



**Tehran Times Art Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — Shoddy Chinese handicrafts and other goods are replacing precious Iranian handicrafts and artworks only because they are cheaper, director of the Islamic Art and Culture Research Center affiliated to the Art Bureau lamented on Tuesday.

Speaking at the session with researchers and experts of art and culture in Yazd Province, Morteza Gudarzi said, "Iranian artists are not producing their usual outstanding handicrafts in recent years and their products are not comparable to the valuable goods created by our ancestors in the past.

He criticized the officials for their negligence in distributing Chinese goods in the Iranian market and said that at the present time high-quality handicrafts and artwork is not being produced any more.

"Iranian and Islamic art has not yet found its rightful place in the country and this ancient heritage of ours is losing its status little by little. This is because we do not pursue learning and developing our art. We are gradually distancing ourselves from the spirituality of our art," he added.



(File photo)

# Iranian official criticizes import of cheap Chinese handicrafts

"That is why the products are not genuine artworks any more. Our artists lose their motivation after they graduate and show less interest in the experience of veteran artists.

"The main reason for this trend is financial problems. Some believe that people are not interested in artworks and do not purchase artistic goods, and that is why fewer products have been produced in recent years," Gudarzi stated.

In his opinion, the universities can help and masters of art can revive interest in creating outstanding artworks among art students of.

In the past few years, Chinese goods have infiltrated into Iran's market, leading to bankruptcies in various industries including textiles, shoe-making, handicrafts, and agriculture.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### "Twenty" to compete at Warsaw festival

**TEHRAN** — Iranian film "Twenty" by Abdolreza Kahani will compete at the 15th Film Summer Festival in Warsaw which will be held from July 5 to 12.

This event is dedicated to the art of scriptwriting. The main section of the festival is the International Competition for Best Scripted Film. A series of lectures, workshops, seminars and panel discussions will be held on the sidelines of the event.

Starring Parviz Parastui and Mahtab Keramati, "Twenty" focuses on a once-popular reception hall now reduced to catering to the funeral business, whose workers are struggling to preserve it.

### Vonnegut's oeuvre being translated into Persian

**TEHRAN** — All stories by American novelist Kurt Vonnegut which have not yet been published in Iran will be translated into Persian.

Headed by Ali Shi'e-Ali, a group of Iranian translators will translate Vonnegut's novels and Sabzan Publications will release them in the near future.

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (1922–2007) was an American novelist known for works blending satire, black comedy and science fiction, such as "Slaughterhouse-Five," "Cat's Cradle," and "Breakfast of Champions."

### 18 foreign videos line up for Hamedan filmfest

**TEHRAN** — The 23rd International Film Festival for Children and Young Adults will screen 18 foreign short videos during the event in Hamedan.

The secretariat of the festival announced that 18 films from 15 countries including Germany, Estonia, Japan, Taiwan, the Britain and Norway would compete at the gala.

Pärteel Tall's "Carrot on the Beach," Wang Cheng-Yang's "Summer of Magic," Marc Craste's "Varmints" and Jelena Girlin and Mari-Liis Bassovskaja's "Miriam's Colors" are among the videos.

### Iranian children honored at Slovenian painting competition

**TEHRAN** — Eight Iranian children won honorable diplomas at the 14th edition of an international painting competition in Slovenia.

Works by Mojdeh Kord-Afshar, Rezvan Mirzaii, Mahsa Qeshlaqi, Roya Nasri, Mahsa Qavidel, Sahar Zafarmand, Mahta Esmaeilpur Bazzaz, and Amir-Hossein Kazemi were selected from among a great number of paintings by children from over 30 countries.

The contest is annually held by The World of Art magazine and the Gallery of Young People's Art Works with the theme of "Who am I? Who My People Are?"

### Artists remember late sculptor Ali-Akbar Sanati in Tehran

**Tehran Times Art Desk**

**TEHRAN** — The 4th session on art research was dedicated to late sculptor Ali-Akbar Sanati in which a group of visual artists gathered in the Barg Gallery on Tuesday.

