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Over 55,000 visited ‘Picasso in Tehran’ show during Nowruz holiday



Arts & Culture Desk

Over 55,000 art enthusiasts flocked to the ‘Picasso in Tehran’ exhibition at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMoCA) during its 18-day run. The exhibition showcases an impressive collection of 66 pieces from the celebrated Spanish painter and sculptor, highlighting various phases of his artistic evolution. Notably, it features 26 aquatint prints from the famed series “La Tauromaquia” (The Art of Bullfighting), which have never been displayed in Iran before. This unique presentation has drawn considerable attention, with many visitors eager to explore Picasso’s intricate depictions of bullfighting. In addition to Picasso’s masterworks, the exhibition also spotlights selected pieces from Iranian artists influenced by his style, including Bahram Dabi-

ri, Bahman Mohasses, Jalil Ziapour, Mohsen Vaziri Moghaddam, Garnik Der-Hacopian, Hannibal Alkhas, and Parvaneh Etemadi. Furthermore, works from notable contemporaries such as Georges Braque, Robert Delaunay, Fernand Léger, and Joan Miró are also on view, showcasing the interconnectedness of artistic movements across borders. The exhibition has been well-received by both art critics and the general public, with many praising its thoughtful curation and the way it brings together diverse artistic voices. “The response has been overwhelming,” remarked a museum representative. “We’re thrilled to offer a platform that celebrates not only Picasso’s legacy but also the talent of Iranian artists who have been inspired by him.” Visitors wishing to experience ‘Picasso in Tehran’ can do so until May 21, 2025.

Iran, Kazakhstan forge path to enhanced tourism cooperation

Social Desk

Iran’s Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Reza Salehi Amiri, proposed an extension of the visa waiver period and the introduction of direct flights between Iran and Kazakhstan. The plan aims to foster tourism and cultural exchanges between the two nations, emphasizing their shared heritage and potential for collaboration, IRNA reported. During a meeting on Sunday, with Kazakhstan’s Ambassador to Tehran, Ontalap Onalbayev, Salehi-Amiri outlined measures to enhance cultural interactions and tourism development. He added, “Increasing the visa waiver duration from 14 days to one month, along

with expanding direct flights, are essential steps in promoting tourism and deepening our bilateral relationship.” The minister stressed the importance of showcasing the unique tourism attractions of both countries as a means to facilitate greater people-to-people connections. He proposed the creation of targeted investment packages aimed at establishing five-star hotels and inviting prominent Kazakh cultural figures to Iran. These incentives, he believes, would serve as catalysts for enriching cultural exchanges. In addition, Salehi Amiri expressed the ministry’s readiness to organize joint cultural and artistic exhibitions in both countries, viewing this as a vital opportunity to deepen mutual understanding and foster a

cultural dialogue that brings their peoples closer together. He highlighted the significance of collaboration in preserving shared cultural elements, such as the international recognition of Nowruz, and called for joint efforts to register shared historical sites with UNESCO. Onalbayev affirmed Kazakhstan’s commitment to bolstering relations with Iran across various sectors, particularly in cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts. He revealed that the Kazakh government is fully prepared to implement initiatives aimed at identifying and promoting shared historical artifacts, producing cultural documentaries, and establishing specialized working groups.



Iran to conduct new national census initiative for 2025

Social Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian issued an executive order to carry out the 2025 National Population and Housing Census. The directive, dated March 13, 2024, aims to ensure the cooperation of all relevant agencies in the successful implementation of this vital program, president.ir reported. The directive has been disseminated to key governmental bodies, including the office of the Supreme Leader, the judiciary, and various ministries, highlighting the collaborative effort required to establish the necessary infrastructure for the census. According to the presidential decree, “Achieving the objectives of the Islamic Republic and the advancement of the country necessitates comprehensive and effective planning, which in turn requires accurate, timely statistics and information.” The order cites the need for a transition from traditional statistical methods to a modern, registration-based system. It mandates that all ministries, particularly the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, continuously provide essential data to the Statistical Center of Iran. Furthermore,



these entities must ensure that all necessary resources are made available during the census process, aligning with the provisions outlined in the laws governing the Statistical Center. As stipulated by the Iranian Constitution, national population and housing censuses are conducted every ten years, with the last one taking place in 2016 when Iran had a population of 79,926,270. The data collected will underpin future territorial planning and development strategies for the nation. The executive order signifies a crucial step for the Iranian government as it seeks to upgrade its statistical infrastructure, ultimately aiming to enhance the quality and timeliness of the information that will guide policy decisions in the coming years.

Iranian, Thai artists showcase cultural ties through painting exhibition

Arts & Culture Desk

An art exhibition titled ‘Genesis Through Siamese and Persian Eyes’ celebrating the 70th anniversary of Iran-Thailand cultural relations is underway at Chulalongkorn University’s main hall in Bangkok, on the rich tapestry of cultural and historical narratives shared by the two nations. This exhibition brings to life the ancient Lanna legend “Pathommunmuli,” an old palm-leaf manuscript from northern Thailand that narrates the creation of the world by Grandfather Sangkhaya Sangkasi and Grandmother Itthangkaya Sangkasi who are regarded as the ancestors of Lanna, IRNA reported. The exhibition showcases the works of two artists from distinct cultural traditions. Kangwanprai Chompupuen from Thailand interprets the legend through a contemporary Thai acrylic painting on canvas, and Arash Geroeian from Iran, uses traditional Persian watercolor techniques on paper. The two artists have also collaborated on special pieces that blend their unique artistic identities. “This exhibition is not just a collection of artworks; it’s a mirror reflecting the profound humanistic perspectives of two ancient civilizations,” said Iran’s Cultural



Attaché during the opening ceremony. “It’s an honor to stand among scholars, art lovers, and thinkers from both nations as we celebrate this artistic bridge between our cultures.” The event also marked a unique intersection of two traditional New Year celebrations—Nowruz in Iran and Songkran in Thailand—further underscoring shared values of renewal and spirituality. The artworks on display focus on themes of creation, spirituality, and human connection, offering a side-by-side exploration of Persian and Siamese artistic traditions. “In Iranian culture, creation is sacred, steeped in mystery,” noted the

Iranian representative. “Similarly, Siamese traditions intertwine creation with symbols, colors, and spiritual narratives.” Visitors have been quick to pick up on these parallels. “The exhibition lays bare both the differences and striking similarities between our cultures,” said one attendee. “It’s fascinating to see how two distinct artistic traditions converge in their exploration of universal themes.” The event has also been hailed as a shining example of cultural diplomacy. “Such collaborations are a testament to mutual respect and constructive engagement between nations,” emphasized the Iranian Cultural attaché.