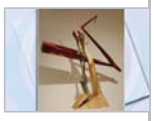
Imam Ali (AS):
Wealth is the fountainhead of passions.

News in Brief

Sharif Sculptures Bound for Montreal

Aspiring Iranian artist, Kamran Sharif, plans to exhibit a collection of his old and new sculptures in Montreal, Canada.

The show will include a number of Sharif's latest works along with the abstract bronze sculptures showcased in Los Angeles in January 2010, Presstv reported.



"The Montreal exhibition will present some new works as well as those from the 'Scream' collection, which were displayed at Seyhoun Gallery in Los Angeles," the 32-year-old artist said.

Sharif began his artistic career along with his twin brother Kambiz at the age of 12.

The two brothers have expanded their activities since then and their works adorn many locations in Tehran such as Iran's House of Artists.

Sharif has participated in several solo and group exhibitions in Tehran and Paris, and is preparing to present new works during next year's Los Angeles art exhibition.

Iranian Cooperates With German Orchestra

Iranian musician Bahman Mehabadi will give solo violin performances with the German Cologne Philharmonic Orchestra in June.

"I will accompany the orchestra on their European tour beginning in June," Mehabadi told Mehr News Agency.

"The choir will perform pieces by Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms and several others. I will also present a selection of Iranian compositions," he said.

Mehabadi, also the director of Iranian Sol Ensemble, said the group is awaiting the license for producing their new album.

Coelho Discusses Next Book

Internationally bestselling Brazilian author Paulo Coelho shared details of the progress of his upcoming book, The Aleph, via his weblog (http://paulocoelhoblog.com).

According to the recent announcement, the author has finished editing the forthcoming title, which is expected out internationally in 2011, Independent reported.

Coelho first posted details of the new work on his blog on March 13:

"In 2006 I was called to my 3rd sacred pilgrimage ... I went to several countries, but the epiphany happened while crossing Asia in the Trans-Iberian train (15 days, 7 different time zones, 9.2528 km from Moscow to Vladivostok). I was travelling with a Turkish girl, Hilal (not her real name), for reasons that you are going to discover in the book. This point where time and space converge is called 'The Aleph' (J.L. Borges has a wonderful short story about this point). Therefore, this is the title of my new book: 'The Aleph'. ... Why did I take so long to write about this pilgrimage? Because it took me three full years to understand it." The author calls the experience "the first time I wrote a book in public", referring to his regular blog updates throughout the writing process.

Coelho reports that the book will be released "very soon" in Brazil followed by a worldwide release in 2011.

The writer is one of the world's bestselling novelists, having sold a reported 100 million books in more than 150 countries and 67 languages. His 1988 title 'The Alchemist' reached first place in bestseller lists in 74 countries and has sold 35 million copies.

Gibson Will Donate Movie Sets to Museum

The governor of the Mexican Gulf coast state of Veracruz says Mel Gibson will donate sets from the movie he's currently filming to a future museum.

Governor Fidel Herrera says several sets were built inside the Ignacio Allende Prison in the port city of Veracruz and the jail will be converted into a museum once Gibson completes filming, AP said.

In January, 1,500 inmates were transferred out of the prison to make room for Gibson's film, which began production this week and is tentatively titled 'How I Spent My Summer Vacation'.

Gibson filmed his 2006 Mayan-language movie 'Apocalypto' in Veracruz. Herrera said Gibson also donated some of the sets from that movie.

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The beautiful Parian (fairies) Village is located in Mianrahan district, Kermanshah province. The historical village has a population of 217 who are mainly beekeepers. (Photo by Bahman Zarei)

Denmark to Show 'Light in the Fog'

Denmark's new CPH PIX film festival will showcase an Iranian film in the festival's main competition section.

The film representing Iran is the 76-minute 'A Light in the Fog', directed by Panahbarkhoda Rezaei and starring Parivash Nazariyeh, Presstv said.

The 2008 movie recounts the story of a widow, Rana, who lives in a rustic house with her aging father and repairs items such as lanterns for the locals.

Rana's father suggests she consider marrying their distant neighbor Rahmat, and consider she does, as she goes about her everyday tasks of checking fishing nets, lugging coal and caring for her aging dad in the remote, fog-cloaked mountains.

The festival entries will be screened across Copenhagen's cinemas from April 15. It is centered at Dagmar Cinema, which will exclusively show festival films during the event and host a number of Q&A sessions with directors and parties.

100 Poets to Attend Shiraz Confab

A hundred Iranian and foreign poets will come together at the First International Conference on Iranian and Foreign Poets in Shiraz during April 17-21.

Announcing this, director of Public Relations Department of the event, Seyyed Saeed Mir Mohammad Sadeq, told IRNA the conference will be held in Tehran, Isfahan and Shiraz simultaneously.

"Participants will enter Shiraz on April 20 and leave on April 21," he said.

Poetry recitation at Shiraz University and visits to Vakil Bazaar and Takht-e Jamshid (Persepolis) have also been scheduled on the sidelines of the conference.

"About 50 foreign and 50 Iranian poets are expected at the event," he said.

Participating countries include Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Russia, Denmark, Lebanon, Netherlands and Greece.

Lebanon Plans Persian-Arab Literature Seminar

The International Seminar on Persian and Arab Comparative Literature will be held in Lebanon in cooperation with Lebanon University, Mashhad's Ferdowsi University and Iran's Cultural Office in Damascus.

Thirty Persian and Arab literature instructors from eight countries will present lectures during the event scheduled for May 11-12, IRNA quoted the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization as reporting.

Participating countries include Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Afghanistan.

Theories of comparative literature, commonalities of Persian and Arab literature, and philosophical, mystical and literary aspects of Persian and Arab literature are among topics to be discussed at the event.

Some 60 articles have so far been submitted to the event's secretariat, of which 30 have been selected for presentation at the event.

Weather

Ahvaz | Bandar Anzali | Chabahar | Hamedan | Mashhad | Tabriz | 25^ v15 Tehran | Baghdad | Buenos Aires | London | Moscow | Tokyo | Yemen