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Iran's culture minister calls for clearer artistic policy framework

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi, urged for more precise and inclusive policy documents in the arts sector during the 118th session of the Art Council held on Monday. The meeting gathered representatives of visual arts associations to address key challenges and the necessity of drafting strategic cultural charters, IRNA reported. Salehi emphasized that producing well-structured documents creates a "common language" between artists, government bodies, and other stakeholders. He added that a major hurdle in implementing cultural policies has been the lack of consensus among primary beneficiaries. "One reason these documents fail in practice is that main stakeholders have not been sufficiently convinced," Salehi said. The

minister highlighted multiple benefits of formalizing such policy documents. Beyond fostering shared understanding, he pointed to the establishment of "relative stability" in artistic governance. This stability helps shield the arts sector from disruptions caused by frequent leadership changes and offers artists a degree of "relative settlement." Salehi added that a clear reference text would reduce contradictions within the governance system, enabling more coherent oversight. Salehi acknowledged the need for clarity about the objectives and expectations surrounding these documents, stressing that the process must reflect the voices of artists and other involved parties. "If we accept the necessity of documentation, we must define what we expect from it and its essential features," he said. He further questioned whether



Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Abbas Salehi (c) attends the 118th session of the Art Council in Tehran, July 28, 2025.
● IRNA

drafting should be delegated to the art community itself, handled by an external body, or a hybrid approach. The session included detailed discussions on the pressing issues facing the visual arts field and the role of strategic documentation in resolving them. The minister's statements come amid ongoing efforts to implement the Cultural Engineering Document, a government-led initiative aiming to align cultural activities with broader national goals. By fostering dialogue and shared policy language, Salehi signaled a move toward more stable and effective cultural governance in Iran's evolving artistic landscape.



Iranian short 'Birthday' to compete at Germany's 49th Weiterstadt Film Festival



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian filmmaker Raheleh Karami's short film 'Birthday' was officially selected to compete at the 49th Weiterstadt Open Air Film Festival, to be held in Hesse, Germany, from August 14 to 18. The five-day festival, one of Germany's longest-running open-air cinema events, will screen Karami's film alongside selected titles from around the world, ILNA reported. This year's edition saw nearly 4,000 submissions, with Birthday making the final cut thanks to its originality and

storytelling style that sidesteps conventional cinematic boundaries. The event is known for its strong emphasis on "diversity" and "authenticity," drawing crowds for its mix of avant-garde and cross-genre shorts. Written and directed by Karami and produced by Hojjat Babaei, 'Birthday' completes a thematic trilogy by the filmmaker focused on women's experiences. It follows her earlier shorts 'The Doll' and 'The Good Girl,' both of which explored gender dynamics in modern Iranian society. In 'Birthday,' the narrative centers on

a young girl's emotional expectations on her birthday. "Today is my birthday, mom. It's supposed to be the best day of my life..." reads the official synopsis. Actresses Shaghayegh Faryadshiran and Mahana Ekhlas lead the cast in the short, which marks Karami's third directorial work. Separately, Karami's latest film 'The House' was recently selected for the 38th edition of the Les Instants Vidéo numériques et poétiques festival in Marseille, France, continuing the director's growing presence in the European short film circuit.

Mustafa foundation's Observatory magazine covers tomorrow's technologies today

Social Desk

In its latest issue, Observatory magazine, published by the Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation, explores the seismic changes underway in software engineering, spotlighting the role of artificial intelligence in transforming the way software is built, maintained, and understood. Published by the Nasim Observatory at the Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation, Observatory not only explains the mechanisms behind major scientific achievements by leading global researchers in simple terms, but also sheds light on the transformative future those breakthroughs may bring. The second issue spans a wide range of scientific advances—from tissue engineering and drug-delivery nanoparticles to mechanisms behind multiple sclerosis progression, exploration of brine reservoirs, and the exotic role of triquark particles in quantum physics. Through interviews with the scientists behind these discoveries and accessible visual content, the magazine aims to

both enhance public understanding of the scientific concepts and foster interdisciplinary research among scholars. The April edition features a thought-provoking article by leading researcher Ahmad Hassan, examining how AI is reshaping the software landscape. One of the articles in this issue is titled 'On the Verge of a Historical Turning Point in Software Evolution.' Full text follows below:

In a world where technology advances at a breakneck pace, software has become the beating heart of digital transformation. Ahmad Hassan, one of the most influential researchers in software engineering, is exploring artificial intelligence, new revolutionary ways software is built, maintained, and optimized. Using artificial intelligence (AI) solutions that can make programming faster, smarter, and less error-prone. In the near future, artificial intelligence will not only help programmers, but it also will turn itself into a skilled programmer, available to the general public. It can even connect natural language and program code,

making codes easier to write and understand.

Software with millions of users

Ultra-Large Scale Software Systems (ULSS) are those that make the world go round. They allow us to get millions of results in less than a second when we google or recommend contents to one another as we scroll on Instagram or Facebook. These platforms all run on ULSS. Extremely large software systems operate on a global scale, serving millions of users around the clock. They include Google (a search engine that processes billions of requests in real-time), Facebook (a social network in which users from all over the world interact with each other), and Visa (a financial transaction processing system that manages millions of purchases every second). These systems, which serve millions of users daily require uninterrupted, nonstop operation.

Software development, faster than ever

Today, artificial intelligence can play a role in all stages of software development, from production and improve-



ment to processes. Until just a few years ago, the only way to write a program was through programmers. But in 2023, Garter announced that artificial intelligence in software engineering has attracted a lot of attention, which means that in the near future, all software will be developed with the help of artificial intelligence, and the pace of software development will accelerate. Hassan believes that AI will not replace programmers but

that it will empower them, much like a friend would. A can make software development processes faster and more efficient. Other uses of this field include automatically detecting errors at the time of coding, suggesting more optimized codes, and automatically writing parts of the code. The implication of this for technology companies is that they will be able to produce software faster, cheaper, and of higher quality.