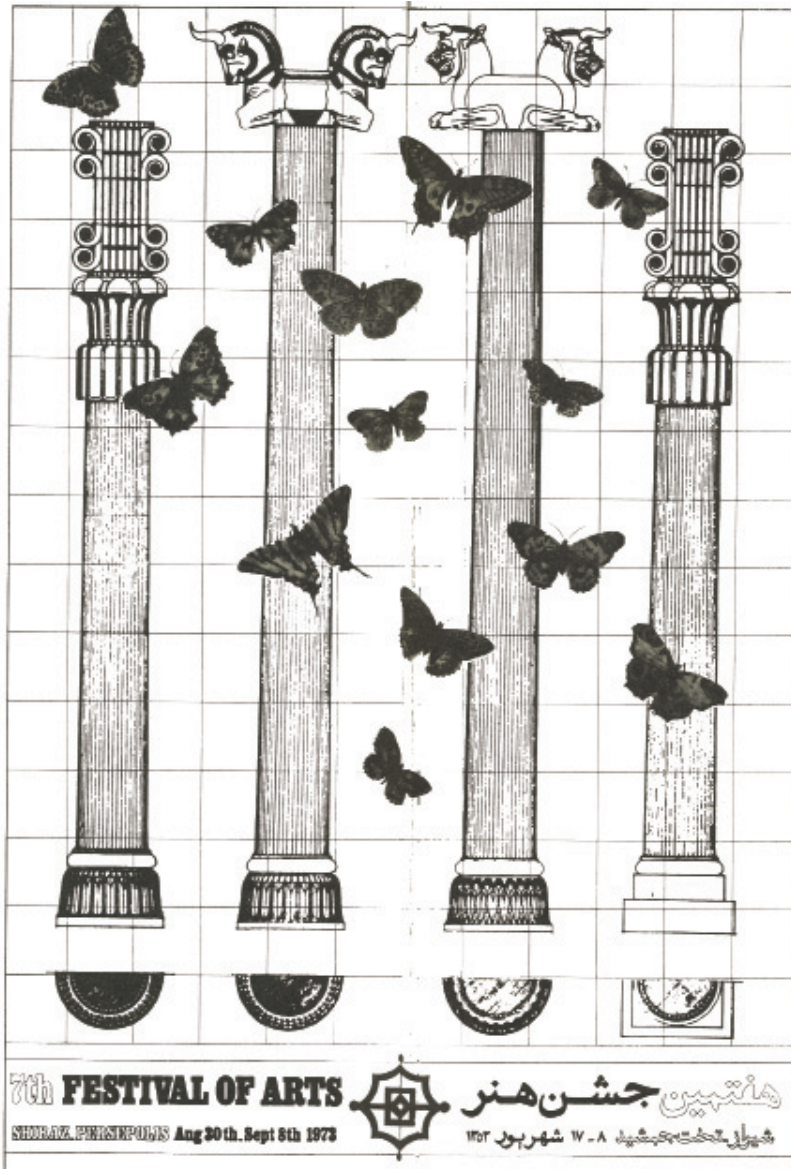
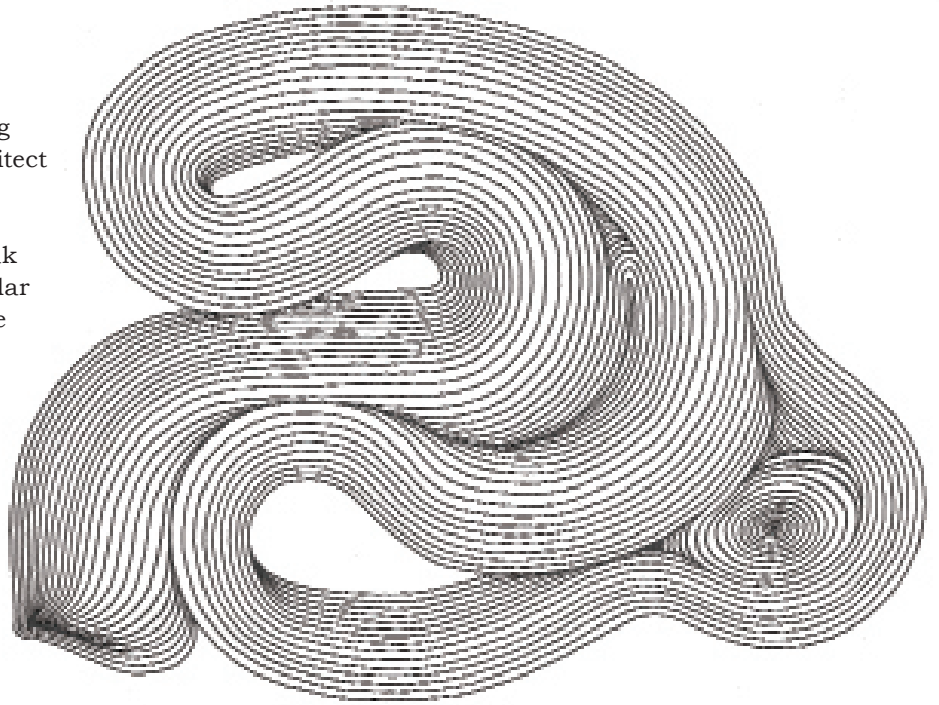
