

Iran's art community condemns Shah Cheragh terrorist attack

The Cinema Organization of Iran and art community strongly condemned the recent terrorist attack on the revered Shah Cheragh Shrine, which occurred on Sunday. This act of terror, which targeted a place of worship and devotion, has drawn worldwide condemnation.

The organization expressed its heartfelt condolences and solidarity with the families of the martyrs who lost their lives in this tragic incident. The statement reads:

"The vile and cowardly assault on the sacred Shah Cheragh Shrine has once again exposed the extent of malice, malevolence, and barbarism harbored by the enemies of this land. This is not the first time that the hands of these adversaries have been stained with the blood of our free compatriots, while the purported champions of human rights remain silent. Over the past four decades, the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran have constantly endeavored to wound the towering tree of our revolution from various angles, but they have always been met with the resilient tide of revolutionary people, retreating in defeat.

The attack on the holy Shah Cheragh Shrine serves as a clear testament to the failure of the deceitful, and inhumane policies of Western leaders who, under the pretense of human rights and peace, resort to violence and crime against the oppressed and noble Iranian nation.

The Cinema Organization of Iran, while condemning this act as an embodiment of the enemies' eradication schemes against this land and nation, calls upon Iranian filmmakers, artists, and documentarians to portray and depict the dimensions of such crimes, showcasing the authenticity and oppression of the Iranian people in the face of the hegemonic system."

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Journey into the enchanting world of dolls



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In the heart of Tehran, a two-story building holds within its walls a mesmerizing realm that beckons visitors to embark on a unique journey – the International Doll Museum. This extraordinary museum isn't just a collection of dolls; it's a living tapestry of cultures, stories, and histories woven into each meticulously crafted figurine. As you cross the threshold, you're welcomed into the enchanting world of dolls – a world where every doll holds a piece of a story, every display a window to another corner of the globe.

Dolls from every corner of the globe

The first floor of this captivating museum boasts an array of French dolls, each proudly representing 86 countries. Guiding your exploration is Ali Golshan, the passionate director of the museum, who seamlessly transforms your visit into a journey of storytelling. Among the many enchanting tales, the American Latin dolls take center stage. Here, you'll discover the world's tiniest dolls – the "worry dolls". Golshan recounts their heartwarming origin: Guatemalan mothers handcraft these diminutive dolls out of wood and fabric, entrusting them with their children's nighttime worries. Placed under pillows, the dolls magically absorb their worries, ensuring peaceful sleep.

Wander through the exhibits and you'll find Kachina dolls crafted from the stalks of linen plants, a testament to Native American spirituality. A Mexican Day of the Dead Doll, the vivacious Catrina shares the poignant lesson that life's beauty transcends mortality. A faceless

Ukrainian mother and child stand as sentinels at the entrance of homes, while historical figures like Emperor Jimmu of Japan and Nicolaus, the last Polish King, assert their presence. Dive deeper into history as British Royal Guard soldiers stand tall, accompanied by Turkish Ottoman women, all eloquent storytellers in their own right.

Symphony of culture and friendship

According to Golshan, dolls symbolize peace and friendship; they're storytellers that don't deceive or steal. With each display, narratives come alive, offering windows into diverse cultures. The museum houses 3,000 dolls from around the world, although space constraints allow only a fraction to be exhibited. Golshan, a steadfast presence at the museum, explained, "These dolls have become family to me." On Fridays, you see children becoming cultural guides for their families over the weekends, enriching perspectives and expanding horizons. As you traverse the museum, your senses are invigorated by the vibrant array of colorful hats from Germany, India, Japan, Africa, and beyond. The passion behind this collection emanates from Golshan and Masoud Nasser Daryaei, who have traveled the world for 15 years, gathering dolls and photographs. Their dedication culminated in a collection so vast that even their own storage couldn't contain it all. Inspired by a visit to Delhi's Shankar's International Doll Museum, they decided to share this treasure trove with their nation. A book penned by Golshan on this odyssey is set to grace shelves soon, offering

further insights into this fascinating realm.

