

Art & Culture



theguardian.com

Getty museum must return 2,000-year-old statue, Italian court rules

Italy's Supreme Court ruled that the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles must return a 2,000-year-old bronze statue it bought for almost \$4 million (£3.1 million) in 1977.

The museum has vowed to defend its 'legal right' to the ancient Greek statue of 'Victorious Youth', also known as 'Athlete from Fano' or simply the 'Getty Bronze', which was made by Greek sculptor Lysippos between 300 and 100 BCE, after the court said it must be returned to Italy, theguardian.com reported.

The bronze statue was discovered by fishermen off Pesaro, on Italy's Adriatic coast, in 1964, sold several times, and eventually bought by the American museum over 40 years ago.

But Italy has always maintained that it was smuggled out of the country and acquired illegally, making its first formal request for its return from the US in 1989.

After an 11-year legal battle, the Supreme Court rejected an appeal by the J. Paul Getty Museum against an order from the Pesaro judge Giacomo Gasparini in June for the statue to be confiscated.

Pesaro prosecutor Silvia Cecchi told Italian media that the Supreme Court ruling was "the final word from the Italian justice [system]" and that the Lysippos statue "must be returned".

Culture Minister Alberto Bonisoli urged US authorities to act quickly on the country's behalf to "favor the restitution of the Lysippos to Italy".

Italy's battle over the statue included a letter to the US President, Donald Trump, from art critic Vittorio Sgarbi calling on him to ensure its restitution.

But the museum has refused to surrender the relic, saying it would appeal against the decision. The museum argued that the statue was discovered in international waters and pointed out that it was acquired by the museum nine years after Italy's top court concluded there was no evidence that the statue belonged to Italy.

"The court has not offered any written explanation of the grounds for its decision, which is inconsistent with its holding 50 years ago that there was no evidence of Italian ownership," Lisa Lapin, Getty's vice president of communications, said in a statement.

"Moreover, the statue is not and has never been part of Italy's cultural heritage. Accidental discovery by Italian citizens does not make the statue an Italian object. Found outside the territory of any modern state, and immersed in the sea for two millennia, the Bronze has only a fleeting and incidental connection with Italy."

Experts dispute this. The fishermen who found the artefact sold it in Fano, a town in Pesaro Province, to Italian art dealer Giacomo Barbeti. Barbeti kept the statue in his father's home before it was transferred to the Umbrian town of Gubbio in 1965, where it was eventually sold to an unidentified buyer from Milan. The statue then changed hands several times before being bought by the Getty.

"Italy has made a very clear and compelling case that the Lysippos was smuggled into Italy, via Fano, and therefore was later smuggled out of Italy," Noah Charney, an arts professor who teaches each summer on the Arca post-graduate program in art crime and cultural heritage protection in Italy, said.

"Where it was first discovered, whether in Italian or international waters, is therefore a moot point."

The statue is among the most popular works at the Los Angeles museum, but its legal ownership has been in dispute ever since Getty bought it from German art dealer Herman Heinz Herzer in 1977.

The sum paid was nearly 800 times the \$5,600 that Italian art dealers gave to the fishermen who found it.

IRAN DAILY



» License Holder: Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
 » Managing Director: Sadreddin Mousavi
 » Editor-in-Chief: Kambakhsh Khalaji
 » Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88755761-2
 » Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88761809
 » Subscription Dept. Tel: +98 21 88748800
 » ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548992, 5
 » Advertising Dept. Tel & Email: +98 21 88500617- irandaily@iranaghiha.com
 » Website: www.iran-daily.com
 » Newspaper: newspaper.iran-daily.com
 » Email: irandaily@icpi.ir
 » Printing House: Iran Cultural & Press Institute

Add: Iran Cultural & Press Institute, #208 Khorramshahr Avenue Tehran/Iran

Iran Daily has no responsibility whatsoever for the advertisements and promotional material printed in the newspaper.

Turkish amity festival to open with Iran's strong presence

Art & Culture Desk

The first edition of the International Amity Short Film Festival will begin on December 14 in Istanbul, Turkey with 14 Iranian titles on the screening list and Iranian director Kamal Tabrizi serving as a member of the event's panel of jury.

The themes of the festival are "friendship with neighbors, geography and history". Tabrizi will be accompanied on the panel by Palestinian director and writer Najwa Najjar, director Tefik Baser and Turkish actress Sezin Akbaşoğulları. Turkish scriptwriter and director Yüksel Aksu will preside over the panel of jury.

The festival will feature 48 short films, of which 14 are directed by Iranians.

The films will be screened under four main titles: Competition Selection, 40 Years' Sake, Panorama and Private View.

The main section of the event will present 17 films, of which six are from Iran, five from Turkey and the rest from Kyrgyzstan, France, Belgium, Palestine, Spain as well as Kazakhstan.