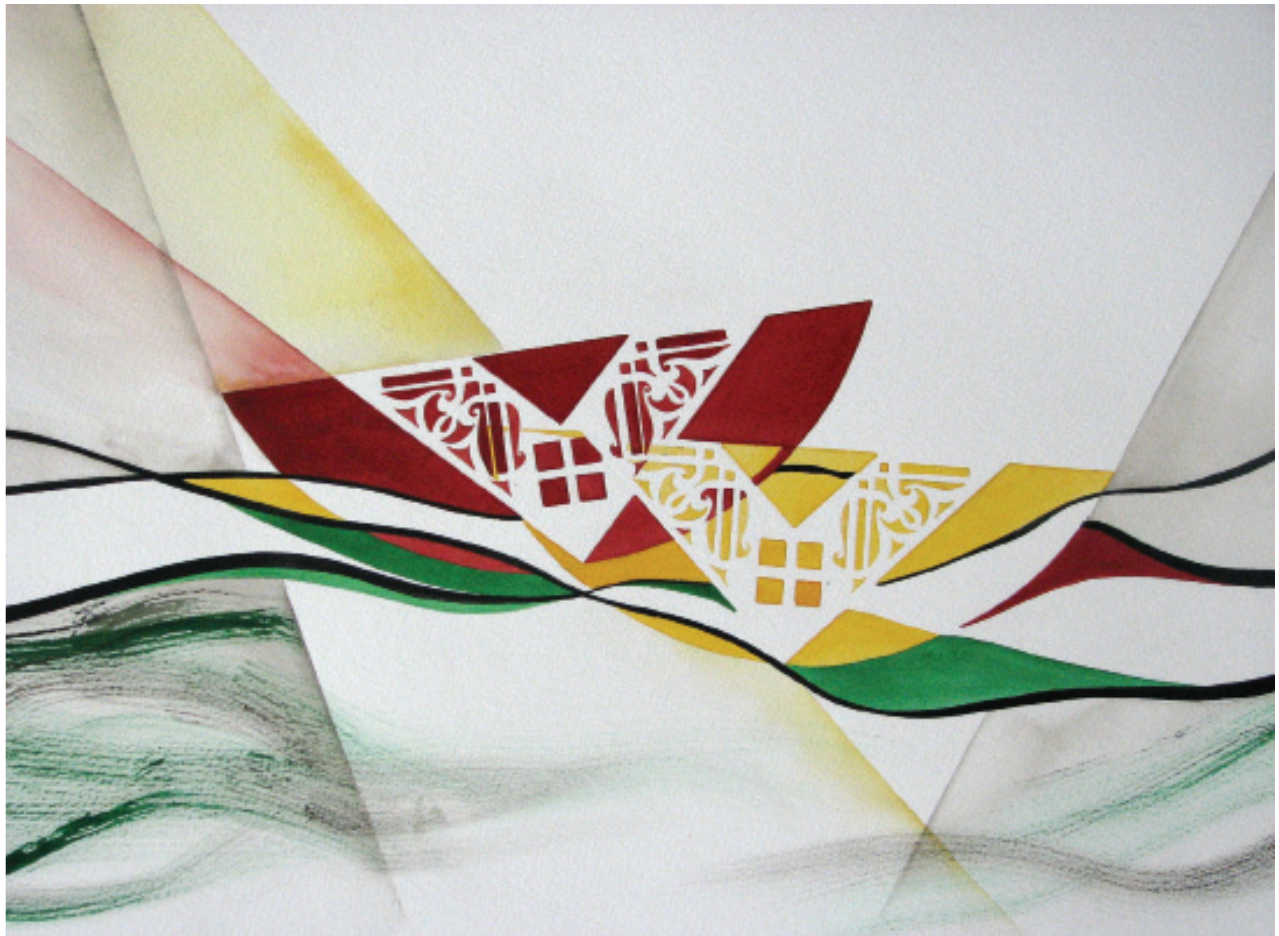


