl With a Balloon' will be on view.

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Minister: Prominent dignitaries connect past and future generations of cultural heritage

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Iran's Tourism Minister, Ezzatollah Zarghami, underscored the pivotal role played by distinguished personalities, celebrities, and prominent dignitaries in bridging the gap between past and future generations, acting as custodians of our national and religious cultural values.

Zarghami made these remarks during a ceremony held on Thursday to honor notable figures in the field of cultural heritage, highlighting that paying homage to such individuals is equal to honoring Iran's cultural legacy and national identity, IRNA wrote. Emphasizing the significance of these iconic figures, Zarghami asserted that they serve as guiding lights, leading us towards national and religious virtues and values. These luminaries have dedicated their illustrious lives to this noble path, driven by a profound understanding and unwavering belief, and have nurtured countless students who have become a source of immense



pride for the nation. The minister stressed the imperative of media initiatives to promote and showcase the richness of Iran's cultural heritage, lamenting the insufficient efforts in properly introducing these invaluable treasures to the world. He stated, "We have not been able to adequately showcase these cultural gems as we ought to."

Furthermore, Zarghami accentuated the vast scope of Iran's cultural heritage, pointing out that alongside the 3,000 registered intangible cultural elements and the 21 globally recognized heritage sites, which reflect the rituals, ceremonies, and historical skills of the Iranian people, there are also 35,000 registered works that hold profound significance and

tangibility rooted in our cultural and intangible beliefs. Highlighting the harmony between Iran's intangible heritage and the teachings and culture of Islam, Zarghami clarified, "A substantial portion of our intangible heritage aligns seamlessly with the principles and values of Islam. There exists no contradiction. Many of our national

cultural traits beautifully embody the pure tenets of our Islamic heritage and monotheistic worldview." The ceremony paid tribute to several prominent dignitaries, including Mahmoud Taleqani, Abdolhossein Vakili-Fard, and Rasoul Vatandoust, whose contributions were commemorated and celebrated as an integral part of Iran's cultural tapestry.



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Iranian director Maryam Bahrololumi expressed a profound interest in creating a film centered around the life of renowned Iranian mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani. Bahrololumi believes that one of the most enduring portrayals of women in Iranian cinema is exemplified

Iranian director Bahrololumi intends to make film on mathematician Mirzakhani

by the film 'Narges,' crafted by the director Rakhshan Banietemad, IRNA wrote. According to Bahrololumi, the longevity of a cinematic heroine depends on various factors, including the depth of character development and the director's ability to capture the essence of that heroine. "Narges,' featuring the brilliant performance of Firouzeh Farjam, stands as a shining example of female characters in our cinema, not only leaving a lasting impression on me but also resonating with my generation. This film encompasses all these facets," she noted. Discussing the disparity

between Iranian and international female heroes in cinema, Bahrololumi explained that numerous aspects contribute to this difference, but the most significant factor lies in the Iranian culture. "Undoubtedly, Iranian culture encompasses a wide range of elements that can be explored individually. However, the intrinsic emotional value attributed to Iranian women within our culture, particularly as mothers and sisters, holds immense importance. This aspect of Iranian women holds great significance for me personally, and it is a characteristic I aspire to

portray in my desired cinema," she added. Emphasizing her point, she added, "A heroine in cinema is not necessarily a victim of oppression. Rather, a female hero is a woman who can conquer the peaks of adversity and injustice, pursuing her goals for a better life and the tranquility of her family. She persistently strives towards achieving her aspirations and desires." Bahrololumi continued, stating, "A heroine pursues her goals and aspirations regardless of the circumstances. This definition aligns with the general understanding of a hero in

cinema. When we aim to transform a woman into a hero in our films, she is undoubtedly not exempt from this universal definition. Such a hero, without succumbing to issues related to gender and discrimination, progresses along her path to achieve her objectives." Born in 1977, Mirzakhani grew up in Tehran. In 1994, Mirzakhani earned a gold medal at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), the first female Iranian student to do so. In 2014, Mirzakhani became both the first woman and the first Iranian to be honored with the Fields Medal.

PIC OF THE DAY

Masterful Iranian craftspeople skillfully weave intricate traditional wicker baskets and an array of captivating artifacts, showcasing their artistry during the splendid 3rd National Wicker Festival held in the enchanting Fashtakeh Village, nestled in the northern region of Gilan Province. This captivating display of talent took place on June 16, 2023, immersing visitors in the rich cultural heritage of Iran.



● MOJTABA MOHAMMADI/IRNA