

# 'Patterns of Friendship' opens in St. Petersburg

## Arts & Culture Desk

A joint exhibition of Iranian and Russian artists, titled 'Patterns of Friendship', opened in Saint Petersburg, Russia on October 22.

The exhibition, which was organized by the cultural consultation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Russian Federation, showcases the works of 200 painters from both countries. According to Iran's cultural attaché to Russia, Masoud Ahmadvand, approximately 100 works on various topics from Iran were created by Russian artists, and 100 works on Russia were created by Iranian artists specifically for this event. The exhibition is a result of a joint effort between the two countries to promote cultural exchange and understanding, IRNA reported.

The exhibition was inaugurated at the Catherine Palace in St. Petersburg, with the presence of some cultural figures from St. Petersburg and art enthusiasts. Ahmadvand expressed his gratitude to the government and private sectors of both countries for their help in organizing the event.

The exhibition was held in Moscow at the Academy of Watercolor and Fine Arts for almost two months. And now it will be on display in St. Petersburg for a month. It will also be showcased in the Sirius Federal Territory in Sochi, and later in Tehran, Isfahan, and Shiraz, each for a month. Ahmadvand noted that one of the unique aspects of the exhibition is that it allows people from both countries to showcase their perceptions of each other's countries through art.

He also emphasized that holding art events like this will have a positive impact on deepening and sustaining the relations between Iran and Russia, as it helps increase mutual understanding between the people of the two countries.

Ahmadvand added that the will of the authorities of both countries is to expand and strengthen their relations, and they have a special interest in arts and culture, which is a foundation for stable and sustainable communication.

Olga V. Taratynova, the head of the Catherine Palace Museum, thanked the Iranian Cultural Consultation for their cooperation in organizing the event, saying that it will help increase Russians' awareness of Iranian culture, historical sites, lifestyle, and interests.



## Iranian books on display at Tajikistan's book fair



The 12th International Exhibition "Book of Dushanbe-2024" kicked off on October 22 in Tajikistan, with the Islamic Republic of Iran participating in the event. The exhibition was inaugurated at the National Library of Tajikistan, attended by the Deputy Minister of Culture of Tajikistan, the Mayor of Dushanbe, as well as ambassadors of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Russia, IRNA reported.

Iran has set up a booth at the exhibition, showcasing 300 titles of books in various fields, including classical literature, contemporary literature (poetry and fiction), Persian language and script, children and young adult books, history, and books by Tajik poets. In addition to Iran, other participating countries in the book fair include India, Turkmenistan, Russia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Belarus.

## Iranian cinemas see 17% surge in attendance in one month

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Iranian cinemas welcomed 2.7 million viewers during the one-month period from September 22 to October 22, generating a box office revenue of approximately \$2.34 million.

Compared to the same period last year, the number of viewers increased by 17% and the box office saw a 49% growth, IRNA reported.

This achievement is significant, as this month often experiences a decline in cinema attendance due to the reopening of schools and universities, as well as changes in family lifestyles

and weather patterns. However, the release of a popular film helped to offset this decline, preventing from becoming a slow month for cinemas.

During this month, the comedy film 'Pressure Cooker' performed exceptionally well, attracting 1,179,000 viewers and generating \$1.07 million in sales within 14 days.

The animated film 'Woolina and the No Birds' also exceeded expectations, with 499,000 viewers and \$380,000 in sales within less than a month.

The comedy film 'Texas', which was released in June, continued to attract audi-

ences, with 182,000 viewers and \$169,000 in sales during the one-month period, making it the third most popular and highest-grossing film of the month.

If the cinemas can also release one or two notable social films, it will provide

a suitable offering for fans of this genre, making this season an unforgettable season for Iranian cinemas. This achievement will set a benchmark for future months, providing a basis for comparison with future box office results.



## International exhibition stands in solidarity with Palestine

An international art exhibition featuring 321 works by 80 artists from 23 countries opened in Tehran, showcasing a diverse range of graphic designs and illustrations that condemn Israeli aggression against Palestinians.

The exhibition, titled 'The Storm Still Rages,' is organized by Iran's Art Bureau and is underway at the gallery until next month.

The show includes 10 typography works and three graffiti pieces, among others, and features works by 47 artists from around the world, including the United States, Germany, Italy, Norway, Portugal, and Australia, as well as 33 Iranian artists, ILNA reported.

The artworks on display are a reaction to various events and incidents that have taken place over the past year, from October 2023 to October 2024. The exhibition is a response to the Israeli aggression against Palestinians, particularly the Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, and features works that condemn the attacks on schools, mosques, hospitals, shelters, and refugee camps, as well as the assassination of resistance leaders in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Iran.

The exhibition's curator, Saber Sheikh Rezaei, said that the idea for the show came about after the Iranian Art Bureau held an exhibition of works by Iranian artist Seyyed Ali Mir-

fattah, which included pieces about Palestine and Gaza.

Sheikh Rezaei, who has designed over 100 posters about Palestine and resistance over the years, proposed the idea of a larger exhibition that would include works by artists from around the world.

Sheikh Rezaei explained that he used his connections with international artists to collect works for the exhibition, which aims to create a sense of reflection and contemplation about the events that have taken place over the past year. He noted that the exhibition is not just about the Israeli-Palestinian war, but also about the human and emotional connections that exist between art-

ists from different parts of the world.

Mirfattah noted that the exhibition is a way to counter the media blackout and the normalization of Israeli aggression against Palestinians, and to show that art can be a powerful tool in the struggle for justice and human rights.



## Kiarostami's 'Taste of Cherry' screened in Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan recently screened the acclaimed Iranian film 'Taste of Cherry' as part of its cultural program. The film, directed by renowned filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami, was chosen for its thought-provoking and conceptually rich screenplay, which has captivated audiences worldwide.

The screening was a result of the growing interest in Persian language and Iranian studies at the university, initiated by the Iranian cultural center in collaboration with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, ISNA wrote.

This initiative has led to the formation of a Persian lan-

guage club, comprising enthusiastic students who have organized various cultural events, including celebrations for the International Day of Languages and Cultures, introductions to Iranian literary figures, and screenings of Iranian films.

The success of the first Iranian film screening at the university has sparked interest in Iranian cinema among students, prompting organizers to plan another screening of a top Iranian film next month. This decision was made in consultation with the university's professor of Persian language and Iranian studies, who will help select the next film.