Iranian dolls

The second floor unveils a tapestry of Iranian culture. Dolls adorned in regional attire, each intricately sculpted by artist Sara Hosseini, stand as proud representatives of 26 Iranian regions. These dolls capture the essence of the nation's diversity, with a bride from Isfahan, a Turkmen bride from Golestan, and a bride from Khuzestan, standing shoulder to shoulder, each unique in attire and heritage.

A separate section of the museum serves as a time capsule, showcasing toys from Iran and the world. Memories flood back as visitors encounter familiar childhood playthings. Stereo cameras, view-masters, and the enduring legacy of teddy bears unfold before your eyes. Azadeh Bayat, curator of the toy section, shares captivating stories behind these cherished objects that have stood the test of time.

As you stroll through the museum's corridors, it's impossible not to smile, to reconnect with the child within you. The International Doll Museum transcends its role as a repository of artifacts; it's a portal to the past, a gateway to cultures, and a celebration of stories. In a world often hurried and disconnected, this museum stands as a testament to the enduring power of human creativity, imagination, and the universal appeal of dolls that transcend borders and generations.

Step into this magical realm and let the dolls guide you through the intricate tapestry of cultures, history, and friendship that make up the International Doll Museum in Tehran.

Iran's visual arts exhibition underway in Istanbul

An engaging visual arts exhibition, titled 'Peace,' commenced on August 14 in the city of Istanbul.

The curator behind this thought-provoking showcase is Helia Salmani, a distinguished figure in the art world. The event, showcasing an impressive collection of 43 distinct works crafted by 38 accomplished artists, promises to be a feast for the senses, Mehr News Agency wrote.

Among the featured artists, Azam E'temadi, Almas Ferdowsi, Elaheh Golmohammadi, Armila Hosseini Yar, and Pariya Nezarati have their remarkable creations on display. Each

artist brings a unique perspective to the theme of peace, contributing to the rich diversity of interpretations that patrons can explore.

Set against the backdrop of Istanbul's bustling cultural scene, the exhibition provides a captivating space for both art enthusiasts and the general public to contemplate the nuances of peace through a myriad of artistic expressions. The 'Peace' exhibition, a harmonious blend of creativity and inspiration, will be open for visitors to enjoy until August 17. This limited-time opportunity allows art aficionados and curious minds alike to

immerse themselves in a world of visual narratives that transcend boundaries and speak to the universal human desire for peace.



'The Museum of Unconditional Surrender' published in Iran

A Persian translation of the renowned Yugoslavian writer Dubravka Ugresic's 'The Museum of Unconditional Surrender' recently appeared in Iranian bookstores.

Nashrenow Publications released the Persian translation of the book by Azar Aalipour, Mehr news agency wrote.

Written in a variety of literary forms, "The Museum of Unconditional Surrender" captures the shattered world of a life in exile. Some chapters re-create the daily journal of the narrator's lonely and alienated mother, who shops at the improvised flea-markets in town and longs for her children; another is a dream-like narrative in which a circle of women friends are visited by an angel. There are reflections and accounts of the Holocaust and the Yugoslav Civil War; portraits of European artists; a recipe for Car-

away Soup; a moving story of a romantic encounter the narrator has in Lisbon; descriptions of family photographs; memories of the small town in which Ugresic was raised.

Addressing the themes of art and history, ageing and loss, the book is a haunting and extremely original novel. In the words of the Times Literary Supplement, it is vivid in its denunciation of destructive forces and in its evocation of what is at stake.

Dubravka Ugresic (27 March 1949 – 17 March 2023) was a Yugoslav-Croatian and Dutch writer. She majored in comparative literature and Russian language at the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Arts, pursuing parallel careers as a scholar and a writer.

Ugresic published novels and short story collections. Her novella 'Steffie Speck in the Jaws of Life' was published in 1981. Her novel 'Fording the

Stream of Consciousness' received the NIN Award in 1988, the highest literary honor in former Yugoslavia, whose winners include Danilo Kis and Milorad Pavic; Ugresic was the first woman to be awarded the prize.

