



Tehran gallery to pay tribute to father of modern painting in Iran

Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN — The Barg Gallery will host a commemoration ceremony for Jalil Ziapur, the father of Iranian modern painting on November 10.



Artists Parviz Kalantari and Tuka Maleki will deliver speech on the art of the artist during the event.

Ziapur (1920-1999), also a known as a prominent art researcher, is considered as the father of Iranian modern painting. He had also carried

out wide research on Iran's anthropology, folklore, traditional costumes and the decorative designs in different regions of the country.

He had presented over 80 lectures and more than 70 articles in various seminars in Iran and several other countries. He is also author of 28 books.

Ziapur's paintings are famous for their original Iranian themes, simple figures, pleasing composition and unique styles.

A collection of Ziapur's paintings is currently on display in an exhibit at the Barg Gallery located on 13 Jamali St., off Vafamanesh Ave. near the Heravi Square.

The exhibit runs until November 24.

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

Painting

* An exhibition of paintings by Shima Esfandiari will be held at the Mah Gallery from November 6 to 16.

The gallery is located 89 Golestan St., near Africa St.

Calligraphic painting

* The Emruz Gallery will be playing host to an exhibition of calligraphic paintings by Enayatollah Nazari from November 6 to 11.

The gallery is located at 1286 Sepehr 2 Alley, Sepehr St., Marzadaran Blvd.

Photo

* A collection of photos by Farhad Varahram will be exhibited at the Dey Gallery from November 6 to 12.

The gallery is located on 1st Naz Alley, 4th Tangestan, Pasdaran Ave.

Cartoon

* The Haft-Samar Gallery will hang cartoons by Kambiz Derambakhsh from November 6 to 17.

Haft-Samar is located on Sarafraz St. off Shahid Beheshti Ave.

Painting/sculpture

* Tehran's German Church will host two exhibitions by four artists from November 6 to 13.

Omid Banai and Rokhsareh Banai is scheduled to put on display their bronze sculptures while paintings by Marzieh Ramezani and Tehran-based German Werner Hans Albeck will be put on show at the church located on 52 Seydaii St., Varasteh St., Yakhchal St.

Fall auctions off to a limp start at Christie's

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Fall art auctions began with a stumble on Tuesday, falling short of expectations despite conservative pricing that marked Christie's modest sale of Impressionist and modern works.

Already vastly scaled down in both size and prices from a boom in art sales that came to a screeching halt a year ago, the auction totaled \$65,674,000 including commissions, or just shy of the pre-sale low estimate.

Seventy percent of the 40 lots on offer found buyers.

Saying he would "try to make some sense of tonight's sale," Christie's honorary chairman Christopher Burge declared "there was no obvious pattern."

"We saw strength in all areas of the market," said Burge, who served as auctioneer. But each of those segments -- Impressionist, modern, sculptures -- also saw works come up short on price and others go unsold.

Among those was the sale's top-priced lot, Picasso's "Tete de femme." Estimated at \$7 million to \$10 million, it was taken off the block when no bids topped \$6.4 million.

But a Degas pastel, "Danseuses", achieved a strong price of \$10,722,500, beating even its high estimate. Another highlight was Rodin's "Le Baiser", the iconic "kiss" bronze which fetched \$6,354,500, or more than three times the high estimate.

Christie's officials said non-U.S. buyers accounted for 71 percent of the total, an unusually lop-sided ratio.

