

IRAN CARTOON

● Cartoon and Caricature pdf Magazine ● No.2/September 2008

Dance of the Pen

Interview
with

**Kambiz
Derambakhsh**



Interview with Kambiz Derambakhsh is an opportunity for us to know artistic and social characteristics of the best Iranian cartoonist and one of the best cartoonists of the world. He mentions his cartoons in 64 years old as the "Dance of the Pen", that

shows the strength of master Kambiz Derambakhsh! He was born in 1942 in Shiraz of fine arts of Tehran. He has 60 national and international been published in many such as Neble Spalter, Di New York Times,...



He has won lots of credible prizes of the world like gold medal of Umiuri Shimbon(Japan), gold medal of Istanbul (Turkey), second prize of the 7th International Tehran cartoon biennial and ...

and is graduated from faculty been participated in more than exhibitions. His cartoons has Iranian and foreign periodicals Site, La Poblica, Le Monde,

Some of his cartoons are in the most important museums of the world such as Gabrovo of Bulgaria, Basel of Switzerland, Contemporary Museum in Tehran and...

Why did you choose cartoon?

Because cartoon is part of my life, I grow up with cartoon, continue with it and I've never thought about anything except cartoon.

What was your first published work?

It was a cartoon that published in the monthly magazine of the army.

Which cartoonists more impressed you?

Bosc and Chaval (both are French).

In your opinion who are the best Iranian and foreign cartoonists?

We have lots of good cartoonists because each of them has its special style. I can mention Bartak and Touka Neyestani.

What was your best cartoon?

I have drawn many good cartoons but I can't make an example now.





Karimzadeh

Who are your best cartoonist friends?

Hassan Karimzadeh and Bartak.

What would you do if you were not a cartoonist?

I'd become a decorator or a director.

What's the difference between cartoon and joke?

Joke is word satire, but cartoon is a special language that can't be said in any other words!

What were your most important prizes?

My first prize was from Montreal Canada contest in 1968 by the subject of "Olympic of Mexico" and I became the 6th winner. My most important prize was grand prize of Umiuri Shimbon festival (Japan 1998). The only cartoonist before me that has won a foreign prize was Mohsen Davalou.

