

## **1001 Tree • VeloEast • TreeEast** **By wooden bicycle on a tree trail from Aachen to Tehran**

Shahin Tivay Sadatolhosseini & Dr. Anke Scharrahs

We – a well-traveled artist and a wood restorer/conservator – are planning a long-distance trip for 2026/27 by wooden bicycle from Aachen (Germany) to Tehran (Iran), which will also be an art project of ecological dimensions. We will plant a tree every 6.5 kilometres and hand them over to the care of local owners or tree guardians. Through this multifaceted project, we would like to draw further attention to the issues of climate change, ecology and sustainability, and build bridges between countries, people and cultures. It is important to us not just to plant trees, but also to plant ideas and develop proactive networks that are both local and global. We will be joined by fragment #68, one of 100 fragments of a hand-woven copy of the famous Berlin dragon carpet as part of CulturalxCollabs - Weaving the Future. The entire travel and art project will be filmed using professional camera technology. The result will be an extraordinary road movie with special vehicles, protagonists and encounters.



### **Who we are:**

[Shahin](#) – photographer, designer, choreographer, film maker and gym wheel acrobat – walked 5,826 km from his hometown of Aachen to his native city of Tehran in 2015 to 2017 with his project [RollEast](#), rolling a 2-meter-high gym wheel in front of him. 19,800 followers followed the tour on his blog, and numerous media in more than ten countries reported on his project. In 2021/22, Shahin completed his art project [YavashYavash](#), in which he walked 2,384 km this time from Aachen to Washington DC with his Rosinante, the Rhönräd. The large and eye-catching wheel led to many local encounters and conversations along the way, which Shahin deliberately used to draw attention to the urgent issues of our time: climate change, sustainability, and the need to break down prejudice. His Rosinante was also his pack mule, camera crane, powerhouse and sleeping place. He is currently working on the

release of his film “The Roll – building bridges to connect”, an artistic documentary of his travels and art projects.

[Anke](#) – restorer/conservator of wood interiors, book author, PhD expert in historic Syrian design interiors – has worked [for 30 years](#) as a freelance conservator in museums worldwide where ornate wood-panelled rooms from Syria are on display, e.g. the Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, the Pergamon Museum Berlin, the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, and the Louvre Museum. During her field research in Syria from 1998 to 2012 and her restoration projects worldwide, she has become the leading specialist in this field today. Building bridges between East and West and breaking down prejudices has been a major concern of hers for years. From 2005 to 2020, she lived in an eco-wood house manufactured by an Austrian company that she had built near Dresden. Ecology, sustainability and anti-consumerism have long been her maxims in life. She has been cycling since the age of five and has also undertaken cycling and long-distance hiking tours.



### **Our project:**

#### **By wooden bicycle from Aachen to Tehran – VeloEast • TreeEast**

Shahin has already walked this long route with his Rhönrad (gym wheel) passing through Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Iran. As his special travel vehicle, the Rhönrad was also the main protagonist of his artistic practice (photography, film). Now we will travel the route on wooden bicycles and take the Rhönrad with us on a trailer. In this way, ten years after Shahin's first journey, the wheel will come to Tehran for an exhibition.

Along the way, we will plant a tree every 6.5 km - an ancient Persian measure of length (the parsakh) and the distance of precisely 1,000 rolls of the gym wheel - for which we will find sponsors and local tree seedling guardians, thus creating an internationally sustainable avenue of trees as well as a network of people and trees, stretching almost 6,000 km. In eight months, we will plant 1001 trees, of which each costs 101 EUR. The tree species will be selected according to the local soil and natural environmental conditions with local partners and tree nurseries. Each tree receives a wooden sign with the name of the tree sponsor, the tree seedling guardian, information about the tree and the project and is documented on the [TreeEast](#) website. Any additional donations will be used to create and plant a classic Persian garden - a bustan - in Iran. Our project will be divided into two sections of four months each, so that we can plant the trees in the spring and autumn months to ensure the seedlings grow.

Shahin brings the knowhow and experience with social media and CrowdFunding from his previous projects. Social media activities will start before the trip: including building the bicycles, finding tree sponsors, documenting the trees, CrowdFunding for the trees, etc.



We have already found some partners who are making their products available free of charge for our project:

[Chris Mroz](#) from [RENOVO](#) (Gig Harbor, USA) building two extraordinary [wooden bicycle frames](#) for our bikes.

[Veolo](#) from Leipzig is providing us with an innovative trailer for our long journey.

[Velo](#) from Aachen supports us with the bicycle components (wheels, forks, handlebars, gears etc.)

## **Carpet fragment #68 CulturalxCollabs - Weaving the Future**

In October 2023, the Pergamon Museum in Berlin and the Museum of Islamic Art closed its doors for 3.5 years for renovation. However, a carpet fragment from the Museum of Islamic Art arrived in Aachen a couple of weeks ago and will accompany us on our journey and during our preparations. #68 is one of 100 fragments of a hand-woven copy of the famous Dragon Carpet, which is part of the international cultural and collaboration project [CulturalxCollabs - Weaving the Future](#) at the Museum of Islamic Art Berlin in the Pergamon Museum. The carpet fragment will accompany Shahin over the next few months and was an exhibit in his exhibition at the [LOGOI](#) Gallery in Aachen in spring 2024. It will be constantly filled with life and undergo transformations during performances.

On its journey from Germany to Iran, this precious carpet fragment will also cross the Caucasus, the region where the Dragon Carpet was originally woven in the seventeenth century. Along the way, the fragment will collect many traces including attending a fire ceremony in Azerbaijan, for example, to draw attention to the tragic history of the Berlin Dragon carpet, which was severely damaged in a fire shortly before the end of the Second World War.

### **Websites/blogs:**

[TreeEast](#) – trees and their places/patrons

[VeloEast](#) – bicycles and the way/places

[RollEast](#) – gym wheel and places

### **Contact:**

Shahin Tivay Sadatolhosseini +49 172 2024498 shahin.sadatolhosseini@gmail.com

### **Links:**

[The Roll – building bridges to connect Teaser](#)

[New Yorker](#)

[RollEast Teaser](#)

password: radtour

[YavashYavash](#)

[RollEast](#)

[RollWest Teaser](#)

password: RollWest2021