

The Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation



The judges & entries for the 2024 Prize

The Banipal Trust for Arab Literature is delighted to announce both the judging panel for the 2024 prize and details of the diverse entries they will be considering.

The new four-member judging panel comprises:

- **Raphael Cohen** (Chair) – Freelance translator in the fields of literature (fiction and poetry), politics and development
- **Michael Caines** – Editor at the Times Literary Supplement and co-founder of the Brixton Review of Books
- **Laura Watkinson** – Award-winning literary translator, mainly from Dutch into English, and also from German, Italian, and Frisian
- **Nariman Youssef** – Literary translator and translation consultant



In this nineteenth year of the prize there are 19 entries by 14 different publishers. They comprise ten novels, two short story collections, three poetry collections, two memoirs (one of which is graphic), one literary biography, and one work of YA fiction. There are 18 authors (ten women and eight men), one of whom has two entries, and 20 translators (11 women, eight men, and one non-binary person), two of whom have two entries. The entries are listed, title first, in alphabetical order by the translator's surname, or by the first translator's surname when there are two.



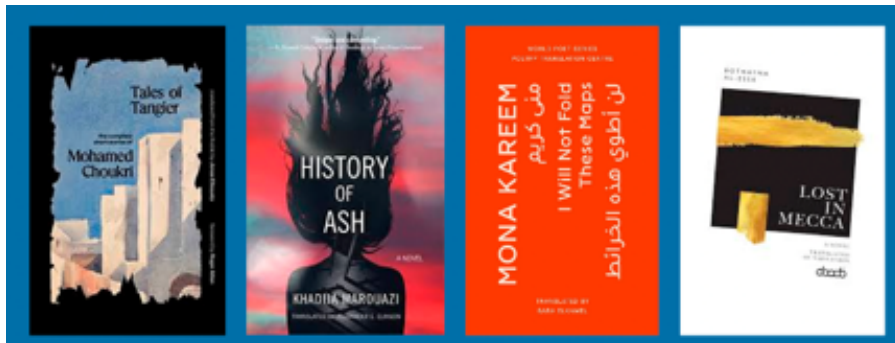
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Yoghurt and Jam: or How My Mother Became Lebanese by Lena Merhej, translated by Nadiyah Abdullatif and Anam Zafar (Balestier Press)

A Friend's Kitchen by Al-Saddiq Al-Raddi, translated by Bryar Bajalan and Shook (Poetry Translation Centre)

Sour Grapes by Zakaria Tamer, translated by Alessandro Columbu and Mireia Costa Capallera (Syracuse University Press)

The House of the Coptic Woman by Ashraf El-Ashmawi, translated by Peter Daniel (Hoopoe an Imprint of AUC Press)



Tales of Tangier: The Complete Short Stories of Mohamed Choukri by Mohamed Choukri, translated by Jonas Elbousty (Yale University Press)

History of Ash by Khadija Marouazi, translated by Alexander E. Elinson (Hoopoe an Imprint of AUC Press)

I Will Not Fold These Maps by Mona Kareem, translated by Sara Elkamel (Poetry Translation Centre)

Lost in Mecca by Bothayna Al-Essa, translated by Nada Faris (DarArab)



Rotten Evidence by Ahmed Naji, translated by Katharine Halls (McSweeney's)

Poison in the Air by Jabbour Douaihy, translated by Paula Haydar (Interlink Books)

Before the Queen Falls Asleep by Huzama Habayeb, translated by Kay Heikkinen (MacLehose Press)

Edo's Souls by Stella Gaitano, translated by Sawad Hussain (Dedalus)



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The Djinn's Apple by Djamila Morani, translated by Sawad Hussain (Neem Tree Press)

The Baghdad Villa by Zuheir El-Hetti, translated by Samira Kawar (Interlink Books)

Traces of Enayat by Iman Mersal, translated by Robin Moger (And Other Stories)

Strangers in Light Coats: Selected Poems, 2014–2020 by Ghassan Zaqtan, translated by Robin Moger (Seagull Books)



Rose's Diaries by Reem Al Kamali, translated by Chip Rossetti (ELF Publishing)

The Last Crossing by Badriya Al-Badri, translated by Katherine Van De Vate (DarArab for Publishing and Translation)

An Old Carriage with Curtains by Ghassan Zaqtan, translated by Samuel Wilder (Seagull Books)

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About the Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation

The prize is an annual award of £3,000, made to the translator(s) of a published translation in English of a full-length imaginative and creative Arabic work of literary merit published after, or during, the year 1967 and first published in English translation in the year prior to the award. It was the first prize in the world for published Arabic literary translation into English and was established by *Banipal*, the magazine of modern Arab literature in English translation, and the Banipal Trust for Arab Literature. The inaugural prize was awarded 9 October 2006.

Administration of the Prize

The prize is administered by the Society of Authors in the United Kingdom, alongside many other prizes (annual, biennial, triennial) for literary translation from languages that include Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish, and a prize for first translation into English from any other language. The prizes are awarded together at an annual ceremony hosted by the Society of Authors.

Sponsorship of the Prize

The prize is wholly sponsored by the Saif Ghobash family in memory of the late Saif Ghobash, husband and father, who was passionate about Arabic literature and other literatures of the world, and is named in his memory.

For further history of the prize, please go to:

<https://www.banipaltrust.org.uk/prize/>

<https://www.banipaltrust.org.uk/prize/judges.cfm>

<https://www.banipaltrust.org.uk/prize/press.cfm>