

# Iranian video art 'Sculpture' awarded in St. Petersburg

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian video artist Ramin Hosseinpour's work, 'Sculpture,' won the Best Music Video Animation Award at the 12th Halo International Film Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The closing ceremony took place at the historic and cultural venue, Kazanskaya St. Petersburg, with winners invited to Russia to showcase their works, IRNA reported. Hosseinpour's video art has been previously won awards at various international festivals including 2022 Vancouver Independent Film Festival Award, 2022 Rome Music Video Award, One-Reeler Short Film Competition, International Music Video Underground, Munich Music Video Awards, Boden International Film Festival, High Tatra Film & Video Festival, Art Blocks International Film Festival, Europe Music Video Awards, Vegas Movie Awards, Accolade Competition, Europe Film Festival U.K. (EFFUK), Stockholm Gold Awards International Film Festival, Prague International Film Festival, International Izmir Short Film Festival, International Music Video Awards and Zagreb Film Festival.



The video is listed among the top 50 selected documentaries on IMDb in 2023-2024, showcasing its international acclaim. Media outlets globally have recognized Hosseinpour as a multi-talented artist with numerous talents. 'Sculpture,' showcases Hosseinpour's skills in composing, arranging, singing, and

playing the electric guitar. Hosseinpour, educated in architecture, music, and cinema, has left his mark as a designer, educator, writer, poet, composer, arranger, and performer in the fields of architecture and music. His contributions to cinema, as a writer, director, producer, and conceptual artist, have

been acknowledged in the international Euro Art House Cinema Day magazine in Germany. In 2015, Hosseinpour merged architecture, music, and cinema to produce two works titled 'Ghanimat' (Boo-ty) and 'Eshtiagh' (Longing),' both finalists at various international film festivals.

# Minister: Gaza focal point of Int'l Holy Qur'an Exhibition

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Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance emphasized the significance of highlighting the issue of Gaza in the upcoming 31st edition of the International Holy Qur'an Exhibition during the month of Ramadan.

Speaking at the 31st session of the International Qur'an Exhibition Council on March 10, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili stressed the need to prevent intentional neglect of Gaza, urging all exhibition sectors to address this matter, IRNA wrote.

Esmaeili noted that the exhibition's progress is crucial for all nations and not confined to a single organization.

He called for strengthening the presence of children and adolescents at the exhibition, emphasizing the inclusion of activities related to Qur'anic memorization.

He encouraged youth of different age groups to produce and share video clips centered on memorizing the Holy Qur'an.

The minister underscored the importance of bringing the Qur'an exhibition to people's homes and engaging families in the event.

He suggested the inclusion of live performances by Qur'an memorizers during exhibition days.

Referring to the tragic events in Gaza, Esmaeili highlighted that the International Section of the exhibi-



tion should prioritize addressing the Gaza situation.

In the session, the organizers presented a report on various activities undertaken for the successful execution of the exhibition, including Qur'an memorization campaigns, media people related to the exhibition, and efforts against enemies and Zionism.

The exhibition will open on March 21 and will run through April 3.

## PICS OF THE DAY



A carriage section, featuring historical carriages and chariots such as Nassereddin Shah's carriage, opened at Museum of Historical Cars of Iran on March 10, 2024.  
 ● MOHAMMAD-MAHDI POURARAB/IRNA

# Next Persian year designated as Year of East Azarbaijan

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In a cultural move aimed at promoting the rich history, culture, tourist attractions, industrial capacities, agriculture, and notable figures of East Azarbaijan, Iran's Architecture Prideworthy Foundation and the Iranian Public Relations Association designated the next Persian year (starting from March 20, 2024) as the "Year of East Azarbaijan."

The objective behind this is to introduce the diverse and abundant potentials of this vast province to both fellow citizens and the global community, Tasnim news agency wrote. East Azarbaijan, with its illustrious historical and cultural background, standing as a cradle of civilizations and diverse cultures, boasts natural and captivating tourist attractions, vital industrial hubs, and notewor-

thy agricultural capacities. It is rightfully considered a fitting choice for this program. The beginning of the "Year of East Azarbaijan" program will kick off with the event "Nowruz in Kandovan." Kandovan, recognized as the first globally acknowledged tourist village in Iran, distinguishes itself with unique rock architecture, undoubtedly capturing the attention of both domestic and international tourists.

The "Year of East Azarbaijan" program is anticipated to provide a golden opportunity to showcase the province as one of the top tourist destinations and economic hubs in Iran. Furthermore, the program is expected to contribute to the enhancement of the tourism industry, agriculture, and other economic sectors, fostering employment and economic prosperity in the region.



# Renowned poet Nezami remembered in Turkmenistan

The Iranian Embassy in Ashgabat organized an event on Saturday to commemorate Nezami Ganjavi, a renowned Persian poet and storyteller from the 12th century.

The ceremony, attended by Iranian Ambassador Ali Mojtaba Roozbahani, Maral Muradova of Daulat Muhammad Azadi State University, Bahar Ataniazova, Head of the Persian Language Department, and other professors and students, highlighted Nezami's contributions to Persian literature, IRNA wrote. Roozbahani praised Nezami as one

of Iran's gems, emphasizing his storytelling ability, illustration skills, and character development. The ambassador commended Turkmen officials for their commitment to expanding cultural cooperation between Tehran and Ashgabat.

The event featured the recitation of Nezami's story 'Khosro and Shirin' and readings of essays and poems by Azadi State University students. Nezami Ganjavi is celebrated for his significant role in shaping Iran's mystical and romantic culture, particularly through works like 'Panj

Ganj.' The Iranian ambassador underscored Nezami's focus on human identity and the central role of humanity in his works. He acknowledged Nezami's efforts to express mystical and philosophical thoughts in poetic language, citing the enduring popularity of the romantic tale of Khosro and Shirin among the people.

The cultural attaché of the Iranian embassy in Turkmenistan, Navid Rasouli, celebrated Nezami's stature in Persian literature, comparing him to a shining star in the literary

sky. Bahar Ataniazova, the Head of the Persian Language Department at Azadi State University, highlighted the profound impact of Nezami among other great thinkers and poets in the history of the Middle East. Ataniazova stressed the importance of studying Nezami's literary legacy, promoting his works, and transmitting his profound thoughts to future generations as fundamental priorities. The ceremony served as a poignant tribute to the enduring influence of Nezami Ganjavi in Persian literature and cultural heritage.