

Press release

YavashYavash – A new project from the artist Shahin Tivay Sadatolhosseini

On foot with a gym wheel from Aachen through France to the USA – a RollMovie

On the 21st of June 2021, the longest day of the year, the German-Iranian artist Shahin Tivay Sadatolhosseini began his international art project YavashYavash in Aachen, Germany. Travelling from Germany to the US, he first walks towards the European Atlantic coast, then will hitch a ride on a ship over the ocean to continue his journey in the US on foot. With this time-based performance work, the artist connects his country of origin, Iran, with its supposed greatest enemy, the US, building bridges between countries and cultures. His journey is accompanied and facilitated by his “Rocinante”, a 2 meter tall Rhönrاد (gym wheel), that he rolls along as he walks. Each day he takes photographs of the wheel in the changing landscapes, seasons and times of day. The tall, eye-catching wheel captures people’s curiosity, leading to engaging conversations about urgent topics of our time, invitations for overnight accommodation, or offers for some company along his way.

Yavash means “slowly” in Persian, and reflects Shahin’s intention of travelling slowly and sustainably, focusing on the world around him, the environment, and the people he meets. He is particularly interested in engaging in direct conversations with individuals, as he has found these personal, one on one conversations to be the best way to overcome prejudices, create connections, and revise one’s opinion on important topics such as climate change, environmental sustainability, personal responsibility and consumerism. Shahin films places, encounters and special moments of his travels, collecting material for an innovative artistic documentary film – a RollMovie. During his tour he shares his experiences through photographs on his website <https://yavashyavash.de/>

The Rhönrاد has been Shahin’s constant companion for the last 35 years. After fleeing Iran with his mother during the Iran-Iraq war, he arrived in Aachen, Germany, in 1985 where he encountered the gym wheel. It has not only become his piece of sports equipment, but also an anchor of his identity as an Aachener and a constant source of inspiration for his professional activities as an artist, photographer and choreographer. During his art project YavashYavash the Rhönrاد serves not only as his pack mule and his platform for the camera, but also as his powerhouse and his snail shell, where he sleeps in his hammock strung inside the wheel at night. It even surprises him with beautiful moments when waking up to the first sunbeams, twittering birds, a murmuring stream or rustling treetops.

For a long time Shahin has wished to build bridges between his two identities, between Germany and Iran. In 2015-2017 he realized his first art project of this type, RollEast, walking with his Rhönrad 625 days 5826 km on foot from Aachen/Germany to Tehran/Iran. 19,800 followers watched his blog, and media across more than ten countries reported. The photographs are published on his website <https://rolleast.de/> as well as in a book showing the poetic power of his work.

His current project YavashYavash leads him from Aachen through the Netherlands, Belgium and France to Spain, where he will be searching for a ship to hitchhike over the Atlantic Ocean and continue on foot with his wheel in the US. While he walks from Aachen to Bilbao and possibly further to Santiago de Compostela, he hopes to find a sailing ship or boat before winter to take him across the Southern route to the Caribbean via the French Antilles.

The wheel is one of the oldest and most important inventions of humankind, and the circle as its essence is the central element of Shahin's activities as an artist. The circle symbolizes repeating cycles; not only night and day, or the cycle of seasons, both of which take on significant meaning in his travels, but also the meditative effect of recurring movements, and the concept of closing circles, bringing disparate points together.

Follow Shahin on his travels as he rolls YavashYavash – DoucementDoucement – DespacitoDespacito – LangsamLangsam – SlowlySlowly.

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<https://yavashyavash.de/>

https://www.deutschlandfunkkultur.de/rhoenrad-sportler-und-kuenstler-shahin-tivay.970.de.html?dram:article_id=500586

<https://vimeo.com/362001612>

password: radtour

<https://rolleast.de/media/>

<https://www.instagram.com/rolleast/>