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# Tehran launches second phase of 'In Women's Words' art exhibition

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Art Bureau inaugurated the second phase of the 'In Women's Words' exhibition at Tehran's Iranian Artists Forum on Thursday July 24, showcasing works by female painters, ceramists, illustrators, and pop artists from across the country. The exhibition expands on a July 23 show at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, where modernist women artists took center stage in the institution's most extensive gender-focused survey to date. In its second installment, 'In Women's Words' spills into the city's gallery circuit, offering a broader snapshot of contemporary female creativity across mediums and styles, IRNA reported. At Thursday's opening, attended by Deputy Culture Minister Nadereh Rezaei, Iranian Artists Forum CEO Mohammad-Mehdi Asgarpour, and Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art director Reza Dabirinejad, artistic director

Sajjad Baghban-Maher said the decision to extend the exhibition stemmed from the limited scope of the museum's collection. "The vault could only tell part of the story," he said. "This second part gives space to voices we couldn't include there." Each of the venue's galleries has taken on a separate curatorial theme. The Momayez and Homa galleries present 'Trans-Pop in Women's Words,' featuring Iranian pop-art-inspired works. The Zemestan gallery, curated by Vard Gallery, highlights 50 hand-printed pieces by 50 women artists under the title 'Printmaking Through Her Eyes'. In the Paez gallery, 'Regrowth in Women's Words' centers on nature-inspired work. The Mirmiran Art Gallery, in collaboration with O Gallery, exhibits modern miniature paintings rooted in Iranian traditions. Urban life takes the spotlight in 'City Through Her Eyes,' curated by Saeed Babavand in the Tabestan gallery.

In the Bahar space, Mojtaba Ghorbani has gathered contemporary ceramics for 'Women Ceramicists in Focus'. Meanwhile, the Namy gallery, in partnership with Gallery H, offers 'Life Through Women's Eyes,' a collection exploring everyday domesticity and emotion. Baghban-Maher also announced that an additional wave of displays would launch on Friday, July 25, in cooperation with seven more private galleries, including Sohrab and Negar. New installations will include work by women sculptors and younger modernists. The exhibition at the Iranian Artists Forum will run through August 1 and is open daily (except Saturdays) from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. The opening phase of 'In Women's Words,' held at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, remains on view until September 22. Curated by Toka Maleki, Afsaneh Kamran, and Baghban-Maher, it features 125 pieces by 65 Iranian modernist women artists,



including Monir Farmanfarmaian, Behjat Sadr, Iran Darroudi, and Fereydoon Lashai. The museum show draws entirely from its archives and includes rare and pre-

viously unseen works in abstraction, portraiture, and social realism. A bilingual catalogue, lectures, and parallel gallery shows are planned throughout the summer.

## Works by Iran, Afghanistan women artists showcased at ECO Cultural Institute in Tehran



## Arts & Culture Desk

A week-long exhibition featuring works by 24 women artists from Iran and Afghanistan opened on Thursday, July 24, at the ECO Cultural Institute in northern Tehran, the organization said in a statement. Titled 'Voices in Color,' the exhibition brings together contemporary painting and callig-

raphy-painting by members of the Qalamo (Brush) Association, a regional arts initiative, IRNA reported. Hosted at the institute's Diplomatic Hall, the event is part of broader efforts by the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to promote cultural dialogue and regional solidarity through the arts. Asad Majid Khan, Secretary-General of ECO, attended the opening ceremony, which also featured poetry readings by Afghan author and poet Seyed Zia Qasemi and prominent Iranian poet Fahimeh Dehghan. Both guests contributed original work, drawing applause from the packed hall.

"Art is a shared language among the women of the ECO region," said Saad Khan, president of the ECO Cultural Institute. He described art as a "borderless" medium that helps build bridges of understanding and peace among nations. The program also included remarks from Ja'far Shiralinia, a historian and cultural scholar, who highlighted the growing role of women in shaping the cultural landscape of the region. "Women artists carry forward heritage while also redefining it," he said. The exhibition runs daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. through July 30 at the ECO Cultural Institute, in Tehran.

