



# World is unaware of Iranian photography's history: Jalali



A photo by Gohar Dashti on display in an exhibition at the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris

**Tehran Times Art Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — Prominent photographer Bahman Jalali is convinced that the world is unaware of the history of Iranian photography.

Referring to the exhibit entitled "165 years of Iranian photography" currently underway at the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris, Jalali explained, "The museum officials expressed interest in organizing a photo exhibit of Iranian photography."

"They invited Anahita Qobadian, an Iranian art gallery owner and founder of the Silk Road Gallery to hold a gallery in the museum and we suggested exhibiting a 165-year history of Iranian photography," he told the Persian service of Fars.

"We worked for almost 8 months on the project and added additional sections."

"There are three concurrent photo exhibits displaying Iranian photography. One is inside the museum and presnets the history of Iranian photography, photos taken before the Islamic Revolution, and works taken from the Qajar era. This exhibit is running from September 22 to November 29.

The second section contains works by contemporary artists Sadeq Tirafkan, Rana Javadi, Shadi Qadirian, Mehran

Mohajer, Mehrdad Naraqi and Jamshid Hatam.

In addition, a selection of photos by Iranian artists is also on display at the Photoquai Biennial, which is currently underway in Paris.

Works by Abbas Kowsari, Gohar Dashti and Katayoun Karami can be seen besides photos by artists from 32 countries at the biennial, which will run until November 9.

The artworks have been selected for display on a route along the banks of the Seine, alongside the Musée du Quai Branly.

In addition, a new exhibition managed by Hassan Sarbakhshian will open on November 4.

"All these photo events help the world to become more familiar with photos that are different from those taken by Iranian photojournalists," he mentioned.



## Herta Müller is a German Akhmatova: translator

**Tehran Times Culture Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — The translator of works of the 2009 Nobel laureate author Herta Müller in Iran believes that she is the German Akhmatova.

Gholamhossein Mirza-Saleh who has translated "The Land of Green Plums" into Persian previously is now working on another one of Müller's books, "Everything I Possess I Carry with Me", which was published in Germany in 2009.

"She continues her theme from the beginning to the end in her works and I am really interested in her books as a translator," Mirza-Saleh told MNA.

Born in 1953, Herta Müller is a Romanian-born German novelist, poet and essayist whose works depict the human destruction caused by the Romanian dictatorship and the ruthlessness of the political exile. On 8 October 2009 it was announced she would be awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize in Literature.

He called "Everything I Possess I Carry with Me" one of Müller's masterpieces that contains historical elements as well as poetic language.

The novel tells the story of a 17-year-old from Siebenbürgen (Transylvania), LeoAuberg, who is deported to a Soviet concentration camp. It was inspired by the experiences of poet Oskar Pastior and other survivors, including the mother of the author.

He went on to say that he has translated the book according to the German, French and English versions and he is now revising the text.

Her "The Land of Green Plums", which is an autobiographical novel, was released in Iran eight years ago and several review sessions were held following its publication, he said.

Müller was praised by the Nobel judges for depicting the "landscape of the dispossessed with the concentration of poetry and the frankness of prose".



## Venezuelan maestro Dudamel lights up Tinseltown

**LOS ANGELES (AFP)** — Venezuelan conductor Gustavo Dudamel has cast a spell over Tinseltown after electrifying a star-studded audience at the opening of the Los Angeles Philharmonic's new season.

The 28-year-old maestro, appointed to attract a new generation of fans to classical music performances in the city, delighted concert-goers late Thursday with a virtuoso display at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Dudamel, a product of Venezuela's famous "El Sistema" ("the system") which teaches poor children classical music, led the orchestra through John Adams "City Noir," a work reflecting the dark world of Los Angeles in the 1940s.

The charismatic conductor followed it up with a performance of Mahler's First Symphony, which earned a rousing ovation lasting several minutes.

Actor Andy Garcia was among the stars waxing lyrical afterwards, describing Dudamel as "absolutely 'magnifique'."

## Iranian cineastes' visit to Hollywood will help promotion of national cinema: Asgarpur

**Tehran Times Art Desk**

**TEHRAN** — The managing director of Iran's House of Cinema believes that Iranian cineastes' visit to Hollywood will be helpful in promotion of Iranian cinema in the country and as well as around the world.

"The visit is a bridge to establish relations as well to exchange views in various fields such as in technology," Mohammad-Mehdi Asgarpur told the Persian service of IRNA in telephone interview on Saturday.

He described American cinema as world's most technologically developed and said that the visit and every other upcoming trip can result in the exchange of expertise in this field.

Asgarpur said that some countries are trying to present Iran as a country with a closed society, but such a visit with filmmakers of the world can thwart their attempts.

Asgarpur, along with a delegation, consisting of several top Iranian cineastes, are currently in Los Angeles by



Iran House of Cinema Managing Director Mohammad-Mehdi Asgarpur (R) and former president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Sid Ganis pose for a photograph during the Hollywood delegation's sojourn in Tehran in March 2009.

invitation of the UCLA Film & Television Archive and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

UCLA and the Academy has organized "Up Close and Personal: Iranian Filmmakers in Their Own Words", a program during which a number of Iranian films are slated to be screened and delegates will be giving presentations on subjects concerning Iranian cinema.

Actress Fatemeh Motamed-Arya and documentarian Mojtaba Mirtahmasb was denied the opportunity to accompany the delegation as they were prevented from traveling to the U.S. by officials at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Airport on Thursday.

To date, no official comment has been released about the reasons behind the move.

In March 2009, a Hollywood delegation led by Sid Ganis, the then president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, visited Iran by invitation of the House of Cinema.

