

Professional scientific sessions for art, architecture and urban planning Thursday evenings

Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers

Date: 28.07.2016

Title: Abbas Kiarostami

Speakers and panel members: Mr. M. M. Mahmoudi, Mr. P. Shoghi and Mr. M.M. Rezaie

Abbas Kiarostami has written:

In all my films I wanted to show a more kind and friendly image of humanity and my country.

In a poem he says:

“The wind will carry the blooms of the cherry on the white of the clouds”.

The meeting began with the projection of a film, telling about the professional life of the late filmmaker.

Mr. Mahmoudi told how Kiarostami his professional career, when he tried different artistic fields, to finally approach the world of movie.

When in the '70s the Iranian movie became worldwide famous with the movies like “Cow” and “Cloudburst”, Kiarostami made his first steps, showing us details that we saw many times without pay attention. He had the capacity to show through simple and deep view the characteristics of Iran in a different world. The simplicity of his movies was the natural consequence of his simple personality.

Mr. Mahmoudi said how Kiarostami was a master in the art of photography, dedicating most of his time when he wasn't making a movie. Mr. Mahmoudi explained how his films and prizes were not always by the different social classes; he named films like “Bread and alley”, “Passenger”, “Where is friend's house” and “Under the olive tree”. The reason of his films' success was the simple form and content.

Mr. Mahmoudi said that many thought that Kiarostami must became an architect, because an architect has to be an artist and a creative. Kiarostami saw in a different way the things we usually see, through a simple view and language. He made his films with limited tools, but seriously, that often was miscomprehended. Kiarostami proposed us images that we never could imagine as artistic and creative.

Talking about the last years of Kiarostami, Mr. Mahmoudi said that because of illness he became silent, living us gradually.

When he was internationally awarded we criticized him because of his behavior. Mr. Mahmoudi believes that we Iranians appreciate somebody when he is dead.

The first speaker was Mr. P. Shoghi who considered kiarostami as a precious heritage for the Iranian and global artistic world. He described Kiarostami not only as a filmmaker but active in fields like architecture, writing, music, production; even though he was first of all a graphic that introduced him in the world of movie.

Because he was busy in many spheres, he was not well known, so in 45 years of activity just some of his works became famous worldwide.

Mr. Shoghi talked about the first years of Kiarostami's professional activity in the Iranian center for infant and youth education, where he played an important role for the development of the center's activities.

He talked about his first film called “Bread” that was about a boy and a dog. During the production he had serious problems with the cameraman, because they spent a lot of time waiting for the right moment.

Mr. Shoghi said that actually there are more than 850 cultural centers all around the country, that work for the young generation’s education, offering activities and products compatible with the needs and characteristics of the country. Kiarostami had the necessary backup and experience in this field.

Mentioning some of his films Mr. Shoghi remembered films like “Traveller”, “Experience”, “wedding dress”, “Two solutions for a film”....In these films he shown how the Iranians think and affront the problems of everyday life.

11 short films have been registered as kiarostami’s films plus a long film titled “Report”, considered one of the most important films in the history of cinema. Kiarostami was one of the first filmmakers who paid attention to the social and family’s problem.

After the Islamic Revolution Kiarostami was under control like many others, but he had the chance to be supported and to continue to work in his preferred field.

The second speaker was Mr. M. M. Rezaie that began his speech saying that it was very difficult to talk about one of the best Iranian contemporary filmmakers like Kiarostami. He was better and before well-known abroad than in Iran. In Iran just 2 books have been registered meanwhile in other countries 11 books have been dedicated to Kiarostami and his activity.

Mr. Rezaie stressed on the fact that Kiarostami never worked for awards and economic incomes, even though he had the opportunity to do so. What he has done is to make films having a spiritual and full of feeling content, like in the films “Where is friend’s house” or “Report”.

Kiarostami is famous as an artist because he respected the principles that he believed in. He decided to remain in Iran because he believed his most important decision. His country and his people gave him the necessary impulse to give his best for his films and ideas.

The movies of Kiarostami were welcomed in the foreign festivals, because of their simplicity and at the same time for their deep and spiritual content.

Kiarostami passed away living us a precious heritage for the Iranian movie.

Some of his works are:

“Traveller”, “Report”, “Firsts”, “Where is friend’s house”, “Life and nothing else”, “Under the olive tree”....