## Iranian play 'Confusion' heads to Georgian theater festival

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian stage production 'Confusion,' written and directed by Mohammad Amin Sadi, will be performed on July 28 at the Regional International Theatre Festival in Poti, Georgia. The play, an adaptation of French author Joël Egloff's novel 'L'Étourdissement,' will represent Iran at the festival alongside 10 other productions from France, Romania, Georgia, and Lithuania. Staged by Tehran-based Amits Theater Group, 'Confusion' will be performed at 3:00 p.m. in the State Professional Theater Hall in Poti. The production has already logged over 70 performanc-

es in Tehran and gained national attention for its nominations in directing, acting, costume, and makeup design at Iran's prestigious Fajr International Theater Festival. The international poster for the show was designed by Hamed Farahi. The cast includes Fardin Rahmanpour and Sahar Ghassemi, who performs in form and shadow roles. Sadi described the piece as a "loose adaptation" that blends French dramatic literature with a local theatrical language. The work explores states of mental and social disorientation—"confusion"—through movement, silence, and fragmented storytelling. The Regional Theater Fes-



tival in Poti, now in its latest edition, brings together emerging and established companies from across Europe and beyond, aiming to foster "regional dialogue" through the performing arts.

## Two Iranian films to hit screens at Venice Days sidebar

## Arts & Culture Desk

Two Iranian films have been selected for the 22nd edition of Venice Days, an independent sidebar of the Venice Film Festival, the Italian Directors' Guild announced on Thursday. The Venice Days program, modeled on Cannes' Directors' Fortnight, will run from August 27 to September 6 and offers a platform for auteur-driven cinema with strong artistic vision. This year's lineup features two works by Iranian filmmakers that reflect themes of displacement, memory, and identity, ISNA reported.

'Past Future Continuous,' a documentary co-directed by Firouzeh Khosrovani and Morteza Ahmadvand, follows a woman no longer living in Iran as she maintains a delicate connection with her family back home. The storytelling unfolds through a unique form of communication, exploring absence and belonging in a deeply personal way. Also selected is 'Inside Amir,' a feature by Iranian director Amir Azizi. The film portrays a young man on the cusp of emigration, weaving through Tehran's urban landscape on his bicycle. As he spends his final days with family and



friends, the story drifts between the present and "fragments of the past" through flashbacks and phone calls. Described as a "love letter to Tehran," the film meditates on the emotional tug-of-war before leaving one's homeland.

The Venice Days (Giornate degli Autori) section, launched in 2004, has become a hub for bold voices in world cinema. Iranian cinema, often lauded for its poetic realism and social insight, remains a steady presence in European festivals.

## Talks with E3 ...

Regardless, the talks must continue—whether with the Americans or the E3—to avoid handing the United States and Israel any pretext for renewed provocations against Iran. Thus, while diplomacy is indeed useful, military readiness must not be compromised, especially to deter a fresh Israeli adventurism. The US and the EU are playing their usual "good cop, bad cop" routine. When negotiations between Tehran and Washington collapse, the Europeans step in, seemingly to buy time, all the while allowing the US and Israel space to prepare for

potential military action. The EU's current posture may have been designed to keep Iran busy with talks, while paving the way for more pressure from Tel Aviv and Washington. However, Iran will not, under any circumstances, back down from its key stances in these negotiations—namely, continuing uranium enrichment and maintaining the integrity of its nuclear fuel cycle. These remain non-negotiable. Adjustments to Iran's foreign policy approach vis-à-vis the European parties—and potentially the US—must be placed on the Foreign Ministry's agenda. Talks should

proceed, but on Iran's terms. As the nation that emerged victorious from the 12-day aggression, Iran should enter these negotiations with its status recognized accordingly. The E3 and the US must factor this reality into their approach. Meanwhile, Iran must also launch a new round of diplomatic outreach, aiming to foster common ground with Islamic and Arab nations. The Foreign Ministry must elevate the global discourse on the aggressive policies of the Israeli regime in Syria, Lebanon, the Gaza Strip, and particularly against Iran. These concerns must be forcefully brought to the world stage.