



Hans Christian Andersen Award 1974



Farshid Mesghali

 Iran

While Mesghali's work is rooted in his culture, his childhood and his experiences, his themes and visual language are universal and can be understood worldwide.

Farshid Mesghali was born in Isfahan. He studied art at Tehran University and began working at the Negin magazine in 1964 as a graphic designer and illustrator. Between 1970 and 1978 he made numerous award-winning animated films, film posters and children's books for the Tehran Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, among them the film *The Boy, the Bird and the Musical Instrument*, which was awarded a prize at the Venice Film festival in 1972. In 1979 he moved to Paris and worked as an artist producing sculptures and paintings. He moved to Southern California in 1986 where he opened a graphic design studio and began to design virtual reality environments for the internet. Mesghali returned to Iran in 1998.

He was one of the leaders of the modern Iranian picture book scene and has influenced generations of young artists. His artwork focusses on traditional Persian folktales combining elements of modern illustrative art with those of traditional folklore. One of his most beloved books, *The Little Black Fish*, written by Samuel Bahrang, shows the importance of learning to fight against prejudice and for freedom and individual rights.

F. Mesghali