

Repatriated Achaemenid artifacts set for exhibition in Iran



Arts & Culture Desk

ILNA – An exhibition featuring recently repatriated Achaemenid artifacts will soon take place, announced director general of the General Office of Museums in the Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Hadi Mirzaei. Mirzaei mentioned that the exhibition is scheduled to open in late January, allowing researchers, enthusiasts, and the general public to view the artifacts. According to American authorities, the remaining tablets are expected to be delivered to Iran in the year 2024.

The treasured tablets were returned home on September 21 by the plane carrying President Ebrahim Raisi, who addressed the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly during his visit to New York.

This shipment, containing Achaemenid tablets, marks the fifth consignment to be returned to the country. The tablets, totaling 836 small inscribed pieces in Aramaic and 2,670 large inscribed pieces in Elamite, weighing 75 kilograms, have been delivered to the National Museum of Iran.

Although there were plans to showcase part of these tablets after quarantine and examination, despite several assurances from officials, the unveiling has yet to occur.

Mirzaei provided details about another batch of Achaemenid tablets held at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, which were returned to Iran on the latest trip of the president. After receiving them, the inscriptions are being translated, and preparations are underway for their display in the Ancient Iran Hall of the National Museum of Iran.

Silent monologues on display in Tehran

ILNA – A group exhibition titled 'Silent Monologues' opened in Tehran's Entezami Gallery on January 5, showcasing 40 artworks by 20 artists.

Curated by Mina Aalipour, the event brings together a diverse lineup of participants, including Sahar Mosleh, Atiye Sadat E'tesami, Donya Rezazadeh, Farhikhteh Montazeri, Maryam Khaleqizadeh, Shahram Rafiepour, and Farshid Fakhri among others.

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Minister: Kerman terrorist attack will go down in history

Artists condemn Daesh bombings



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili condemned the terrorist attack that occurred in Kerman on January 3. In a message he denounced the "Ameri-

can-Israeli" perpetrators, linking the incident to the mourning procession for General Qassem Soleimani, IRNA reported. Esmaeili expressed condolences to the Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the families affected by the tragic event.

The minister emphasized that history would not forget this treacherous act, and future generations would judge such terrorist acts against Iran. Numerous artists from various fields, including cinema, theater, television, and music, joined in

expressing solidarity and condemning the inhumane act. Personal statements were shared online by artists like Reza Mirkarimi, Reza Kianian, Mohammareza Golzar, and others, denouncing the attack and expressing condolences



for the victims. In the field of music, figures such as Alireza Qorbani, Homayoun Shajarian, and Salar Aqili condemned the terrorist act and offered condolences for the innocent lives lost. The terrorist attack took place during the com-

memoration of the fourth anniversary of the martyrdom of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, leading to casualties and injuries among the mourners. Nearly 100 people lost their lives in the tragic incident in Kerman.

Iranian caricatures on Operation Al-Aqsa Storm on view in Basra

Arts & Culture Desk

A group exhibition of Iranian caricatures centered around Operation Al-Aqsa Storm opened at the College of Fine Art, University of Basra in Iraq on January 4.

The festival opened in close collaboration with Khuzestan's Art Bureau and the College of Fine Arts, University of Basra, IRNA wrote. Among the prominent figures present at the

opening ceremony were Mohammad Shahbazi, the head of Khuzestan's Art Bureau, Reza Maleki, the cultural attaché of Iran in Basra, and Seyyed Amirnasr Javid, the deputy head of the Art Bureau for



international affairs. The works on display are created by artists such as Seyyed Massoud Shojai Tabatabai, Mohammad-Hossein Nirumand,

and Maziar Bijani. The event, which aims to strengthen artistic ties between artists from Khuzestan and Basra, the second-largest province in

Iraq, also includes several workshops and sessions to improve communications and collaboration between artists from both countries.

The caricature exhibition, themed "Operation Al-Aqsa Storm," showcases works related to Palestinians.

It serves as an expression of solidarity from Iranian artists with the oppressed people of Palestine, aiming to preserve and disseminate valuable works in the field of resistance.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Book Aid International donated 1.2m books in 2023

Book Aid International donated 1.2 million books to readers in 22 different countries in 2023, published by the likes of Bloomsbury, Macmillan, Cambridge University Press (CUP), Oxford University Press (OUP) and Pearson.

As part of a three-year Power of Books strategy, Book Aid International has been attempting to reach those who face the greatest barriers to reading. This has included focusing on supporting refugees and working with part-

ners across Africa and the Middle East to offer thousands of people who have fled conflicts the chance to read. In 2023 alone, 74,000 books reached refugees through their work, the bookseller.com reported. Another campaign which was launched this year, Generation Reader, has seen 152,000 brand new books being gifted within its first year, with the potential to reach 1.1 million readers. Working with partners such as AfriKids in Ghana the charity wants to create safe spaces for

children to read. Alison Tweed, Book Aid International's chief executive, also commented: "Last year proved to be a challenging year – with the devastating impact of climate change, ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza and the ever-rising cost of living which has tipped so many individuals and communities into real hardship. We know that the books we send are giving millions of people the opportunity to read and the power to transform their lives."