Majid Majidi to head Turkish filmfest grand jury

Tehran Times Art Desk

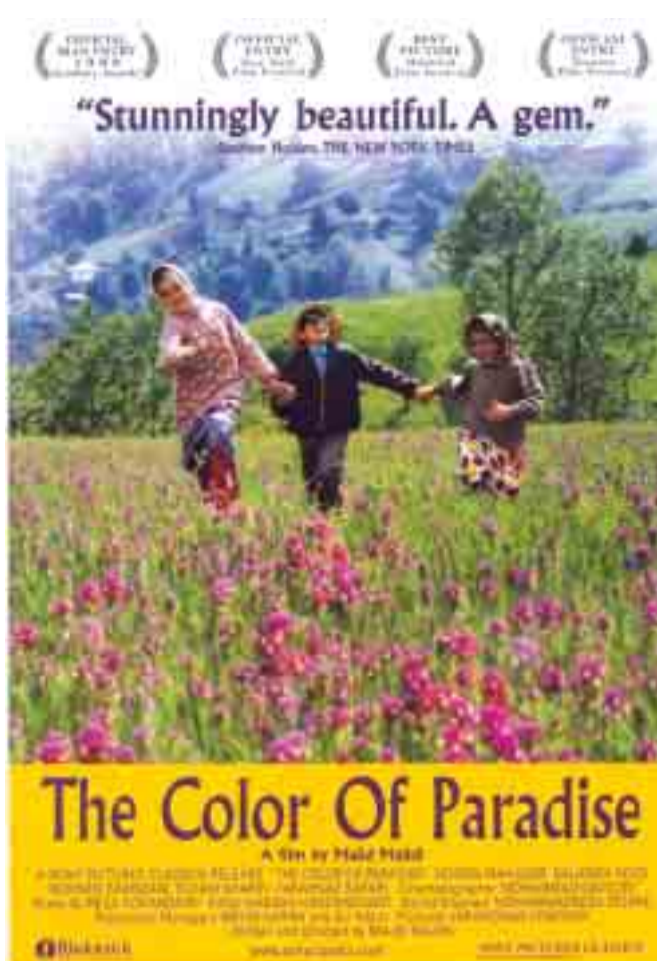
TEHRAN — The fourth edition of the Bursa International Silk Road Film Festival has selected Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi to preside over the International Golden Karagöz Feature Film Competition Grand Jury.

Hungarian director Atilla Gigor, French director Marie Jaoul de Poncheville, Turkish actor/director Cansel Elçin, Turkish actress Fadik Sevin Atasoy, Greek distributor Velissarios Kossivakis, and Bulgarian film studio owner Andrey Karanikolov are members of the jury.

"A Light in the Fog" directed by Iran's Panahbarkhoda Rezaei will be competing with eleven films from across the world in this festival, which is scheduled to be held from November 14 to 22.

Majidi's "The Color of Paradise" is one of the festival's special screenings and Iranian filmmaker Hassan Yektapanah's "Bibi" is slated for screening in 'On the Silk Road' category.

Out of Competition Short Films category of the festival will also screen "The Fall", directed by Iranian filmmaker Amir Mehran on the 1979 revolution.



Majid Majidi's "The Color of Paradise" will be shown in a special screening at the 4th Bursa International Silk Road Film Festival (November 14 to 22).

Steve Martin, Alec Baldwin to host Oscars

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Oscar organizers on Tuesday named an unlikely pair of hosts for March's Academy Awards, comedian Steve Martin and "30 Rock" star Alec Baldwin, a past loser at the world's top film awards.

The choice of Martin and Baldwin comes as a mild surprise on the heels of last February's Oscar telecast hosted by song-and-dance man Hugh Jackman. It earned some favorable reviews and higher viewership than the previous year.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which gives out the Oscars, had previously hired "Hairspray" director Adam Shankman to co-produce and, based on Jackman's success and Shankman's history making musicals, the betting had been that organizers might aim for another music-oriented telecast.

But Martin is known as a stand-up comedian and comic actor, while Baldwin's reputation was built in theater and film dramas like 2003's "The Cooler", which earned him a best supporting actor nomination. He lost to Tim Robbins for "Mystic River".

Baldwin also has a history of political activism, and Hollywood tends to shun politics. Still, he has shown a flare for comedy by playing the straight man in shows like "30 Rock", and has hosted "Saturday Night Live", a comedy show that has featured Martin on many occasions.

"I am happy to co-host the Oscars with my enemy Alec Baldwin," Martin said in a statement.



Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin in a combination image. Martin and Baldwin have been picked to co-host the upcoming 82nd Academy Awards, Oscar organizers said on Tuesday.

"I don't play the banjo but I'm thrilled to be hosting the Oscars -- it's the opportunity of a lifetime," said Baldwin.

The Oscars, where best film, acting, directing, writing and other movie awards are given out annually, is among the most-watched U.S. television shows. But viewership has declined in recent years as Oscar voters favored low-budget dramas over major blockbusters.

The February 2008 Oscar telecast, which saw the dark drama "No Country for Old Men" win best film, was a recent low with about 32 million U.S. viewers. The 2004 ceremony in which smash hit "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" won best movie lured just over 43 million viewers. Tens of millions more watch Oscar telecasts in some 200 countries worldwide.

As a result, organizers try new ideas to spice up the show each year. That was one reason Broadway star Jackman was hired to host the 2009 ceremony over a comedian, which had been the practice for nearly two decades.

The 2010 ceremony will not be the first with co-hosts or even multiple emcees. In 1987, Chevy Chase, Goldie Hawn and Paul Hogan hosted. For several years in the 1970s, the show featured several emcees.

Martin has hosted the Oscar telecast twice before, in 2001 and 2003, but 2010 will be a first Baldwin.

