

Reza Mafi's masterpieces return to Tehran after four decades



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Staff writer

The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art is hosting an exhibition of works by renowned calligrapher and contemporary artist Reza Mafi after forty years. The last exhibition of his works was held in 1983, on the first death anniversary of the artist. Reza Mafi, born on November 27, 1943, was a distinguished calligrapher and a pivotal figure in contemporary Iranian art. He is considered one of the first artists to create "calligraphic painting" and was a pioneer in promoting this style. His works often feature meaningful colors, predominantly cream and brown, combined with his unique artistic calligraphy. The exhibition opened on June 14 and will run through June 30, 2024 at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art. Experts note that Mafi's work

bridges both traditional and modern art. While his art is influenced by traditional styles, he always sought new forms. A key aspect of his work is his multidimensional approach to calligraphy, which set him apart from his contemporaries. Mafi was a prolific artist, leaving behind more than 800 artworks over his 39-year life. His works have been exhibited in over 50 shows both in Iran and internationally, including France, Pakistan, Belgium, Turkey, Yugoslavia, the UK, Switzerland, and Italy. His last exhibition during his lifetime was in Tehran in 1980. Seyedeh Mahboubeh Kazemi Doulabi, the curator of Reza Mafi retrospective told Iran Daily reporter that the exhibition focuses on cultural and research aspects. It showcases Mafi's creative works, personal and artistic items, and his artistic vision. The exhibition aims to highlight his various artistic techniques and his artistic evolution over the years.

The exhibition features about 104 of Mafi's works in different styles and techniques, along with his personal collection of ancient calligraphy pieces. Explanatory texts have been selected from his writings and interviews. The exhibition also includes photos, handwritten notes, and Mafi's calligraphy tools and personal items. A film showing Mafi at work, accompanied by his recitations of Sohrab Sepehri's poetry, is being displayed, giving visitors insight into the artist's world. Kazemi added that she aimed to present Mafi's profound, civilizational perspective and his commitment to Iranian cultural roots. The exhibition is both a research project and an effort to support calligraphy as an intangible cultural heritage of Iran. It offers visitors a unique artistic experience of Iran's rich culture, helping them understand Mafi's innovative contributions and his deep cultural insights.

Report: 18% increase in drowning deaths



Social Desk

The latest report from Iran's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) reveals an 18% increase in drowning deaths from March 20 to May 25, 2024, 159 individuals drowned, compared to the same period last year. The report indicates a 28% rise in drowning incidents, with an average age of 23 among the victims. Men accounted for 76% of these cases. The youngest victim was a one-year-old child, and the oldest was an 80-year-old, both of whom

died at the scene, IRNA wrote. The provinces with the highest number of drowning incidents were Bushehr with 32 cases, Sistan and Baluchestan with 28, and Fars with 25. Interestingly, the highest number of drowning deaths occurred in central provinces without coastal access, such as Fars, Isfahan, and Tehran. Coastal provinces like Mazandaran, Gilan, Bushehr, and Hormuzgan reported fewer cases. The report identifies rivers (24%), the sea (16%), and both

private and public swimming pools (16%) as the top locations for drowning incidents. Reservoirs and dams (6%), natural lakes (6%), and agricultural flumes (7%) also contributed to the drowning statistics. In addition, the report highlights that 233 people were poisoned by consuming wild mushrooms during this period, with two fatalities in Tehran. Poisonings increased by 5% compared to the same period last year, with the highest incidents in Lorestan, Kurdistan, and Kermanshah.

Kuala Lumpur Int'l Book Fair opens with Iranian participation

Arts & Culture Desk

The 24th Kuala Lumpur International Book Fair was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur with the participation of Malaysian Minister of Higher Education, Ali Asghar Mohammadi, Iranian ambassador to Malaysia, and Habib Reza Arzani, Iran's Cultural Attaché in Malaysia. Mahmoud Vaezi, President of the Faculty of Theology and Islamic Studies in University of Tehran and Iran's special representative provided details about the fair. Vaezi highlighted those 17 countries, including China, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Myanmar, Cambodia, Iran, South Korea, Taiwan, India, Singapore, and Brunei, are participating in the event, IRNA wrote. Vaezi noted that, for the first time, Iran has been invited as a special guest, represented by the Al-Huda Publications of the Islamic Culture and



Relations Organization (ICRO). The fair features a diverse range of books from different countries, presented in various languages. Representatives and publishers from several countries expressed interest in collaborating with Al-Huda for future book fairs, particularly regarding translation efforts.

Vaezi also mentioned the recent Tehran International Book Fair, explaining that some publishers were unaware of this major event, despite its annual attendance by thousands of publishers. Additionally, Vaezi shared condolences from several publishers regarding the tragic death of President Ayatollah

Raisi and his companions in a helicopter crash. The publishers admired Raisi's strong stance against Israel and his support for the oppressed people of Palestine and Gaza, expressing regret that some Arab countries have not taken a similar stand. The book fair runs from May 26 to June 2, 2024.