

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

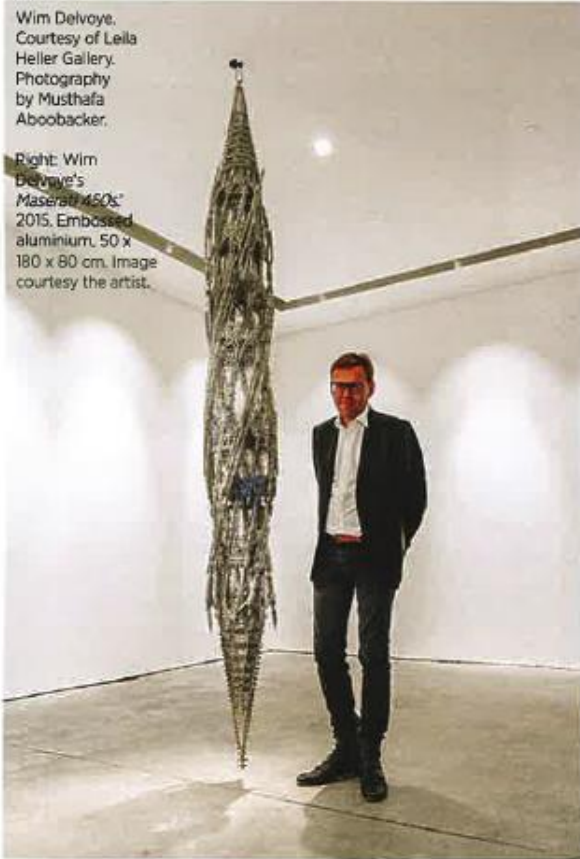
D'souza, Tanika. "Wim Delvoye Plans a New Museum in Kashan." *Harper's Bazaar Art Arabia* (May, 2016).

WIM DELVOYE PLANS A NEW MUSEUM IN KASHAN

The Belgian artist's new projects to take Iran's design sphere by storm, says **Tanika D'souza**

Wim Delvoye.
Courtesy of Leila
Heller Gallery.
Photography
by Musthafa
Aboobacker.

Right: Wim
Delvoye's
Maserati 450s,
2015. Embossed
aluminium, 50 x
180 x 80 cm. Image
courtesy the artist.



AMONGST A LONG LIST of controversial projects including tattooed animals and installations of floor tiles made out of sliced meat, Belgian conceptual artist, Wim Delvoye is now making waves in the art world with intentions of launching a museum in the city of Kashan, Iran. Restoring five mansions in the city, Delvoye plans to open a 900 square-metre gallery in one of them whereby he will show his own works alongside a shifting roster of Iranian and international artists. The artist is also planning to transfer his art studio to Tehran. "All the things I do in Europe, I will do here," he told *The Art Newspaper*.

While Delvoye likens the project with Damien Hirst's Newport Street Gallery in London, others have compared his plans with the Majorelle Garden in Marrakech, designed by the French artist Jacques Majorelle in the 1920s and 1930s.

"I want to build castles, towers, staircases," he told Kisa Lala at *The Huffington Post* in a 2011 interview. "I was thinking when I was a child if a genie came out of a bottle and offered a crystal ball into my future and said, you are going to have shows in China, and you will sell to people in Yemen or India...I



wouldn't have [believed] it."

Delvoye recently staged his first solo show in Iran at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (until 13 May). The artist is also exhibiting his work in a smaller show at the Isfahan Museum of Contemporary Art. ■