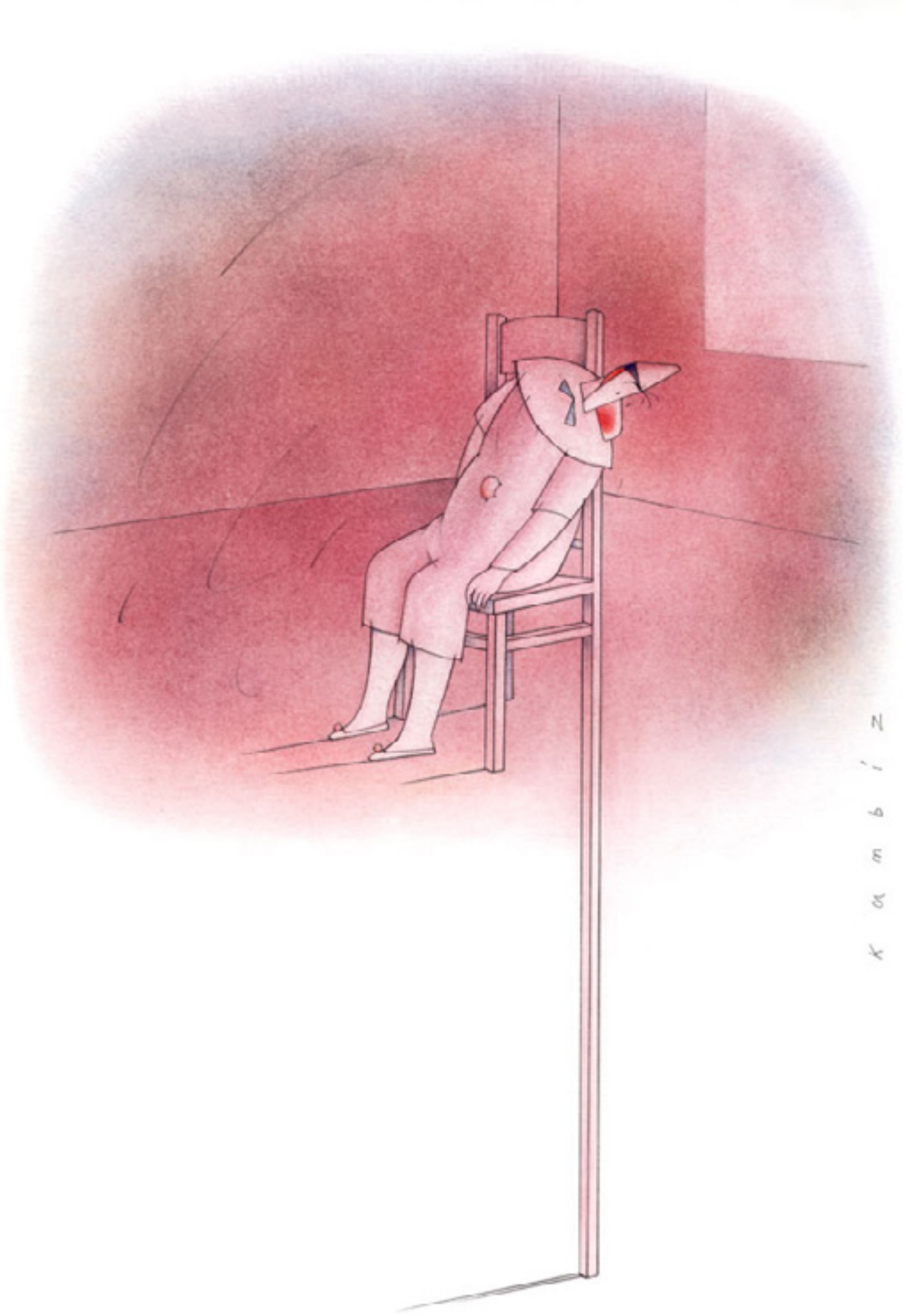
How do you find your projects?

I find my projects by "thinking about the subject, inspiration and drawing lines in a piece of paper, then suddenly a subject comes in to my mind."

Have you ever had a problem for finding a project?

No, never. Because most of the time I avoid of drawing crowded cartoons, because my style has always been simple, brief and to the point.



