

Pezeshkian: Nezami Ganjavi's poetry inspires global message of peace, justice



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian praised the renowned 12th-century Persian poet as a beacon of Persian literature, whose works offer timeless lessons of peace, justice, and humanity. He delivered the message on the occasion of the Fourth Nezami Ganjavi Commemoration Day, which falls on March 12, president.ir reported. "Nezami Ganjavi is a shining gem in the world of Persian literature, leaving a legacy that transcends time and borders. His poetry continues to reso-

nate deeply, with a message of love and wisdom that speaks to the human soul today," Pezeshkian wrote in his message, which was read by Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi. The president highlighted Ganjavi's contributions not only to Persian culture but to global civilization. "Nezami Ganjavi stands as one of the greatest embodiments of this nation's culture and civilization. His blending of love and wisdom in his poetry guides the world towards peace and justice. He taught us that true humanity lies beyond geographi-

cal and ethnic boundaries and is the foundation for coexistence and progress," Pezeshkian added. In his address, Pezeshkian also emphasized the importance of dialogue and mutual understanding in today's world, echoing Ganjavi's message of unity. "We believe that the future belongs to culture, wisdom, and dialogue. In these values, we see the path to a world filled with peace, justice, and brotherhood," the president said. The event, which celebrated the lasting influence of Nezami Ganjavi's work, underscored Iran's commitment to promot-

ing cultural exchange and solidarity among nations. Pezeshkian concluded his message with gratitude for those involved in organizing the commemoration, expressing sincere appreciation for their efforts in preserving and honoring Ganjavi's monumental legacy. Nezami Ganjavi, born in the 12th century, is widely regarded as one of the greatest romantic epic poets in Persian literature, with works that have influenced generations across the world. His message of justice and the pursuit of human dignity continues to inspire people today.

'Alone Together' from Iran awarded at Poland's ZOOM festival

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The Iranian short film 'Alone Together', directed by Omid Mirzaei, won the Special Jury Award at the 28th International Film Festival ZOOM, aka ZBLIŻENI, in Poland. The film, which explores tense moments at a remote border checkpoint, triumphed at one of the country's premier independent film festivals, ILNA reported. Held from March 3 to 9, 2025, the ZOOM Festival is one of Poland's most significant platforms for showcasing independent cinema. The award adds to the film's already impressive recognition on the international festival circuit. Earlier, 'Alone Together' received the honorary award at the 47th LUCAS International Festival for

Young Film Lovers in Germany and won Best Editing at the 41st Tehran International Short Film Festival. It also claimed Best Short Film at the 23rd Hafez Awards and garnered multiple honors, including Best Directing and Editing at the 70th Reggio Film Festival in Italy. Set against the backdrop of a chilling winter night, 'Alone Together' takes place at a remote checkpoint, where officers begin to suspect a bus full of passengers. Among the passengers is a young boy traveling alone, whose presence sparks tension and unravels long-held secrets, drawing attention from police, the driver, and fellow travelers. The film has also been featured in major international festivals, such as the 23rd Reggio Film Festival in Italy, the



20th Vues d'Afrique International Film Festival in Canada, and Germany's prestigious Oldenburg International Film Festival. With its unique narrative and emotional depth, 'Alone Together' continues to resonate with audiences worldwide, cementing its place as a standout piece in contemporary short cinema.

Iranian animator Abedi to showcase 'Holy Heaviness' at Swiss Freiburg festival



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Iranian short animation 'Holy Heaviness', directed by Farnoosh Abedi, and produced by the Documentary, Experimental and Animation Film Center (DEFC), will screen in the competition section of the 39th Fribourg International Film Festival from March 21 to 30. Formerly titled 'Embrace,' the eight-minute film explores the tumultuous relationship between a father and son as the son grapples

with his troubled past, leading to profound challenges for both characters, Mehr News Agency reported. The Fribourg International Film Festival is renowned for its focus on outstanding films from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, highlighting diverse storytelling and cultural narratives. Abedi, one of Iran's most celebrated animation directors, is known for her acclaimed short films, including 'Malakout,' 'The Sprayer,' 'The Servant,' and 'The Old Tree.'