The section 40 Years' Sake has 18 films from six countries. This section is dedicated to amity, fidelity and appreciation in terms of creating the festival's identity and memory. Six of the films are made in Iran.

The Panorama section, on the other hand, offers award-winning short films from the global

arena. Most of the films will be shown as their Turkey premieres. In this section, there are two Iranian films and the others are from Turkey, the US, Nepal, Croatia, the UK, Sudan, Switzerland, Russia and France.

When it comes to the Private View section,



ifilmtv.ir

spectators will see 'Lizard' by Kamal Tabrizi, one of the festival jury members, 'Eyes of a Thief' by Najwa Najjar, another jury member, and 'Where is the Friends Home?' by Abbas Kiarostami.

Some conferences and workshops are scheduled to be held alongside the screening of the films.

The purpose of this festival is to carry the topic of friendship beyond time by using short films that are powerful means of communication.

Daily Sabah, IRNA, Mehr News Agency and ifilmtv.ir contributed to this story.

Two Iranian films nominated for top prize at Jordan's Karama festival

Two Iranian titles, 'Return', by Shahriar Pourseyedyan, and 'Ballsy: Story of a Revolution', by Mohsen Pourmohseni, received nominations for top prizes at the Ninth Karama Human Rights Film Festival in Jordan.

'Return' was nominated for best short fiction award while 'Ballsy' was named for best animation award, ifilmtv.ir reported.

Pourseyedyan's film is about a man named Rahim who returns to his homeland after 23 years in prison to meet with his brother.

'Return' won the special mention in the New Outlooks section of the 21st Religion Today Film Festival held from October 5-10 in Trento, Italy.

'Ballsy' is about two chickens which lack food and strike out on their own.

Established in 2010, Karama Human Rights Film Festival, according to the event's website, seeks to "create a cross-cultural platform for



ifilmtv.ir

artists, filmmakers and the wider general public to engage in issues relating to human rights, in particular to the dignity of human beings, their sense of worth, belonging and spirit of common welfare among their communities and the wider national spectrum".

The ninth edition of the festival opened on December 5 and will run until December 10 in Amman.

Japan Foundation hails cultural ties with Iran



IRNA

Japan Foundation welcomed broadening of relations with Iran especially in the field of culture. The year 2019 will mark the 90th anniversary of Iran-Japan diplomatic ties.

President of Japan Foundation Hiroyasu Ando said on Wednesday in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Japan Morteza Rahmani-Movahed that Iran is an important country in the Middle East and in the international arena, reported IRNA.

Ando said that he loves Iranian films which have gained international fame in recent years.

Turning to the significance of cultural interactions between the two countries, Ando said that Japan is ready to expand cultural ties with Iran.

Rahmani-Movahed pointed to historical and cultural ties and the common traditions of the two countries and said that Iran and Japan can maintain cooperation by holding film, cultural, children weeks, and also talks on cultural issues.

The Japan Foundation was established in October 1972 as a special legal entity supervised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In October 2003, it was reorganized as an independent administrative institution. Based on a government endowment of ¥78 billion, the activities of the Japan Foundation are financed by annual government subsidies, investment revenue, and donations from the private sector.

AFI reveals 2018 film, TV award winners

Embracing both studio features and indie films, the American Film Institute announced its choices for the year's 10 best films, and also unveiled its choices for the 10 best television programs.

The AFI Awards, which focus on American films which are deemed culturally significant, will go to 'BlackKKKlansman', 'Black Panther', 'Eighth Grade', 'If Beale Street Could Talk', 'The Favorite', 'First Reformed', 'Green Book', 'Mary Poppins Returns', 'A Quiet Place' and 'A Star Is Born'.

Because it falls outside the group's criteria, the AFI decided to recognize Alfonso Cuarón's Mexican-made 'Roma' with a special award, Hollywood Reporter wrote.

On the television side, this year's AFI Awards will go to 'The Americans', 'The Assassination of Gianni Versace', 'American Crime Story', 'Atlanta', 'Barry', 'Better Call Saul', 'The Kominsky Method', 'The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel', 'Pose', 'Succession' and 'This Is Us'.

Selected by two juries, the honorees will be recognized at the AFI Awards luncheon on January 4.

The film jury was overseen by AFI board of trustees vice chair Tom Pollock, while the TV jury was headed up by board of trustees vice chair Richard Frank. The juries featured artists such as David Benioff, Joan Chen, Courtney B. Vance and Alfre Woodard; film historian Leonard Maltin as well as other authors and scholars.

Weather



23 14

Ahvaz



9 2

Borujerd



16 11

Rasht



21 3

Kerman



13 1

Arak



13 ^ 8 v

Tehran



5 -5

Bishkek



7 5

Istanbul



14 9

Amman



-3 -8

Minsk



-1 -6

Moscow