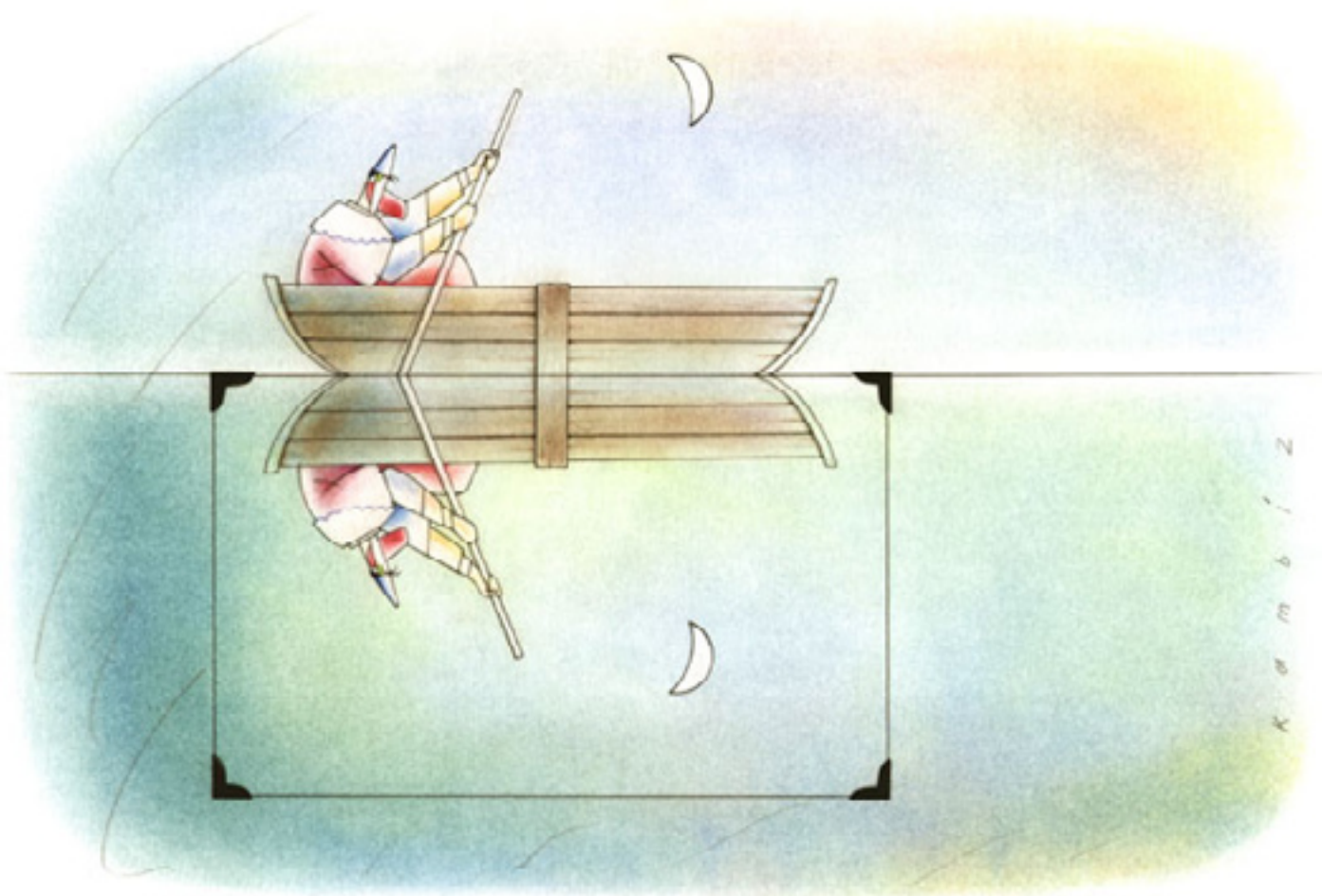


K a m b i z

I think teaching cartoon is a hard task, but it's a divine blessing that some people have it. It has some elements that can be found and learned even in books. The most important thing is to be active and use the experience of other people!

Do you think you need any more things to learn?

Yes! In my opinion art and specially art of cartoon never will be ended. Even now I see cartoonists better than me. I never satisfied with my works and always try to improve.



How is your relation with the lines?

Lines are important principles in my cartoons, I emphasize on them.

What will you do if lines don't obey you?

I repeat it many times till the lines obey me and result to a good cartoon.

Your lines have a special strength. How did you find this strength?

Just by hard working. My samples in this field were Steinberg and Folon. They always give me the new idea and I've found out that lines should be simple and strong.

I've heard that you've invented a special language for drawing cartoon. How did you do it?

I'm publishing a 2000 pages book about it. I have to say that after lots of considerations, I found a method that by using Latin words draw cartoons of people and things.

Your method of coloring is unique, describe it for us?

I've started coloring in abroad because their periodicals published colored cartoons, so most of the time they didn't published my cartoons because of being black and white. So I've started to color my cartoons from 1980 and I found a special style for my coloring, so I powdered chalk pastel and rubbed it by cotton on the paper, and I used eraser for the light places. It made a new foundation that by using rough materials makes a tender and fresh artwork.