Sanati died on April 2, 2006 at the age of 90. Hadi Seif, a close friend of Sanati was first to speak and said, "Master Sanati used to say that if he was like other children living in comfort, he probably would have become a wealthy indifferent man with a life full of good and bad memories, grieving for lost days of life."

Sanati was born in 1916 in Kerman. He lost his father at an early age and his mother was forced to send him to an orphanage. His talent in painting was evident in childhood, and the director of the orphanage sent him to Tehran to continue his studies.



Seif continued that Sanati always tried to narrate the truth and simplicity was clear in his life, "He was a modest man. He was always showed concern for contemporary painting and its future.

"He used to say 'I don't know how aware our younger generation is of the history of painting in their land. Do they know about the different schools of Shiraz, Qazvin, Tabriz and Isfahan. If they know, then why are they so enchanted by Western culture, and if not, what a pity. We artists are responsible for their views."

Seif went on to say that sculptor Sanati believed that a real artist must be a genuine human being. "Master Kamalolmolk was first an honest man, then an outstanding artist. An artist must be a symbol of honesty in the society."

Sculptor Hamid Shans was next to speak and said, "The childhood of master Sanati coincided with the final years of the Qajar dynasty when the society was trying to achieve modernity. The master grew up in the desert region of Kerman where he experienced poverty but grew up as a hard-working man. In the orphanage, he learned that there is a means through which he can express his feelings in order to fight and gain victory. He decided to narrate the words and feelings of the oppressed people through his art.

"His works focus on people and their daily lives. He depicts morality and affliction of people in his works. His works reflect the new generation," he added.

Daughter Maliheh Sanati was also present in the session and said a few words about her father.

Sanati studied at the Kamalolmolk School where he was taught by master painters Abolhassan Sediqi, Ali-Mohammad Heydarian, Hossein Khan Sheikhi, and Ali Rokhsar.

Some of his works are on display in the Red Crescent Museum in Tehran and some have been transferred to the new Sanati Museum in Kerman.

Former president Mohammad Khatami awarded Sanati an honorary degree in art for his 60 years of dedicated service.

### Hamedan festival to screen documentary on author Azar Yazdi

**Tehran Times Culture Desk**

**TEHRAN** — Purya Azarbaijani's documentary on the children's book author Mehdi Azar Yazdi will go on screen at the Hamedan International Film Festival for Children and Young Adults.

Entitled "The Old Man and the World," the 90-minute documentary will be screened during his commemoration ceremony at the festival, Azarbaijani told MNA on Wednesday.

"In this documentary, not only do I concern myself with his life but also his works as well as the situation of Iran's children's literature, Azarbaijani said.

Azar Yazdi is most famous for his celebrated book series "Good Stories for Good Children," which won a UNESCO prize in 1966 and was selected as Iran's best book of the year in 1967.

He is also author of "Adam," which was chosen as Iran's best book of the year in 1968.

Azar Yazdi is currently hospitalized at the Atieh Hospital for lung sepsis.

The Hamedan International Film Festival is scheduled to be held in Hamedan, home of Avicenna's tomb, from August 2 to 6.

### Over 80 more ancient, historical sites identified in northeastern Iran

**Tehran Times Culture Desk**

**TEHRAN** — An archaeological team identified over 80 additional ancient historical sites during their latest research project in the Maneh-Samalqan region in North Khorasan Province over the past few months.

Five state-run projects such as construction of three dams and a railroad and building of a gas pipeline are scheduled to be initiated in the region in northeastern Iran.

The study was carried out in order to pinpoint locations of ancient historical sites on local maps to enable the projects' owners do their job without damaging the sites.

Sites dating back from the Neolithic era to the Qajar period have been identified in the region, team director Mohammad-Taqi Ataii told the Persian service of CHN on Wednesday.

