

Eye-catching sculptures by Parviz Tanavoli to be installed at the Aga Khan Park

- Experience the work of one of Iran's most influential artists -

- Tanavoli to come to Toronto for
a special documentary screening and book launch -

Toronto, September 8, 2016 — The Aga Khan Museum is pleased to announce the loan of three sculptures from acclaimed Iranian-Canadian artist Parviz Tanavoli. The three sculptures, which range in height from 9 1/2 feet to 12 1/2 feet are *Poet in Love*, 2009, Bronze; *Big Heech*, 2014, Stainless Steel; and his most recent work, *Horizontal Lovers*, 2016, Bronze.

Horizontal Lovers was installed on the grounds of the Aga Khan Museum in late August and is visible from Wynford Drive. This installation is particularly unique as this is the first time the sculpture is on public display. The remaining two sculptures will be installed in the Aga Khan Park on September 12, 2016.

In honour of this new installation, on September 24, 2016, the Aga Khan Museum will welcome Parviz Tanavoli for a special screening of the documentary *Parviz Tanavoli: Poetry in Bronze* (2014, Terrence Turner), which tells the remarkable story of Tanavoli's journey of creation that has spanned three continents over more than half a century.

Following the screening, guests will also enjoy a discussion with Tanavoli, Terrence Turner, the director of the film, and Dr. Fereshteh Daftari, curator of an upcoming exhibition on contemporary Iranian art, opening in 2017 involving Tanavoli's work. After the talk, the audience will be invited to view the sculptures on the Museum grounds.

On September 25, 2016, the Ismaili Centre, Toronto hosts the North American launch of Tanavoli's latest book, *European Women in Persian Houses: Western Images in Safavid and Qajar Iran*. In this endeavor, the artist brings together a defining collection of images of European women; images that became prominent features in Iranian homes from the 17th to the 20th century.

Tickets are available for these events at:

<https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/performing-arts/event/afternoon-tanavoli>

<https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/exhibitions/event/tanavoli-book-launch>

Parviz Tanavoli is considered one of Iran's leading artists, primarily known for his bronze sculptures that draw on the forms of calligraphy.

He is a pioneer of the *Saqqakhaneh* movement of the 1960s, along with Charles Hossein Zenderoudi, Sadeq Tabrizi, and Massoud Arabshahi. The movement is recognized as the first school of Iranian modern art, with its associated painters and sculptors incorporating elements from Iranian folk art into their creations.



Throughout his six-decade career, Tanavoli's work has been shown at museums around the world, including the Davis Museum in Wellesley, MA; the Tate Modern in London; Grey Art Gallery in New York City, NY; and most recently, the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art in Tehran. In addition to his international exhibitions, Tanavoli's works have also become part of the permanent collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Museum of Modern Art in New York City, as well as the British Museum and the Tate Modern in London.

Tanavoli holds dual Iranian-Canadian citizenship, spending half the year in Iran and the other half in Vancouver, Canada.

The **Aga Khan Museum** in Toronto, Canada has been established and developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), which is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). The Museum's mission is to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the contribution that Muslim civilizations have made to world heritage.

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FOR PRESS INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

Jackie Koffman
Holmes PR
jkoffman@holmespr.com
416.628.5608

Arlene Madell
Aga Khan Museum
press@agakhanmuseum.org
416.858.8735