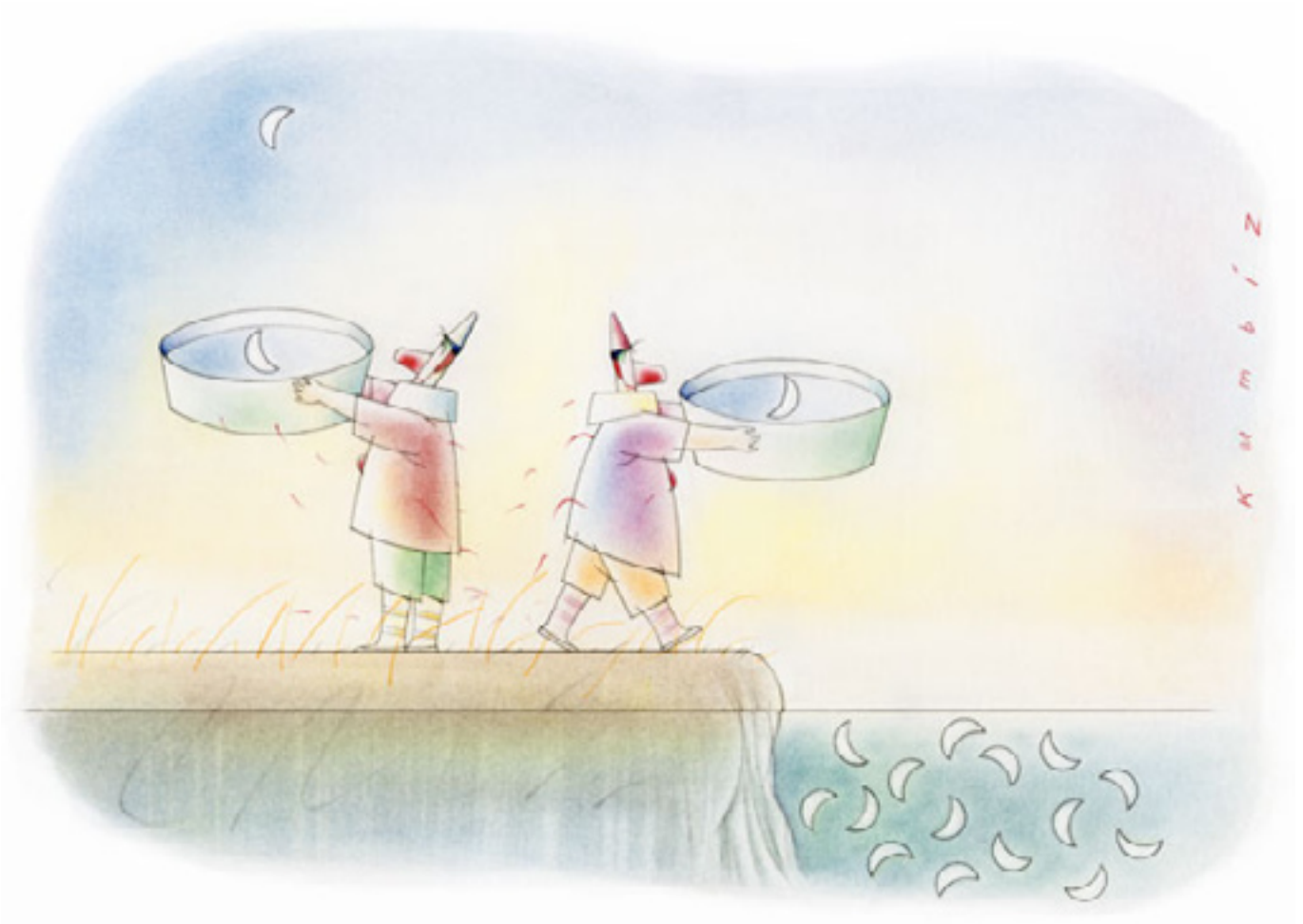
What's your idea about using an eraser?

It's a useful material, I used it more at the beginning of my work, but now I use it less. Now I have more than 1000 cartoons that I draw it directly on the paper without using a pencil or eraser. I tried a lot to reach to this situation.

Diebelspalter

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How much a cartoonist should be updated?

It depends. If he is a periodical cartoonist he should always be updated, but I think such a cartoon will be forgotten. So I'm always searching for immortal projects, like the films of Charlie Chaplin that are always new. Even now they make people laugh and cry.

What are the specialties of a good cartoon?

Being simple and to deliver its message easily and fast to the viewers, be without caption and able to communicate by the people all over the world.

How can become Kambiz Derambakhsh?

By being active. I always try to be better than before.

Describe kambiz Derambakhsh in one sentence?

Other people should describe me.