Right: Abstract painting by Houshang Seyhoun, the celebrated Iranian architect and artist. The modern art movement in Iran started in the late 1940s. By this time many artists wanted to break away from the rigid styles made popular by Kamal al-Mulk. The College of Fine Arts and its head, Andre Godard, encouraged innovation. Young artists like Marcos Grigorian, Hussein Zendehtroudi, and Parviz Tanavoli found their inspiration in popular culture and created new artistic styles that dominated the arts in Iran in the 20th century.

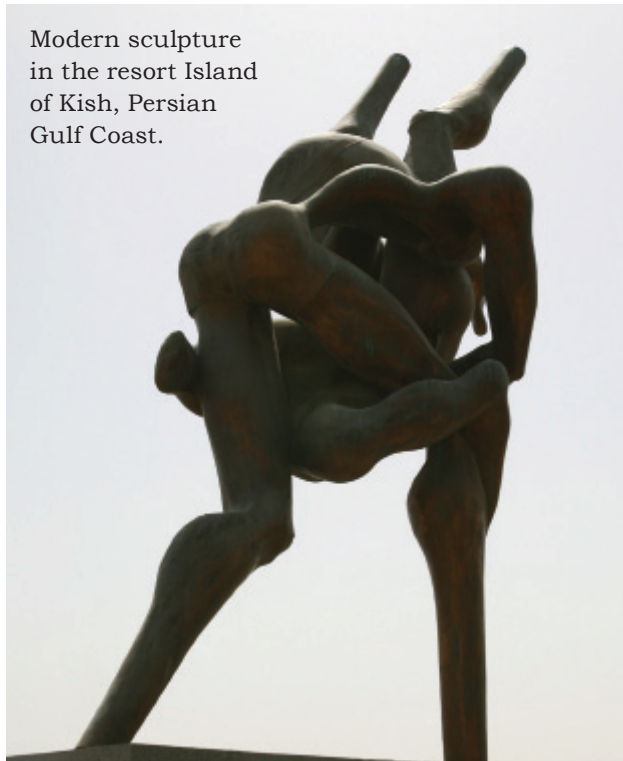


Left: Modern theatre started with the constitutional movement in the late 19th century when patriotic plays were performed. In the early part of the 20th century theatre was dominated by social criticism, and the promotion of modernization and ancient Iran. In 1958 the Office of Fine Arts was created which included dramatic arts and trained actors. Plays by all major internationally known artists were performed. The Annual Art Festival in Shiraz was initiated by the Queen in 1967. It enabled Iranian actors to perform alongside internationally known artists and brought theatre to the people with performances in public places.



Above: The arts reached new heights and became mostly the domain of the modern secular groups. Cinema produced commercially popular and intellectually charged films. Modern literature produced its best generation of writers and poets of the 20th century. This painting by Pari Azarm, depicts poetry from Hafiz and shows the incorporation of modern art forms into Iranian themes.

Modern sculpture
in the resort Island
of Kish, Persian
Gulf Coast.



Modern chess set by Pari Azarm.