Iranian artists shine at Qatar's auction

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The inaugural international auction of modern and contemporary Iranian art, titled "Naqsh-e Jahan," took place at the Albahie Auction House in the cultural district of Katara, showcasing the works of two pioneers in the field of calligraphic painting in Iran, Sadegh Tabrizi and Mohammad Ehsai. On February 25, the Albahie Auction House hosted a remarkable event where 36 artworks by Iranian artists were put up for bidding. Among the highlights were pieces by Tabrizi and Ehsai, which garnered the highest initial estimates, selling for \$30,000 and \$32,000, respectively, ILNA reported. Tabrizi's piece, an untitled calligraphic painting created using a mixed-media technique on canvas measuring 190 by 160 centimeters, featured the artist's signature in the lower right corner. This work, dating back to the 1960s, was presented with the highest initial estimate of the auction, ranging from \$40,000 to \$60,000, ultimately selling for \$30,000.

Ehsai's contribution, an oil painting on canvas from the series 'Nods' measuring 105 by 160 centimeters and dated 2022, was also signed and dated by the artist in the lower right corner. This piece had an initial price estimate of \$35,000 to \$55,000, and it sold for \$32,000. Mehrdad Fallah, a painter and representative of Tabrizi's family, emphasized the auction's strength in presenting traditional Iranian-Islamic calligraphy in a modern and non-classical format. He noted the significance of regional events like this, stating, "Currently, major auction houses such as Christie's, Sotheby's, and Bonhams do not have a significant presence in the Middle East, making the establishment of regional and local auctions like Albahie in Qatar, as well as Tehran's auction house, a very important development. The organization of such regional auctions could potentially enhance competition among buyers and collectors for notable artworks." He further elaborated on the importance of Tabrizi's painting at this auction, remarking, "This

painting is a prime example of Tabrizi's work, with its composition holding significant value. The diagonal lines in the background evoke a sense of dynamism and movement, while the arrangement of the calligraphy on either side creates a form of invisible symmetry that maintains visual balance. The bold red background conveys excitement and power, while the golden letters in contrast create a spiritual effect. The use of Thuluth or Diwani script, with its intertwined structure, adds layers of complexity both in meaning and visually, while the extension and merging of certain letters produce a fluid flow within the image." Despite the crippling sanctions of recent years, Fallah underscored the importance of Iranian art's presence in the global art market, stating, "I have always said that supporting the art economy requires innovative thinking. We must utilize the potential of Iranian art in global markets more effectively, especially considering the decline in the value of the rial domestically. Therefore, we need

to strengthen the selling opportunities for our artists' works in foreign auctions to continue witnessing this relative boom." According to the report, a calligraphic painting by Ahmad Mirza, executed in oil and gold leaf on canvas measuring 130 by 130 centimeters and dated 2019, had an estimated price of \$3,000 to \$5,000, ultimately selling for \$1,800. A painting measuring 200 by 200 centimeters by Ozra Aghighi-Bakhshayeshi, estimated at \$12,000 to \$16,000, sold for \$11,000. Other notable sales included an acrylic painting by Farnaz Rezaei, estimated at \$1,000 to \$2,000, which sold for \$800, and a piece by Shahla Moazzazi, estimated at \$3,000 to \$5,000, which fetched \$2,000. Mohammad Saeed Naghashian also participated in the auction with a 150 by 150 centimeter piece from 2024, estimated at \$3,000 to \$5,000, which sold for \$10,000. Additionally, a Tabrizi oil painting on canvas, estimated at \$3,000 to \$5,000, sold for \$2,000, while a work by Ali Shirazi, measuring 180 by 145 centimeters and created using



a mixed-media technique in 2011, was sold for \$5,000, having been estimated at \$8,000 to \$12,000. The auction also featured a calligraphic piece by Mehrdad Shoghi, measuring 100 by 150 centimeters, which sold for \$10,000, and an oil painting by Soodeh Davood, estimated at \$4,000 to \$6,000, which fetched \$3,600. Kiarash Yaqoubi presented an untitled acrylic work on canvas measuring 100 by 100 centimeters, with an initial estimate of \$4,000 to \$6,000,

which sold for \$2,600. Behruz Zindashti's work titled 'Sacred Numbers,' executed in acrylic on canvas measuring 220 by 170 centimeters, had an estimated price of \$2,000 to \$4,000 and sold for \$2,400. Afghan artist Ali Rahimi offered an oil painting on canvas measuring 120 by 130 centimeters, estimated at \$1,500 to \$2,500, which sold for \$1,200. Additionally, a black and white calligraphy piece by Hossein Bahrami, estimated at \$800 to \$1,200, sold for \$500.