

## Semnan becomes Iran's 'Book Capital'

Arts & Culture Desk

IRNA - Semnan, the capital city of Semnan Province in northern Iran, was selected as the eighth Iran's Book Capital in a special ceremony held at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Tehran, on Tuesday. The announcement was made in the presence of Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili.

The decision to honor five specific cities for their significant contributions to the promotion of reading and books was a key aspect of the event.

The cities of Evaz in Fars Province, Semnan, Sabzevar, Shahin Shahr in Isfahan, and Karaj have all been recognized for their distinct characteristics in fostering a culture of reading, receiving exclusive titles in this year's Book Capital program.

Evaz in Fars Province stood out for the considerable public engagement and public efforts in promoting reading.

Shahin Shahr was praised for its effective city management in the field of books, and for making maximum resources available for related organizations. Sabzevar was recognized for its efforts in promoting the discourse of the Islamic Revolution and introducing high-quality books of the city.

Karaj was acknowledged for its active efforts in enhancing literacy skills and designing creative programs in the field of reading skills.

Semnan, on the other hand, secured its place as Iran's Book Capital through its exemplary management and the creative programs and initiatives offered by its active city management and local residents.

The city's commitment to encouraging reading and its cultural atmosphere played an important role in its selection.

## First Persian language course in Kyrgyzstan

IRNA - An open Persian language course kicked off in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, for the first time in years, with 18 students.

The course began at the National Library of Kyrgyzstan's Ferdowsi Center for Iranian Studies, with the efforts of Iran's Cultural Center and representatives of the Sa'di Foundation Abuzar Toqani.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Toqani said the positive reception from Persian language and literature enthusiasts has been promising.

"I encourage the students attending this course to pass different levels with perseverance and seriousness so that they would be able to benefit from the huge literary and scientific treasure of the Persian language," he said.

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# Latin American artists to shed light on Gaza's oppression

Arts & Culture Desk

An art fair entitled the 'Latin America Cartoon and Caricature Exhibition' is set to take place at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, featuring works from 400 Latin American artists, with a focus on themes of anti-Zionism, anti-imperialism, and the Gaza conflict.

The exhibition's press conference was held on October 31 and attended by cultural figures, including Mohammad Khorasani Zadeh, the director-general of Visual Arts and acting director of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art; Seyyed Amir Javid, the deputy of the International Art Department; and Masoud Shojai Tabatabai, the exhibition's curator, IRNA reported.

Khorasani Zadeh spoke about the ongoing struggles of the oppressed Palestinian people, who have endured more than 70 years of injustice, crimes, and human rights violations by the Zionist regime. He mentioned the more than 8,500 Palestinians who lost their lives in these attacks, with half of them being children and over a thousand being women. He expressed his admiration for their resilience and their pursuit of freedom. He highlighted the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art as a key cultural institution in Western Asia, emphasizing its commitment to contemporary art. The museum will host this unique exhibition from November 2 until November 19, showcasing works from leading Latin American artists in the field of

cartoon and caricature. It will host artists from 15 countries including Argentina, Mexico, Cuba, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, The Dominican Republic, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and Nicaragua.

Khorasani Zadeh stressed the importance of the museum's active role in the art world and its responsibility to reflect current global events.

He described the 'Latin America Cartoon and Caricature Exhibition' as a significant step in this direction.

Khorasani Zadeh pointed out that cartoons are not limited by language; they represent a form of art that resonates with people on a universal level, bridging cultural gaps and promoting mutual understanding.

He also highlighted the significance of this exhibition, which occupies all nine galleries of the museum, as a departure from the biennial cartoon exhibitions. He mentioned that this time, the exhibition is a comprehensive event, featuring a wide array of works from Latin American artists, while assuring that Iranian artists will receive due attention in future events.

Seyyed Amir Javid emphasized the importance of cultural exchange with Latin America in the context of Iran's international missions.

He cited the shared cultural values, especially the spirit of resistance and the fight against imperialism, as the main factor behind the heightened interest in Latin America.

Javid acknowledged the



increased cultural and artistic interactions between Iran and Latin American countries in recent years, with a focus on cartoons and caricatures.

He mentioned the presence of prominent Latin American artists and events related to this art form, underlining the significant role of Masoud Shojai Tabatabai in these initiatives.

Javid mentioned a recent highlight of cultural exchange during Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to some Latin American countries, where a statue of the martyr, Qassem Soleimani, created by Iranian artist Nader Qashqai, was unveiled in Nicaragua, further enhancing cultural ties.

Shojai Tabatabai, the curator of the exhibition discussed the long histo-

ry of cultural exchanges between Iran and Latin America, especially in the field of cartoons.

He noted that these interactions started in 1992, with renowned Latin American artists such as Carlos Latuff and Ares during the cartoon bienales.

He highlighted the participation of Aris, a prominent Latin American artist, in the exhibition as a valuable addition.

He also emphasized the main theme of the exhibition, which revolves around anti-imperialism and anti-Zionism, with a significant focus on the Gaza conflict. Over 60 works related to these themes will be showcased. Shojai Tabatabai said that the exhibition's book would be published; the exhibition poster is de-

signed by Masoud Nejabati, based on the work of Aristides Hernandez, known as "Ares," a renowned Cuban cartoonist.

At the end of the press conference, the official poster of the exhibition was unveiled, signifying the upcoming exhibition's significance.



Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art hosts the press conference of the oncoming art fair 'Latin America Cartoon and Caricature Exhibition' on October 31, 2023. The exhibition is slated to be held from November 2 to 12 at the museum. [jamejamonline.ir](http://jamejamonline.ir)



[jamejamonline.ir](http://jamejamonline.ir)

## France to pay tribute to late filmmaker Mehrjui

The Forum des images in Paris is slated to commemorate the late Dariush Mehrjui by screening his renowned film 'Hamoun,' made in 1989, and regarded as one of the most significant works in the history of Iranian cinema.



According to ISNA, the Forum des images, in collaboration with the Iranian Cinema Society, saddened by the loss of Mehrjui and his wife on October 14, has chosen to pay homage to the acclaimed director through a special evening event.

Mehrjui had previously been an honorary guest of the Forum des images in 2003 as part of a unique program, "Portraits of Tehran."

The program, scheduled for November 6 in Paris, will commence with a discussion about Mehrjui's contributions to cinema. The panel will feature the participation of Fabien Gaffez, director of art at the Forum des images, Agnès Devictor, a lecturer and Iranian cinema specialist, and Nader Takmil Homayoun, director and head of the Iranian Cinema Society.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
 Cartoonist

