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Tehran exhibition examines Iran's place in modern art

Arts & Culture Desk

More than 100 works by Iranian modern artists will go on display at Tehran's Museum of Contemporary Art on Saturday in an exhibition examining how Iran is represented through art, memory and personal experience. Titled 'In Search of Iran: From the Collection of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art', the exhibition features artworks by prominent artists including Sohrab Sepehri, Parviz Kalantari, Parviz Tanavoli, Charles Hossein Zenderoudi, Farah Osouli, Reza Mafi, Mohammad Ehsai and Bahman Mohasses.

The exhibition explores how Iran appears in artists' work without seeking to determine which pieces are more distinctly Iranian, according to a statement from the museum. "We do not ask which work is more Iranian; we ask how Iran has become a subject of seeing and representation, and how it has remained present in ways of seeing and making," the statement said. The works reflect different experiences of Iran, including memories of places, everyday life, migration and loss. These connections sometimes appear as the direct subject of a work and sometimes emerge through its form and materials.

The exhibition is arranged in seven sections, each organized around a question. The sections do not follow a chronological account of art history. Instead, they draw links between works through their visual and conceptual connections, offering visitors different ways to interpret them. Familiar symbols do not determine a work's meaning in advance. Their absence does not necessarily mean a break with Iranian experience, either. No single landscape, face or motif can represent that experience on its own. The exhibition will open to the public on November 1, and run until mid-December.



Iran joins global campaign to protect endangered species



● MOHAMMADREZA ALIMADADI/IRNA

Social Desk

Iran has formally joined an international campaign in Armenia working to safeguard endangered species, opening the door to greater cooperation on wildlife conservation and restoration. The country has developed action plans to protect 40 wildlife species, IRNA reported. Hamid Zohrabian, head of Iran's delegation, signed the country's membership

document on Monday in Yerevan, Armenia, on the sidelines of the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP17). The campaign was launched at the initiative of Armenia during COP17, with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan attending the event. Its secretariat is run by Reverse the Red, an international initiative that works with countries to accelerate

efforts to protect and restore endangered species. Speaking at a meeting on Iran's accession, Zohrabian stressed the need for an equitable distribution of resources and technology to help save threatened species. The event also agreed that Iran would be listed on the campaign's website as a country with action plans for 40 wildlife species. The listing is intended to help Iran access

technical, scientific and financial support for its conservation work. Several global funds had previously pledged financial backing for the initiative, with total announced support reaching \$500 million. Iran had also received the Reverse the Red Award at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) congress in 2025 for its programs to protect and restore species. Iran's accession brings the campaign's membership to 18 countries. The move creates an opportunity to expand international cooperation on wildlife conservation. 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP17) runs from October 19 to 30 in Yerevan, where governments and international stakeholders are discussing biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Milan march honors children killed in Gorla, Minab and Gaza



Social Desk

Artists and marchers in Milan, northern Italy, marked the 82nd anniversary of the Italy's Gorla school massacre by honoring children killed in wars, including those who lost their lives in Minab, southern Iran, and Gaza. The Shajareh Tayyebah school in Minab was hit by a US missile strike on February 28, the first day of the US-Israeli war against Iran, killing 168 people, most of them children. According to a UNICEF tally, at least 21,700 children had been killed in the Gaza Strip as of June 30, 2026, following the full-fledged war by Israel on the Palestinian territory in October 2023. Media activist Zio Filippo accompanied participants from Piazza della Repubblica to Piazza Venezia, using music videos to draw public attention to the event. Italian artists also released a song titled 'Gorla, Minab, Gaza' to pay tribute to the young victims.



The screengrab shows a scene from the music video 'Gorla, Minab, Gaza', released by Italian artists in memory of children killed in war.
● IRNA

Italy's parliament recognized October 20 as a National Day of Remembrance for child victims of war for the first time in 2026, under a law adopted in May. The day honors children killed in the Gorla massacre and in conflicts worldwide. On October 20, 1944, an Allied bombing struck the Francesco Crispi elementary school in Milan's Gorla district, killing 184 children and 19 school staff, according to Italian parliamentary records. The incident became known as the Gorla massacre. The commemorations connected a World War Two tragedy in Milan with more recent losses in the Middle East, using public gatherings and music to highlight the toll of war on children.



Iranian film 'Jamil' wins award at Colombia festival

Arts & Culture Desk

The short film 'Jamil' from Iran, about the suffering of Iranian and Palestinian children, has received an honorary diploma and a special certificate of recognition at the 22nd Pasto International Film Festival (FICPA) in southwestern Colombia.

Written, produced and directed by Nasim Asadpour, the film placed second in the international short film category, 'Sun of the Pastos: Echoes of the World', ILNA reported. Made using a combination of live action and animation, 'Jamil' centers on a child who sees all of their dreams in a drawing, only to have those

hopes destroyed by war. It focuses on children affected by recent wars in Iran. The first was the 12-day war in June 2025, and the second 40-days war happened in late February 2026. The film is dedicated to the 168 children killed in the attack on Shajareh Tayyebah School in Minab, southern Iran, which

was hit by a US missile strike on February 28, the first day of the US-Israeli war against Iran. The Pasto International Film Festival is one of South America's longest-running film events. Held annually in Pasto, it brings together filmmakers, audiences and professionals from the cinema and audiovisual industries.

Its international short film competition showcases productions from outside Colombia, giving filmmakers an opportunity to present their work to audiences beyond their home countries. The festival ran from Oct. 13 to 17, 2026, in Pasto, the capital of Nariño province in southwestern Colombia.