You have a fountain pen that became old because of using a lot, how was it possible?

When you use a device for a long time you use to it and can work with it very soft and smooth. I mention my works as the "Dance of the Pen".

What will you do if you loose your pen?

I have no choice; I should start with another pen, although my colored works are by pencil.

How long does it take that you familiarize with the new pen?

2 or 3 months!

Describe us about your black miniatures?

I have drawn them before; they are mixture of traditional painting and black humor! In the past some people criticize me that my works are influenced by western culture, so I investigated about Iranian miniature for two years. Specialty of miniature is being two sided and not having perspective. 75% of the people in miniature are in profile. After investigation I mixed miniature with black humor and put my criticize in fine intelligence that all were political.

Is it possible to publish these miniatures in a collection?

I have 50 cartoons about it, but I still didn't find a publisher to publish it!

Why did you decide to make you cartoons to animation by your son?

Because my son has been studied in his field, he can make my cartoons to the shape of animation and transfer them to the others. When I saw that credible cartoonists like Tupor, Bosc and Mordillo make their works in animation, I wished to do so, when my son made my cartoons to animation, I became satisfied. I'm so old, so I ask the managers to help me make my cartoon in the shape of animation.

How many exhibitions did you have?

I had more than 60 exhibitions abroad, and 9 exhibitions in Iran, and the last one was in Mina Gallery.

What are you doing now?

I've published two books, "Diary of Angles" and "Don't Disturb a Seed Carrying Ant". I've published two calendars this year to give it to my friends. I work all the time for next exhibitions. I have two books under publication and 10 books ready to publish.

Have you ever been disappointed by yourself?

No, never. My advantage is that I'm always hopeful and say that everything will be OK.

What about your cartoons?

No, my works make me alive, they are my hobby.

What's your opinion about "Iranian House of Cartoon"?

The first time that I saw its name in the periodical abroad I became so happy, and I said that cartoon has a house now. So I send some of my precious books like Mordillo, Quino, and Steadman there. When I came back to Iran "House of Cartoon" received me gladly, I always have good memories from there. I thank Mr. Shojai and his colleagues. House of cartoon is doing well, especially for the biennials, and it made Iran's cartoon famous over the world. When I compare the catalogues of the most credible contests by the catalogues of Tehran biennials, I see the betterness of Iran catalogues.

Years ago that I had an exhibition in Gabrovo, a group of tourists came to visit my cartoons they said that they didn't know Iran has such a good cartoonists!

In my opinion if "Keyhan Caricature" and "House of Cartoon" didn't exist, nobody would have known cartoon in Iran.

What's your idea about "Iran Cartoon" magazine?

As I told to Mr. Shojai, it can be replaced by the most credible cartoon magazines such as: Neble Shpalter, Punch, Mad... and become universal!

