

# Iranian artist turns scrap metal objects into artefacts



Adel Pasha

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## EXCLUSIVE

When it comes to Iranian handicrafts and arts, people often think of carpet weaving, kilim weaving, inlay work, woodcarving, and leatherworking. However, the true scope of Iranian artists' talents stretches far beyond these familiar arts, including many creations that fewer people may be aware of. One extraordinary example is the production of sculptures from metal waste, crafted by a talented artist from Tabriz in East Azarbaijan Province.

At first glance, one might not guess that the raw materials used to create these beautiful and delicate artworks — crafted with remarkable attention to detail — were once discarded vehicle parts. Adel Pasha, who has been a shoemaker for forty years, began creating sculptures from metal waste six years ago. In an interview with Iran Daily at the International Tourism and Handicrafts Exhibition of Khorasan Razavi in Mashhad, he said: "I produce different items; for example, I make metal tanks and trailers from Pride brake pads, motorcycle timing gears, Nissan timing chain."



He has also built several sculptures for the Tabriz Municipality, including a large sculpture of a horse installed in a park, which visitors can even ride. A sculpture depicts a person weaving a carpet, a replica of Tabriz Municipality building, and a large sculpture of a dog are some of the artworks he has made for the Tabriz Municipality. When asked about his customers, he mentioned: "Balance sculptures, one of the artworks I produce, usually purchased by children. This particular piece is made from waste materials such as jam



jar lids, satellite dish rods, and similar items and car sculptures often find buyers among owners of auto galleries." Waste materials like timing chains, screws and nuts, bearings, fans, ball bearings, steering components, and engine parts from gearboxes are transformed into beautiful works of art by this talented artist. Each of his creations is a symbol of his creativity and ingenuity, highlighting the hidden value of discarded objects like vehicle parts. He mainly sells his artworks through participation in hand-

icraft exhibitions and through his personal social media channels. His range of products also includes sculptures of tractors and trailers, musical instruments such as guitars and the traditional Persian tar, locomotives, cameras, insect models like mosquitoes and cockroaches, motorcycles, vintage cars, mannequins, and more — many of which attract much attention from visitors. Although he has worked alone in a small workshop up to now and currently does not have apprentices, he is eager to expand his workshop and aims to teach this art form to others. This artist transforms lifeless waste into sculptures full of vitality and meaning. Chains that have been abandoned, rusted springs, scattered car and motorcycle parts — everything gains a new identity in his talented hands. Having participated in numerous exhibitions, he previously mentioned that one of his future plans is to hold exhibitions abroad to showcase Iranian art and culture beyond the borders of the country. His next goal is to shift his focus onto creating sculptures symbolizing nature — such as trees, flowers, insects, and natural landscapes — using his artistic vision.

## Natural beauty, healing powers of Dehloran hot springs

### Iranica Desk

Dehloran hot springs consist of multiple springs and a mud pool, with water temperatures reaching around fifty degrees Celsius. They are among the prominent health tourism destinations in Ilam Province. These natural hot springs are situated three kilometers from the city of Dehloran, in the foothills of Siah

Kuh and close to Khofash (Bats) Cave. One of the most remarkable and unique characteristics of these springs is that, when sunlight reflects off the water, they create a rainbow-like color pattern. This extraordinary natural phenomenon has led Dehloran hot springs to be regarded as one of the rarest natural phenomena in Iran. Because heated water can

hold more dissolved solids than cold water, warm and especially hot springs tend to be rich in minerals, particularly sulfur. Every year, many visitors come to Dehloran to bathe in these springs, seeking relief from conditions such as articular pains, rheumatoid arthritis, various skin wounds, and muscular issues, and to benefit from the therapeutic properties of the min-

eral waters. However, due to the high sulfur content, patients with heart conditions are advised to avoid prolonged exposure or immersion in the waters. Dehloran hot springs are classified as fossil springs, formed as a result of the geological activity associated with nearby oil and gas resources. The springs originate from two main mineral-rich streams, which

converge underground to form a river of hot, mineral-laden water. The mineral composition of the waters also significantly affects the region's vegetation and ecosystem. Access to Dehloran hot springs is quite straightforward, with two main routes: The primary route is via an asphalted road from Dehloran city, leading to the springs located to the west

of the city. This route also provides access to Khofash (Bats) Cave, making it a convenient choice for visitors. The secondary route is a dirt road, offering a more adventurous experience. Travelers on this route are often surprised by the sight of the Tar (Qir) Springs along the way. In these springs, instead of water, thick tar flows from the earth's surface. This site is registered

as a national heritage of Iran. The Tar Springs are another rare geological phenomenon in Ilam Province and are the only tar springs of their kind documented in Iran. Overall, the Dehloran hot springs' combination of natural beauty, unique geological features, and therapeutic benefits make it an extraordinary destination worth exploring.