## Tomb of Sohrab Sepehri might be moved to Golestaneh

**Tehran Time Art Desk**

**TEHRAN** — Plans to relocate the tomb of Sohrab Sepehri from the village of Mashhad-e Ardahal near Kashan to another village in the region named Golestaneh have been disclosed.

The news was announced at the seminar "We Can Only Look" arranged on the occasion of the 81st birth anniversary of contemporary poet Sepehri.

Sepehri (mostly known by his first name Sohrab) was born in Kashan, Isfahan Province on October 7, 1928 and died on April 21, 1980.

Secretary of the seminar Mahmud Sate' expressed his regret over the construction taking place near the tomb of Sohrab and said, "The tomb is located in an old building that dates back several hundreds years. It is a beautiful example of Iranian architecture, but unfortunately, plans call for the tomb to be covered by a roof. There used to be a beautiful blue pond in this area but that was also obliterated."



He expressed hope that cultural officials would act to preserve our culture and the heritage of our ancestors.

"The body of Sohrab was buried here in 1980 and was to be transferred to Golestaneh several years ago. This seminar aims to make the plan come true. Sohrab should not continue to lie here where cement and concrete is all over the place," he remarked.

Several other painters and poets and many of Sohrab's fans gathered at his tomb and made brief speeches.

A painting workshop with the central theme of poetry by Sohrab was also held on the side section of the program and it was said that a selection of the paintings will go on display at Tehran's Museum of Contemporary Art.

Sohrab was a notable modern Iranian painter and poet who wrote in the "New Poetry" (blank verse) style. He is regarded as one of the most famous modern Iranian poets.

## First clown in space hosts show to save Earth's water

**LOS ANGELES (Reuters)** — Wearing a red clown nose, the Canadian founder of Cirque du Soleil hosted an out-of-this-world performance event on Friday, saying he wanted to use his trip as a space tourist to highlight the scarcity of water on Earth.

Guy Laliberte's two-hour performance event called "Moving Stars and Earth for Water" linked the International Space Station with singers, dancers and celebrity campaigners in 14 world cities in what organizers called the first event of its kind to be hosted from space.

"I see stars, I see darkness and emptiness. But planet Earth looks so great, and also so fragile," Laliberte said from the International Space Station, where he has spent the past week after paying \$35 million to fly on a Russian spacecraft and become the world's seventh space tourist.

"I decided to use this privilege to raise

awareness of water issues," he said. "I believe that with true art and emotion we can convey a message."

Irish singer Bono, chatting with Laliberte from a U2 concert in Florida, called the former street performer "the first clown in space."

Former U.S. vice president and environmental campaigner Al Gore gave a video presentation on global warming and Brazilian singer songwriter Gilberto Gil sang in Rio de Janeiro.

Cirque du Soleil acrobats gave water-themed performances from Montreal and Las Vegas and dancers from the Bolshoi Ballet performed from Moscow in a show streamed on the Internet and broadcast on satellite TV in the United States, Canada and Latin America.

Laliberte, 50, whose money-spinning circus shows around the world have made him a billionaire, launched his Montreal-based nonprofit One Drop Foundation in

2007 to increase access to clean water worldwide.

Millions of people in developing countries do not have access to clean water, and water-borne illnesses are a persistent problem in many impoverished regions.

During the show, online viewers from as far away as Argentina, Australia and India were asked to sign "make a difference" pledges to cut back on bottled water, install water saving devices in toilets and make other environmental savings.

Organizers said the event was aimed more at awareness raising than fund raising.

"I thank you for joining the ripple effect," Laliberte said, ending what he called his "poetic social mission" with a slow-motion shot of droplets of drinking water in the micro-gravity atmosphere of the space station.

## "A Light in the Fog" is a poem on glory of Eastern life: director

**Tehran Times Art Desk**

**TEHRAN** — "A Light in the Fog" director Panahbarkhoda Rezaii believes that his film is a poem on the splendor of Eastern life that depicts the intrinsically peaceful nature of Eastern human relations.



Parivash Nazarieh in a scene of "A Light in the Fog"

The film has won three awards at the Golden Minbar International Muslim Film Festival which was held from September 30 to October 4 in Kazan, the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan.

"I didn't think that a member of a general audience would be able to relate herself or himself to the film's complex atmosphere and storyline, but after the festival I now understand that it is possible for them to do so," Rezaii told MNA reporter.

The film has unusual dialogue and tries to establish a relationship with the audience through its scenes so that a non-Iranian audience could understand it, he added.

"I believe that film has a global story to tell and its theme is equally attractive to non-Iranians as well. It presents a humanitarian view which celebrates life and people who honor their fellow human beings," he said.

Rezaii mentioned that although he really admires Andrei Tarkovsky's work and may be influenced by them unconsciously, he does not deliberately try to imitate Tarkovsky's style, as some film critics suggest.

Rezaii, who won Best Director Award at the Tatar festival, also touched on the Best Actress Award for Parivash Nazarieh and Best Cinematographer Award for Ali-Mohammad Qasemi in the gala.

"I asked Parivash Nazarieh not to act in the film but instead to be in harmony with the film's atmosphere and nature, which I believe she succeeded in doing," he mentioned.

"The film was shot in a manner that resembled the way an artist would paint a picture. In addition, the film was not intended to give a direct message to the moviegoers," he said.

The film was shot like a painting, since no part of the film should be considered an isolated part by the audience as they watch it, he said.

He expressed hopes that the film would go on screen at Iranian cinemas in the near future and also that Iranian audiences would relate well to it.

The film is about Rana, a widow who lives in a rustic house with her aging father. She wavers between hoping for the return of her lover Habib, who went off to war years ago while she also is considering a marriage proposal from a distant neighbor Rahmat, something her father wishes she will eventually accept.