

The Museum of Modern Art

MoMA CELEBRATES INFLUENTIAL IRANIAN CINEMATOGRAPHER MAHMOUD KALARI WITH 12-FILM SERIES

The Eye of Iran: Cinematographer Mahmoud Kalari

September 14–30, 2018

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters

NEW YORK, August 20, 2018 – The Museum of Modern Art presents *The Eye of Iran: Cinematographer Mahmoud Kalari*, a series highlighting the extraordinary career of Iranian cinematographer Mahmoud Kalari and the renowned filmmakers with whom he has collaborated. Among the many notable films lensed by Kalari are *A Separation* (Asghar Farhadi, 2011), *The Wind Will Carry Us* (Abbas Kiarostami, 1999), and *Gabbeh* (Mohsen Makhmalbaf, 1996). Running September 14 through 30, 2018, in The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters, the series showcases 12 films from 1996 to the present, by 10 directors—including Kalari himself, who will be in attendance over the course of the series. The series is organized La Frances Hui, Associate Curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

Contemporary Iranian film has earned worldwide acclaim since around 1990, when it became known for a neorealist streak characterized by authentic, simple depictions of life. The complex reality of Iran has, however, been explored by a wide range of cinematic voices, with formally and conceptually rigorous films dealing with subjects as diverse as urban life, women’s issues, interpersonal dramas, philosophy, all while creatively skirting strict censorship rules.

Kalari’s vision singularly contributed to the look of this rich, multifaceted, evolving cinema, and over the course of three decades he has focused the world’s gaze on Iran. He lensed some of the most acclaimed works by Asghar Farhadi, Abbas Kiarostami, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Dariush Mehrjui, and Jafar Panahi, to name just a few. Beyond these celebrated masters, Kalari has also collaborated with young and emerging directors, making him a constant presence across the wide gamut of Iranian cinema. Kalari devises a specific visual style for each film, ranging from dynamic handheld camerawork to stark minimalism, placid countryside to gritty metropolis, short shot to long take (in one case lasting over two hours—the entire length of the film).

“I am honored to be the subject of a retrospective at MoMA. It’s extraordinarily moving to take a moment to look back at the films I have made with different generations of Iranian directors, representing a wide variety of styles. I look forward to sharing my work with the New York audience,” said Mahmoud Kalari.

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“Kalari is an incredibly talented and versatile cinematographer. He goes into each production with an open and adventurous mind, which is evident in the breadth of his repertoire. His imprints are everywhere in the past three decades of Iranian cinema. I am very happy to celebrate this important artistic voice and a rich and illuminating cinema through this exhibition,” said La Frances Hui.

See the accompanying screening schedule for full program details and guest appearance dates.

SPONSORSHIP:

Support for the exhibition is provided by the Annual Film Fund. Leadership support for the Annual Film Fund is provided by the Kate W. Cassidy Foundation and Steven Tisch, with major contributions from Jo Carole and Ronald S. Lauder, Association of Independent Commercial Producers, Yuval Brisker Charitable Foundation, The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston, Marlene Hess and James D. Zirin, Karen and Gary Winnick, and The Junior Associates of The Museum of Modern Art.

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Public Information:

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The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019, (212) 708-9400, moma.org.
Hours: Saturday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Friday, 10:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Museum admission: \$25 adults; \$18 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D.; \$14 full-time students with current ID; free, members and children 16 and under (includes admittance to Museum galleries and film programs). Free admission during Uniqlo Free Friday Nights: Fridays, 4:00–8:00 p.m. No service charge for tickets ordered on moma.org. Tickets purchased online can be printed out and presented at the Museum without waiting in line (includes admittance to Museum galleries and film programs). Film and after-hours program admission: \$12