



West's Iranophobia plots should be foiled via cultural diplomacy: *Minister*



Reza Salehi Amiri

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Reza Salehi Amiri, said late on Saturday that western plots to portray a scary image of the Islamic Republic and disseminate Iranophobia should be thwarted using a strategic approach based on cultural diplomacy. "This project must be effectively neutralized through a strategic approach based on cultural diplomacy," Salehi Amiri said. "In order to counter this phenomenon, we are expanding diplomatic relations with various countries around the world, prioritizing the facilitation and acceleration of tourism in addition to enhancing cultural relations."

Pointing to the supreme position of Iranian civilization in the global arena, the minister said, "Iran is not just a geography, but a civilization whose roots have penetrated the heart of human history and influenced all aspects of world culture." Salehi Amiri touched on more than 43,000 nationally registered works and 28 globally registered works in Iran, saying, "This land is a treasure trove of history and civilization, where every day, in some corner of it, a new discovery from the ancient world and an ancient culture is unveiled." Salehi Amiri reported on the continuous efforts of his ministry to register Iran's historical sites globally, stating that the sites such as the historical

valleys of Lorestan, including historical caves and Falak-ol-Aflak Castle, Iranian mosques, and Sistan and Baluchestan windmills, are on the path to global registration. "Iran will soon become one of the global pioneers in the registration of historical sites and will play a more influential role than before on the global stage," he said, adding, "Iran's cultural heritage is not only an integral part of the country's soft power, but also plays a strategic role in promoting cultural diplomacy and tourism at the global level." Pointing to his diplomatic trips to various countries such as Egypt, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkey, Salehi Amiri said, "In these trips, emphasis has been placed

on strengthening cultural relations and boosting the tourism industry, especially through the signing of comprehensive memorandums of understanding." The Iranian minister also referred to Tehran's tourism capacities and said, "Despite having 140 hotels, Tehran still needs completion and development of hotel construction and tourism infrastructure on a global scale. Salehi-Amiri said with the cooperation of the government and Tehran Municipality, 10 new locations have been identified for the construction of five-star hotels, adding, "These projects will be a big step towards elevating Tehran as a reputable global tourism destination."

Iranian children, teenagers awarded at French art contest



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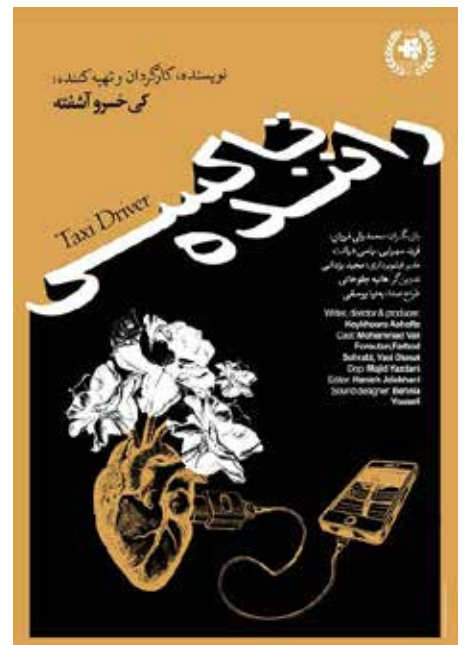
Iranian children and teenagers received three badges of honor and eight honorary diplomas from the "Louis François" International Visual Arts Competition in France. The public relations department of the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults said the paintings of 11 artist members from the institute, on the theme "Olympic Games in Painting and Design: From Ancient Greece to Modern Games... From Athletic Power to Shared Values," attracted the attention of the competition's judges.

Three badges of honor, the highest prize in the competition, which are bestowed upon the best and most deserving works, were awarded to Helia Rahmati, a 12-year-old member from Bandar Anzali, Gilan Province; Ael-Ay Pasbani, a 12-year-old from Meshgin Shahr, Ardabil Province; and Shirin Karimi, a 12-year-old from Shiraz, Fars Province. The badge signifies an excellent level of creativity, skill, and conceptualization in painting. Sania Zare from Shiraz, Fars Province; Nilia Mir-Rezaei from Rasht, Gilan Province; Masoumeh Moradi from Hamedan Province; Dina Hafez-Zadeh from Larestan and Fatemeh Khademi from Shiraz, both from Fars Province; Sonia Afsaneh from Ardabil; Raheleh Zamani from Bashrouyeh, South Khorasan Province; and Maedeh Taghizadeh from Gonbad in Golestan Province, succeeded in receiving honorary diplomas in the international painting competition in France. According to the report, a total of 4,213 works from 78 countries were submitted to the "Louis François" International Visual Arts Competition in France, of which 344 works were paintings turned in by members of the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults from Iran. The Louis François Center for UNESCO organizes the competition to promote the practice of art among children and young people around the world in the hope of uniting them through international activity.

Persian short film 'Taxi Driver' makes cut for Bulgaria festival

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The Iranian short film "Taxi Driver", written, produced, and directed by Keikhosro Ashofteh, was selected for the competition section of the 21st Red Cross International Film Festival in Bulgaria. The film is Ashofteh's second work after writing and directing of the short film "Lantern". Ashofteh's resume also includes experience in journalism and teaching. The synopsis of "Taxi Driver" reads, "We are all alone, and love can accompany us on this path." Mohammadvali Foroutan, Farbod Sohrabi, and Yassi Dianat have acted in the short film, and First Screen is responsible for its international distribution. The Red Cross Film Festival is an international event supported by the vice president of Bulgaria, organized by the Bulgarian Red Cross under the supervision of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the World Health Organization, and UNESCO. The organizers' goal in the 60th year of the festival's establishment and its 21st edition is to make the event an inseparable part of cultural life in Bulgaria and Europe, and to boost young people's interest in fundamen-



tal human values as part of a modern lifestyle through culture. The international festival will be held from June 12 to 20, 2025 in the city of Varna, Bulgaria.

Kamyar Sadeghi's painting exhibition 'Redefining' opens in Tehran

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The solo exhibition of paintings by Kamyar Sadeghi, titled "Redefining", opened at the Abolfazl Aali Gallery in the capital Tehran on Sunday. At the exhibition, as many as 24 design works (metal pen on paper) and paintings using acrylic and oil techniques by Sadeghi, with nature as their theme, were displayed. "By and large, wherever I go, I carry my water-

color supplies with me, and whenever I find an opportunity, I feel more comfortable working with watercolors when I go into nature. The works in this exhibition are a continuation of the watercolor pieces I displayed in my previous exhibitions. For this reason, I painted some of my watercolor works, which I also wanted to re-experience creating with oil paints, using acrylic and oil techniques, and the result is this exhibition," said Kamyar Sadeghi, nephew of the late Habibollah Sadeghi, as he spoke about the exhibit and the mood of his works. Elaborating on working with nature as a subject, Sadeghi said, "Working in nature is a special experience with a unique atmosphere, but when an artist has mastery over painting nature, they can also paint nature from a photograph, provided it doesn't become merely a copy of the photo. That is, the final output

should not be an exact reflection or representation of the photo, and the artist themselves should have the intelligence to be seen in the work, so that the work is not merely a representation of a photograph. In the works I did in winter, I had to work on them from photographs." Those interested in visiting the works can go to Tehran's Hozeh Honari on Somayeh Street from Saturday to Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., until June 20, 2025.

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