The Oscars will be held on March 7, 2010, in Los Angeles and air on ABC in the United States.

Anthropology giant Claude Levi-Strauss dead at 100

PARIS (AP) -- After weeks crossing the high seas, Claude Levi-Strauss breathed in his first lungful of the New World, a perfume tinged with pepper or tobacco. The sensory awakening was the start of a journey that turned a young Parisian scholar into a founder of modern anthropology.

On that 1930s trip that took him across the Atlantic to Latin America, Levi-Strauss' scholarly upbringing guided him on a methodical search for humankind's inner workings as he met tribes in Brazil's jungles. His studies would later electrify — and divide — the intellectual world with the idea that cultures share similarities underlying their myths and patterns of behavior.

Levi-Strauss' death at age 100 was announced in Paris on Tuesday. French media said he died on Friday.

Born on Nov. 28, 1908, in Brussels, Belgium, to French parents of Jewish origin, he was forced to flee France during World War II after Germany invaded and the collaborationist Vichy regime passed anti-Jewish laws. He ended up in New York, which he called "the most fruitful period of my life".

He was widely regarded as having reshaped anthropology, becoming the leading advocate of what is now known as structuralism. His ideas reached into fields including the humanities and philosophy.

Koichiro Matsuura, director-general

of the U.N.'s Paris-based cultural arm, UNESCO, said Levi-Strauss' theories "changed the way people perceived each other, striking down such divisive concepts as race and opening the way for a new vision based on recognition of the common bond of humanity".

As a youngster, Levi-Strauss organized adventurous expeditions into the French countryside. He studied in Paris and went on to teach and travel in Brazil, captivated by that first impression of "tobacco smell, pepper smell" and doing much of the research that led to his breakthrough books.

Drafted into the French army only for it to be crushed by the invading Germans, he soon had to flee France for New York, where he became a visiting professor at the New School for Social Research. He mixed with fellow scholars, spent long hours at the New York Public Library and lived in a tiny rented room in Greenwich Village.

"Everything I know I learned in the United States," he once said.

Despite several job offers to remain in America, he returned to France in 1944 after the liberation of Paris and entered government service, but quit four years later to pursue his scholarly research.

Structuralism — defined as the search for the underlying patterns of thought in all

forms of human activity — compared the formal relationships among elements in any given system.

Yet he rejected the title of "father" of structuralism, which he said had been badly deformed and its scientific claims exaggerated. He also spoke with modesty of his achievements.

But Setha Low, president of the American Anthropological Association, said Levi-Strauss was one of the most "innovative and creative theorists that anthropology has ever produced," though she said some of his theories are contested. One complaint is that he failed to sufficiently take into account history and the empowerment of individuals.

French anthropologist Philippe Descola, who wrote his thesis under Levi-Strauss' guidance, told AP last year that "today, nobody shares the entire philosophy of Levi-Strauss," but that his influence is still strong.

Honored by universities worldwide, accepted into the Academie Francaise, home of France's scholarly elite, Levi-Strauss was also a skilled handyman, loved music and believed in the virtues of manual labor and outdoor life.

He was married three times and had two sons, Matthieu and Laurent. The Academie Francaise said it planned a ceremony of tribute for Thursday.

Iranian photographer wins golden medal at American exhibit

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TEHRAN — Iranian photographer Ali Samei won the PSA Gold Medal at the North Jersey International PJ Exhibition.

The award is presented by the Photographic Society of America which is the world's largest patron of international photographic exhibition.



"Mourning" earned Iranian photographer Ali Samei the PSA Gold Medal at the North Jersey International PJ Exhibition.

His photo "Mourning" won the golden medal and an Honorable Mention Ribbon of the festival went to his another photo "School Children".

Iranian photographer Seyyed Ali Hosseinfar also awarded with the Honorable Mention Ribbons of the showcase for his photographs "Tears" and "Tomorrow".

The works are currently on display at the Belskie Museum Art Wall in Closter Public Library during a showcase which will run until November 8.

Iranian muezzin Hossein Sobhdel passes away at 78



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TEHRAN — Veteran Iranian muezzin Hossein Sobhdel died of lung disease at his home in Tehran on Wednesday morning.

He was also famous for his composition "Khomeini, O Imam", a famous song praising the late Imam Khomeini that was performed during the early days of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Sobhdel was well acquainted with Iranian traditional music, which helped him in reciting his popular azan.

Sobhdel's azan is compared with Rahim Moazzenzadeh Ardebili's azan, which is considered Iran's most popular.