

Iranian artists shine at French Millon auction

Arts & Culture Desk
The Millon and Associés Auction in Paris, titled 'Middle Eastern Auction, 20th Century Art/Istanbul - Montparnasse', featured works by Iranian artists. At the event, an untitled work by Sadeq Tabrizi was sold for 42,000 euros, IRNA wrote. The renowned Bataille-Bataille Street in Paris witnessed the brilliance of Iranian artists at one of its famous auctions. The Millon and Associés Paris auction house held a modern and contemporary art auction on July 11, featuring works from Iran, Turkey, and the Arab world. The acrylic painting on canvas, part of the artist's collection, dating back to

2010, had an initial estimate of 12,000 to 18,000 euros and emerged as the highest bid among Iranian works at the auction. Reza Derakhshani's 'Purple Night Hunt,' estimated at 18,000 to 22,000 euros, was sold for 26,000 euros. An image from the collection 'A Window Through The Life' by late Iranian artist Abbas Kiarostami was also sold for 19,000 euros. A work by Sirak Melkonian sold for 15,000 euros, and Iran Darroudi's painting fetched 11,000 euros. Behnam Mahjoubi's collection of three lifeless nature paintings was sold for 10,000 euros, while a painting by Ardeshir Mohassess was sold for 6,000 euros.

Moreover, two works by Nasser Ovissi were sold for 8,000 and 9,000 euros. Works by Jafar Rouhbakhsh (8 and 15 thousand euros), Khosrow Hassanzadeh (9,500 euros), Samira Alikhanzadeh (4,500 euros), Ali Asghar Petghar (2,500 euros), Manoucher Yektai (2,500 euros), Farshid Maleki (2,800 euros), Rokni Haerizadeh (1,200 euros), Sadeq Tirafkan (1,400 euros), Shadi Ghadirian (1,400 euros), and Mahmoud Bakhshi (900 euros) were also sold. The auction, named "Middle Eastern Auction, 20th Century Art/Istanbul - Montparnasse," included approximately half of its works (59 pieces) from the late Turkish artist Orhon Mubin's collection. Mehrdad Fallah, a painter and representative of

the late Sadeq Tabrizi's family, commented on the auction and Tabrizi's record-breaking work: "The auction house is one of Europe's most important auction institutions and one of France's most important auctions. They presented a unique work by Sadeq Tabrizi in their auction. This work is part of this artist's collection and is important in terms of composition and color. At the same time, the dimensions of this work are large, which sets it apart." Regarding Iranian artists' performance in foreign auctions and the demand from buyers, Fallah added: "We must consider that this auction was held in a European country and had

good sales of works by Iranian artists. The high sales of works by artists such as Sadeq Tabrizi, Nasser Ovissi, and Jafar Rouhbakhsh show that

Iranian modernists still have demand. In this unfavorable economic situation worldwide,

the high sales of works by Iranian artists can be a promising sign for the future of art in our country."



Iranian animation 'Phoenix' takes flight at Italian festival



Arts & Culture Desk
Iranian director Mona Shams' animated short film 'Phoenix' is set to compete in the 27th Religion Today Film Festival in Italy, from September 19 to 26. The film, produced by the Documentary & Experimental Film Center, explores the themes of migration, homeland, and longing through the voices of Iranian immigrants worldwide. Founded in 1997 as Italy's first spiritual cinema and interreligious dialogue festival, Religion Today is celebrating its 27th anniversary this year. The festival, which runs from September 19 to 26, includes workshops pro-

moting cultural exchange alongside its Competition Section. Last year, the festival's director, Andrea Morgan, served as a juror for the international section of Iran's Fajr Film Festival. 'Phoenix' is being distributed internationally by the center. 'Phoenix' adds a unique perspective to the festival's lineup, showcasing the power of animation to convey profound emotions and experiences. The film's inclusion in the festival highlights the universal themes of migration and the enduring connection to one's homeland, transcending cultural and linguistic boundaries.

Tehran conference results to facilitate dust storms combat

The UN representative in Tehran stated that sand and dust storms are a global challenge that affects the environment, health, and economy worldwide. In a message on the X social network, Stephan

Prizner emphasized the significance of sand and dust storms as a global challenge and commended Iran's initiative in hosting a crucial conference on combating dust storms in 2023, ISNA wrote.

He said, "Last year, Iran hosted an important conference to address this issue where experts proposed solutions that underscored the necessity of global cooperation to combat dust storms."

He added that the results of this conference will facilitate support for actions related to combating sand and dust storms. It is worth mentioning that, at the suggestion of the Islamic Repub-

lic of Iran, the World Calendar designated July 12 of each year as International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms, which was approved at the United Nations General Assembly.

Blood donation rates increase by 6% in Q1

Social Desk
The Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization spokesperson announced that the number of blood donations in the spring

of Iranian year (March 20 to June 20) reached 628,418 units, showing an increase of nearly 6% compared to the same period last year. According to the organization, the blood donation

rate is now over 55% in the country, with Semnan and Yazd provinces showing the highest continuous donation rates at nearly 66% and Qom at over 64%, ILNA wrote.

Bashir Haji-Beigi emphasized the importance of rejuvenating the blood donor population due to the aging population and subsequent retirement of past donors. The organization aims to attract more young donors through ongoing programs and agreements. Currently, over 29% of donors in the country have a history of donating blood. In spring of this year, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province showed the highest growth in donation rates at over 43%, followed by Sistan and Baluch-

estan with over 19% and Kermanshah with nearly 19% growth. The spokesperson highlighted the importance of increasing female participation in blood donation and stated that with the organization's planning, there has been a slight increase in female donations compared to the same period last year. Currently, over 4% of donors are women. The leading provinces in female blood donation are North Khorasan with over 9%, Lorestan, South Khorasan, and Sistan and Baluchestan with over 7%, the health official added.

