

Le Gall, Pauline. "Wim Delvoye Seeks To Stimulate Iranian Art Scene." *Artviatic*. (May 3, 2016).

ARTVIATIC

NEWS OF THE ART WORLD

ArtViatic's cultural magazine



WIM DELVOYE SEEKS TO STIMULATE IRANIAN ART SCENE

May 3, 2016 **Posted by Pauline Le Gall**

Belgian artist Wim Delvoye is not one to stand on his laurels. You may remember his tattooing live pigs – that performance caused a huge stir in the art world. Well, now, Marcel Duchamp's heir has announced that he will follow in the footsteps of Damien Hirst and Thomas Schütte and open his own gallery, except that both Hirst and Schütte set up in their home countries, respectively Great Britain and Germany. Delvoye has decided to take up residence in Iran.

The Art Newspaper reports that the Belgian artist will renovate five residences in the Iranian city of Kashan, which is situated between Teheran and Ispahan. In one of the 900-sqm spaces, he said he would mix his works with those of Iranian and international artists. The other buildings will house spaces for rent, the artist's studio and possibly a vegetarian restaurant.

The artist has had previous involvement with Iran. Workers from Ispahan have worked on his metal sculptures, which will be exhibited in his next solo show at the museum in Teheran in May. The two curators, Leila Varasteh and Vida Zaim also helped to design his Iranian project.

It would appear that the artist is ready to leave Belgium permanently, which, in the end, is not really that surprising. He told *The Art Newspaper* that he was very bitter about the failed sculpture park in Gand, for which he was fined €45,000. He was also very scathing about his homeland in April, following the terrorist attacks in Brussels. In a column on [La Libre.be](http://LaLibre.be) he said he was "ashamed to be Belgian". "I would like to minimise the fact that I am Belgian. It would be a good idea for my career."