



Single Tree Film Festival  
Abbas Kiarostami Award

Single Tree Film Festival is  
dedicated to filmmakers  
who personally fulfill  
the roles of  
**Director**  
**Script writer**  
**Cinematographer**  
**Editor**

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Single  
Tree  
Film  
Festival  
Abbas  
Kiarostami  
Award

1st INTERNATIONAL  
Section of  
20th Tassvir  
Film Festival  
Tehran  
Feb.20 - Mar.10  
2023



TASSVIR  
FILM FESTIVAL

KIAROSTAMI  
FOUNDATION



# SINGLE TREE FILM FESTIVAL

## Abbas Kiarostami Award

On the occasion of the twentieth edition of Tassvir Film Festival, we will be launching our first international film section, titled: “Single Tree Film Festival”.

In the late 40s and early 50s, the French film magazine Cahiers du Cinéma, presented a new outlook toward world cinema through the writings of André Bazin, along with his colleagues like François Truffaut and Claude Chabrol. By carefully reviewing the films of directors like Charlie Chaplin, Orson Welles, Jean Renoir, and others, they came to the conclusion that some filmmakers were not mere directors, but should be considered the auteurs of their movies.

This concept entered the English language through the writings of the American film critic, Andrew Sarris and came to be dubbed as the “auteur theory”. The French word “auteur”, which is the root of the English “author”, came to refer to any director or artist who could be considered the creator of a work of art in the same way that an author is the creator of his books.

But this theory also had serious critics who believed that even an auteur-director could not be considered the true creator of a film, because the role of directors of photography and editors in making a film is no less than that of its director. In other words, if the director of photography or the editor of a film changes, the film will essentially change as well.

The digital revolution has expanded filmmaking beyond a certain group or industry by providing contemporary filmmakers with a variety of gadgets and equipment that prior to this could only be found in a film studio. These tools can now fit in a small backpack, and the expertise for using them has also become widely accessible.



Cinema is no longer the domain of wealthy producers, and ordinary people living in even the most remote parts of the earth can now make films, potentially turning the film industry into a pure and more personal art form.

The range of auteur-filmmakers – those who are the directors, cinematographers, and editors of their own films – now ranges from social media content producers to directors who have won Palme d'Or and Academy Awards.

Among these auteur-filmmakers are people like Abbas Kiarostami (Ten), Alfonso Cuarón (Roma, winner of the Academy Award for best international feature and best cinematography), Steven Soderbergh (Solaris and Schizopolis), David Lynch (Inland Empire), and Robert Rodriguez and Kim Ki-duk with more than five auteurial films each. Naturally, there are also many auteur directors who create works in the area of documentaries and experimental films.

The day-by-day expansion of this new way of filmmaking glaringly reveals the absence of this category of auteurial films in international film festivals. Hence, starting this year, Tassvir Film Festival is proud to launch its international section to include these groups of films, presenting the “Abbas Kiarostami Award” to selected directors of features, shorts, documentaries, and experimental films.

It is our hope that with “Single Tree Film Festival”, we can make the path smoother for directors, who more than ever in the history of film, can be considered true auteurs of their works.

This independent film festival has been established with the support of the Kiarostami Foundation.