

Iranian Artists Forum hosts four visual arts exhibitions



IRNA - The Iranian Artists Forum will be the venue for four visual art exhibitions, showcasing the creativity and talent of Iranian artists.

On November 2, the 'Little Artists' exhibition, focusing on children's book illustration, will open under the curatorship of Mahsa Keshvari in the Mirmiran Gallery, celebrating the imaginative world created by young artists. This exhibition is a unique opportunity for children to have their artwork recognized, emphasizing the role of art in boosting a child's self-confidence and fostering their future in the world of painting.

On November 3, three more exhibitions will open their doors to the public. 'From Color to Love and Scream,' a collection of paintings by Ahmad Razavi, will be exhibited at the Momayez Gallery, taking viewers on a journey through artistic narratives and human emotions.

In the Zemestan Gallery, 'Rain Architecture' presents a collection of watercolor paintings by Mojtaba Gholamalizadeh, inspired by the unique architectural heritage of Gilan Province, covering rural, historical, and contemporary urban architectural styles.

In addition, the 'Toy' sculpture exhibition by Bahadur Ehsani will open in the Paez Gallery, inviting visitors to engage with the artwork as if it were a playful game. This interactive display encourages participants to explore the ever-changing rules and discover hidden insights within the art.

The exhibitions will remain open to the public until November 13.

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Address: #22, Hosseini-Rad Alley, South of Shahid Motahari St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran
● Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88913453
● Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88930684
● ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892, 5
● Advertising Dept. Tel: +98 21 88500617
irandaily@iranagahiha.com
www.irandaily.ir
newspaper.irandaily.ir
irandaily@icpi.ir
Iran Cultural & Press Institute

Iran Daily



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Vol. 7424 ● Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023 ● Price 40,000 Rials ● 8 Pages

Iran-Turkmenistan handicrafts festival underway

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran and Turkmenistan are currently hosting a tourism and handicrafts festival in the city of Ashgabat as a symbol of friendship between the two nations.

Ashgabat's Academy of Visual Arts has been adorned with Turkmen silk carpets and Iranian traditional arts, accompanied by Iranian and Turkmen musical instruments. Both Iranian and Turkmen cuisine is also being featured, along with traditional music performed by groups from Turkmenistan and Iranian provinces, including East Azarbaijan, Kermanshah, Lorestan, and Khorasan Razavi, according to ISNA.

The festival, which started on October 31, is set to continue until November 2. During the opening ceremony of this tourism event, Mahmoud Sadeqi, the deputy head of the Iranian Embassy in Turkmenistan, emphasized the role of tourism in connecting governments and people, especially in culturally intertwined countries like Iran and Turkmenistan. He also mentioned previous cultural exchange activities between the two nations, such as Iran Cultural Week, held in Ashgabat last February.



ISNA

He highlighted the upcoming Turkmen Cultural Week, scheduled for late November 2023, in the city of Isfahan, Iran.

"Fortunately, with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions and the reopening of Turkmenistan's borders, the interaction between the citizens of both countries has significantly increased," said Sadeqi. "Turkmen tourists visit Iran for various purposes, including leisure, trade, religious tourism, and sometimes even medical treatment. Iran's Embassy in Ashgabat, along with our consulate in Merv, facilitates the visa process for Turkmen tourists and continually strives, through relevant organizations in Iran, to simplify and facilitate travel for Turkmen visitors within Iran."

Sadeqi further noted that many Iranian tourists are eager to explore Turkmenistan and its beautiful city, Ashgabat.

He also mentioned that recent months have seen an increase in Iranian tourists visiting Turkmenistan.

He expressed hope that this festival, by bringing Iranian and Turkmen tourism companies together and promoting cooperation between them, will lead to a significant increase in tourism exchange between the two countries.

Gulshat Bakieva, deputy head of the Tourism Department of Turkmenistan's Ministry of Culture, emphasized the growth and development of friendly relations between Turkmenistan and foreign countries, especially in the tourism sector, due to the efforts of the president of Turkmenistan.

She stressed that Turkmenistan's focus on international cooperation, in line with the principle of neutrality, extends to the field of tourism.

She noted that tourism is

a crucial factor in economic growth for any country, and Turkmenistan is actively engaged in a wide range of activities to promote the tourism sector.

Regarding the festival, Bakieva said that she hoped it will pave the way for closer tourism exchange between the two countries, emphasizing the cultural similarities and geographical proximity of Ashgabat to the holy city of Mashhad in Iran.

She expressed optimism that improved visa issuance procedures, with invitations valid for a minimum of 25 to 30 days, will lead to a great increase in the number of Iranian tourists visiting Turkmenistan.

Representing the private sector participating in the exhibition, Mohsen Ahmadi stated, "Due to the fact that both Iran and Turkmenistan are located on the historic Silk Road route, the two countries have been

actively cooperating in the field of tourism for a long time."

Navid Rasouli, Iran's cultural attaché in Turkmenistan, described this event as the first joint tourism and handicrafts festival between Iran and Turkmenistan.

He highlighted the current average of 200 travelers per day from Turkmenistan to Iran, mostly motivated by medical treatment, shopping, and tourism.

Rasouli underlined the necessity of strengthening mutual understanding between the people of both countries to boost tourism activities.

Turkmen tourism companies aim to use their participation in the event to enhance tourism relations between the two countries to pre-pandemic levels.

Around 10 Iranian tourism, handicrafts, and health-related companies are participating in the exhibition.



ISNA

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



'AI' named most notable word of 2023 by Collins dictionary

The technology that is set to dominate the future - for good or ill - is now the word of the year. "AI" has been named the most notable word of 2023 by the dictionary publisher Collins.

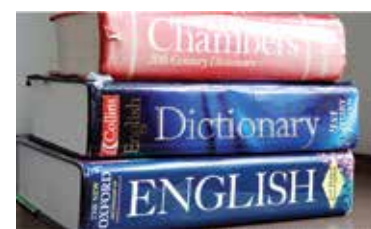
Defined as "the modelling of human mental functions by computer programs", AI was chosen because it "has accelerated at such a fast pace and become the dominant conversation of 2023", the publisher said. The use of the word (strictly an initialism) has quadrupled over the past year, the Guardian reported.

It was chosen from a list of new terms that the publisher said reflect "our ever-evolving language and the concerns of those who use it". They include "greedflation", defined as "the use of inflation as an excuse to raise prices to artificially high levels in order to increase corporate profits", and "debanking", "the act of depriving

a person of banking facilities".

"Nepo baby", the term used to describe the sons and daughters of celebrities whose careers are assumed to have taken off thanks to their famous parent, and "deinfluencing" made the list. "Deinfluencing" is defined by Collins lexicographers as "the use of social media to warn followers to avoid certain commercial products, lifestyle choices, etc".

The annual word of the year is selected by lexicographers monitoring a range of sources, including social media, according to the publisher. Last year's term was "permacrisis", while "NFT" was chosen the previous year. Health concerns were prominent in 2023, according to the publisher. "Ultra-processed", meaning food that is "prepared using complex industrial methods from multiple ingredients, often including ingredients with little or no nutritional value", is listed, as is



"semaglutide", the appetite-suppressing medication. The use of the term has tripled in the past year.

"Bazball", a style of test cricket in which the batting side plays in a highly aggressive manner, was noted by the dictionary, named after the former New Zealand cricketer and coach, Brendon "Baz" McCullum. The term "canon event", "an episode that is essential to the formation of an individual's character or identity", became popular thanks to the movie 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse'.