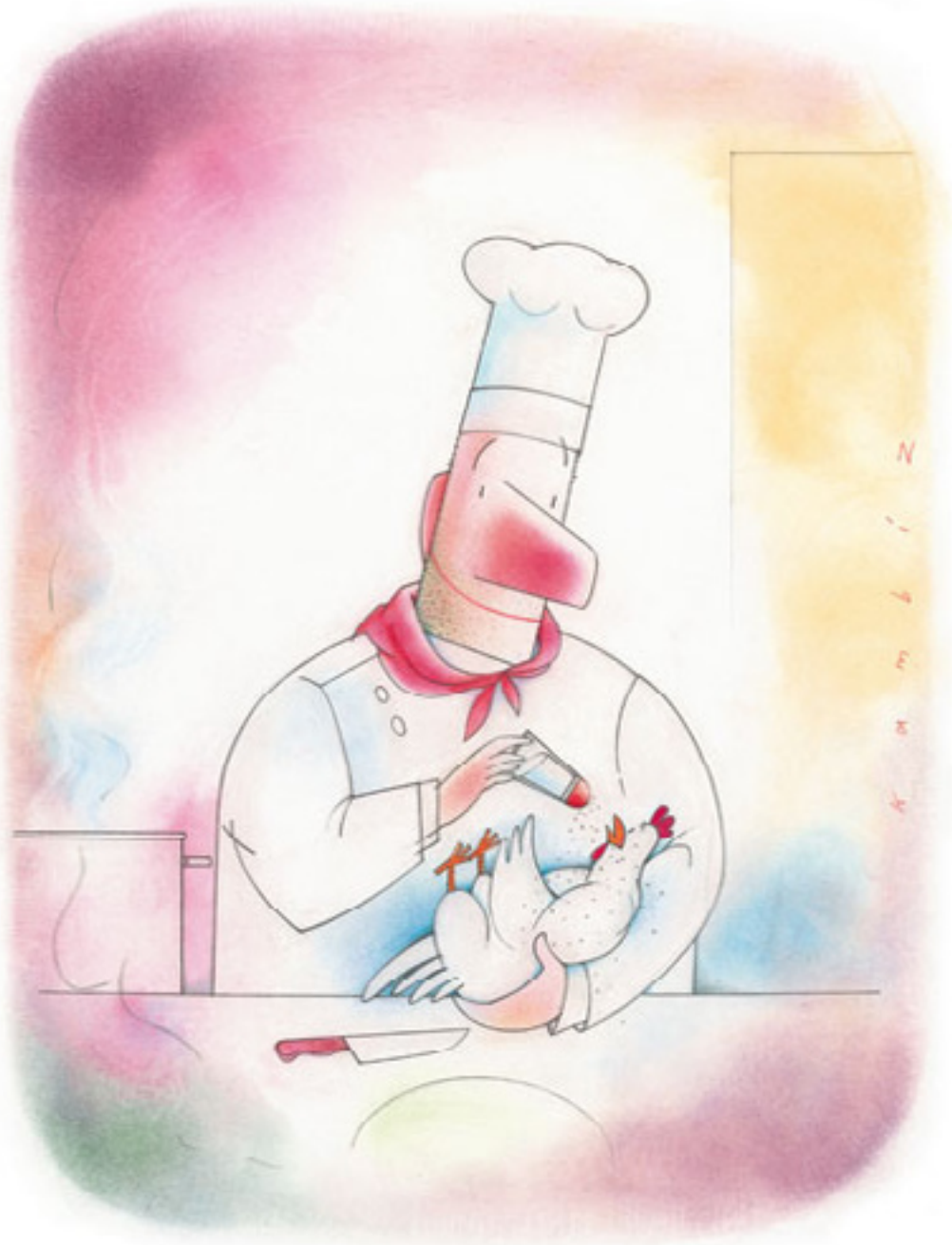


What's your idea about the 7th biennial?

The reason for its being magnificent was its suitable place. The reason for my participation was that I wanted that people become acquainted with my works and specially my colored cartoons.

What's your best memory from the 7th biennial?

The opening day when I entered Saba cultural and artistic center and saw lots of people, I became so happy.



What's your worst memory from the 8th biennial?

I don't have any bad memory.

Do you agree that characteristics of each cartoonist are like his works?

Spiritually is right but not apparently.

What's your opinion about periodical cartoons?

Cartoon at first started in periodicals, but I'm sorry to say that we haven't more than 2 or 3 satirical magazines in Iran. I think our country with 70 million population needs more satirical magazines.

Which part of your life is like cartoon?

All parts of our life are like cartoon. When we walk in the streets, we see cartoons everywhere, but cartoonists see them sooner!

Do you think a cartoonist must have a satirical mood?

The essence of cartoon is satire. Cartoon without satire is just drawing! Unfortunately most of the Iranian cartoonists prefer technique and beauty to the project!

What's your biggest wish about cartoon?

I wish that all my cartoons be published, and all the young people see them. Many people love to see our works and investigate them.

What's your biggest wish?

I wish Iran always be at peace, serenity and sincerity and every body live with freedom and ease.

What do you like to be the subject of your last work?

Like all the time being calm, tender and poetical!

Did you like any more questions?

No, you asked all the questions.

The last sentence?

I hope that Iranian cartoonists find their right place among the international cartoonists. This needs a lot of effort!