The relevant maps have been handed over to officials of the dam projects and the National Iranian Gas Company, he stated.

However, he added that the officials of the railroad project have not detailed them about the railroad route.

No start date for the projects was mentioned in the report.

### Expert claims to solve riddle of Beethoven's 'Elise'

**VIENNA (AFP)** — Alongside the opening bars of his Fifth Symphony, "Fuer Elise" is one of Beethoven's best-known melodies, prompting scholars down the years to puzzle over her real identity.

The short three-page Bagatelle in A-minor has been a mainstay of piano lessons for generations of students and is also now a ringtone for millions of mobile phones.

But the riddle of who "Elise" might have been has remained unsolved, with efforts to shed light on the matter further hampered by the loss of the original autograph manuscript.

Now, however, a German musicologist and renowned Beethoven expert, Klaus Martin Kopitz, believes he has identified the mysterious woman as Elisabeth Roeckel (1793-

1883). Roeckel was a German soprano and sister of Joseph August Roeckel, the tenor who sang the role of Florestan in a performance of "Fidelio" conducted by the composer in Vienna in 1806.

Elisabeth followed her brother to Vienna in 1807 where she was quickly accepted into the composer's inner circle, Kopitz told AFP.

She eventually went on to marry Ludwig van Beethoven's friend and rival, composer Johann Nepomuk Hummel.

In an article to be published by the Beethoven-Haus museum in Bonn next year, Kopitz asserts that Elisabeth Roeckel was also known by the name Elise, a theory backed up by an entry in the christening records of St Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna.

"At the christening of her first child on March 9, 1814, her name is given as 'Maria Eva Elise,' suggesting that she was known in Vienna as Elise and not Elisabeth," Kopitz said.

"It is known that, when Beethoven wrote the piece in 1810, the two enjoyed a close friendship. So, it seems evident that the piece was dedicated to her," Kopitz said. "There was no other woman named Elise or Elisabeth in Beethoven's life at the time."

Kopitz said it was difficult to ascertain just how close their relationship was.

"But it is clear that Beethoven liked her a lot."

It was also known that, shortly before his death in 1827, she obtained a lock of his hair and let herself be presented with one of his last quills, Kopitz added.

### Bollywood boosted by blockbuster weekend

**MUMBAI (AFP)** — India's Hindi-language film industry, emerging from a damaging boycott of multiplex cinemas by producers, has been boosted by a successful weekend for the first in a string of planned big releases.

Yash Raj Films said "New York", its movie about a group of friends in the city at the time of the September 11, 2001 attacks, grossed 350 million rupees (eight million dollars) in the three days after opening worldwide on Friday.

The movie, directed by Kabir Khan and produced by Aditya Chopra, stars John Abraham, Katrina Kaif, Neil Nitin Mukesh and Irrfan Khan.

India's Business Standard newspaper said Tuesday that audiences appeared to be flocking back to cinemas in their droves after a barren two months in April and May that saw no new releases hit screens because of the multiplex dispute.

The row over box office takings is thought to have cost Bollywood 63 million dollars, according to most estimates,

although exact figures are difficult to come by as there is no official body monitoring film revenues.

Average occupancy at theatres on Friday, Saturday and Sunday was at its highest since January at between 80 and 85 percent, the financial daily said, quoting industry analysts.

"We were waiting for such a film for the past six months," the senior vice-president of multiplex chain Cinemax India, Devang Sampat, was quoted as saying.

"With 'New York' doing well at the box office, the consumers are looking forward to the Akshay Kumar-Kareena Kapoor starrer 'Kambakht Ishq'. Bollywood seems to be coming out of the turbulent times," he added.

"Kambakht Ishq", about an Indian stuntman who takes Hollywood by storm but is unlucky in love, opens on Friday. It has cameos by a number of US stars, including "Rambo" and "Rocky" actor Sylvester Stallone.