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**Iranians should  
safeguard their  
deep culture:  
Austrian  
illustrator**

*Tehran Times Culture Desk*

**TEHRAN (MNA)** — Austrian book illustrator Maria Blazejovsky said on Monday that the culture of Iran is unique and very deep and Iranians should safeguard their culture.

Each country has its own technique of illustrating books and Iran is no exception, she added.

After reading a story for children at the Festival of European and Iranian Children's Literature currently underway in Tehran, she stated that Iranians should not copy European works.

"I became familiar with Iranian book illustration in an exhibition in Switzerland, and afterwards I did my best to understand the Iranian style," she said.

She pointed out that Iranian children's literature is not readily available in Austria and the only book which draws attention is "One Thousand and One Nights".

The Festival of European and Iranian Children's Literature opened on September 22 and continues until October 8. The festival is being sponsored by the Austrian nongovernmental organization X-change.

A number of writers, illustrators, and academics from the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Iran are participating in the festival.

