

DOM

Pour les Jeunes

Youth Section

وزارة جوانان

Symbols of the Now Bonz



A few days prior to the New Year, a special cover is spread onto the Persian carpet or on a table in every Persian household. This ceremonial table is called *sofrehyehafiseen* (literally cloth of seven items, each beginning with the Persian letter "S" or *seen*).

The number seven has been sacred in Iran since ancient times, and the seven dishes stand for the seven angelic heralds of life rebirth, health, happiness, prosperity, joy, patience, and beauty. The symbolic dishes consist of *sabzeh*, or sprouts, usually wheat or lentil, representing rebirth. *Samanu* is a pudding in which common wheat sprouts are transformed and given new life as a sweet, creamy pudding, and represents the ultimate sophistication of Persian cooking. *Seeb* means apple and represents health and beauty. *Senjed*, the sweet, dry fruit of the lotus tree, represents love. It has been said that when the lotus tree is in full bloom, its fragrance and its fruit make people fall in love and become oblivious to all else. *Seer*, which is garlic in Persian, represents medicine. *Sumaq*, sumac berries, represent the color of sunrise; with the appearance of the sun Good conquers Evil. *Serkeh*, or vinegar, represents age and patience.

To reconfirm the hopes and wishes expressed by the traditional foods, other elements and symbols are also on the *soured* Two books of

tradition and wisdom are laid out: a copy of the Koran; and a volume of the poems of Hafez, one of the great lyric Persian poets of the fourteenth century. A few coins placed on the *soured* represent prosperity and wealth; a basket of painted eggs represents fertility. A Seville orange floating in a bowl of water represents the earth floating in space, and a goldfish in a bowl of water represents life and the end of the astral year-Pisces. A flask of rose water, known for its magical cleansing power, is also included on the tablecloth. Nearby is a brazier for burning wild rue, a sacred herb whose smoldering fumes ward off evil spirits. A pot of flowering hyacinth or narcissus is also set on the *soured* these are the two Persian flowers that bloom in the spring, and their sweet odor acknowledges the fifth sense.

On either side of a mirror are two candelabra holding a flickering candle for each child in the family. The candles represent enlightenment and happiness. The mirror represents the images and reflections of Creation as we celebrate anew the ancient Persian traditions and beliefs that creation took place on the first day of spring, or *Nou rohz*.

With the help of fire and light, we hope for enlightenment and happiness throughout the coming year.

Zoom se veut le lieu de rencontre d'une jeune génération d'iranienne et de ceux qui ont trouvé une affinité pour cette culture, afin d'enrichir la double identité que ces jeunes vivent. Zoom is a meeting place for the young Iranian generation and those who have an interest in this culture. Together we wish to nourish this double identity.

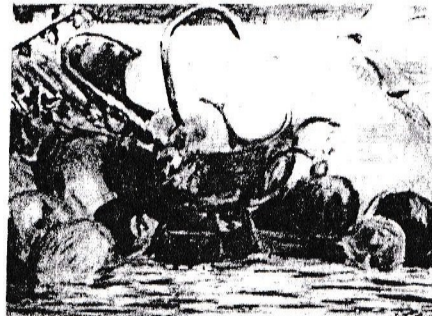
A Martin Dansky Press release

Martin Dansky

The artist actor Martin Dansky 1997.

who has just completed a commission for Mr. Avmor in December and has exhibited so far around town at cafes and bistros at Esperanto café for the month of February. The opening of the exhibit is on Feb 5th until March. The artist has returned to Montreal after living in the Italy and Yemen for many years. He began his profession in 1992 with a

An imaginary trip through one of canvases reveals a complex personality as elements of his cultural pursuits line walkways and spiral staircases in his paintings. This personality also effects his photography, pastel drawings and ink sketches where he adds rich texture to his work and creates vibrant images by playing with different textures. The viewer



group exhibition at La Pigna gallery in Rome Italy. His background in the visual arts now includes training in etching done in Rome and Sanaa, Yemen, graphic design at Concordia University and photography done at the Saidye Bronfman cultural centre.

Dansky has been interviewed for more than visual artistic merit this is a former international teacher who turned to the artistic milieu while in Europe. He completed a graphic arts program at Il Ponte Gallery in Rome in

is captivated and wants to see more.

There is always a new subject to be found in one of his painting, drawings or photos, and his work is often complex and kaleidoscopic, so critics be are of slapping on a critique like: "There also art in space"; Martin knows.

For the future martin plans to continue experimenting in different media, wants to complete a graphics and jump into the graphic milieu as a worthy competitor for industrial / interior designs.

Akhavan



Supermarket

More than half of a century of service



Tel.: (514) 485 - 4744

5768 Sherbrooke W.