



*Celebrating twenty years of*  
**The Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize  
for Arabic Literary Translation**

**2025 Prize Judges and Entries**

The Banipal Trust for Arab Literature is pleased to announce both the judging panel for the 2025 prize and details of the diverse entries that they will be considering.

The new four-member panel comprises:

- **Professor Tina Phillips (Chair)** – Scholar and translator of modern Arabic literature
- **Dr Susan F. Frenk** – Principal of St Aidan's College, Durham University
- **Nashwa Nasreldin** – Writer, editor and literary translator
- **Boyd Tonkin Hon. FRSL** – Journalist, writer and former Literary Editor at *The Independent*

In this twentieth year of the prize there are 17 entries by 12 different publishers. They comprise 13 novels, one poetry collection, one short story collection, one memoir and one book for young readers. There are 16 authors (ten men and six women), one of whom has two entries, and 18 translators (14 women and four men), one of whom has two entries. The entries are listed, title first, in alphabetical order by the translator's surname, or by the first translator's surname if there are two.

- [\*The Guardian of Surfaces\*](#) by Bothayna Al-Essa, translated by **Ranya Abdelrahman** and **Sawad Hussain** (Selkies House Limited)
- [\*Huddud's House\*](#) by Fadi Azzam, translated by **Ghada Alatrash** (Interlink Publishing)
- [\*The Halva-Maker: The Trilogy of the Fatimids \(Sicilian, Armenian, Kurdish\)\*](#) by Reem Bassiouney, translated by **Roger Allen** (DarArab for Publishing and Translation)

- [\*Heiress of Honour\*](#) by George Maalouli, translated by **Yacine Mohammed Belguendouz** (TASQ Publishing House)
- [\*Honey Hunger\*](#) by Zahran Alqasmi, translated by **Marilyn Booth** (Hoopoe, an imprint of the American University in Cairo Press)
- [\*Sages of Darkness: A Depiction of Kurdish Life in Late Ottoman Times\*](#) by Salim Barakat, translated by **Aviva Butt** (Peter Lang)
- [\*1970: The Last Days\*](#) by Sonallah Ibrahim, translated by **Eleanor Ellis** (Seagull Books)
- [\*The Universe. All at Once\*](#) by Salim Barakat, translated by **Huda J. Fakhreddine** (Seagull Books)
- [\*A Spring That Did Not Blossom\*](#) by Nejme Khalil Habib, translated by **Samar Habib** (Interlink Publishing)
- [\*On the Greenwich Line\*](#) by Shady Lewis, translated by **Katharine Halls** (Peirene Press)
- [\*Granada: The Complete Trilogy\*](#) by Radwa Ashour, translated by **Kay Heikkinen** (Hoopoe, an imprint of the American University in Cairo Press)
- [\*Land of Sweetheart Deals\*](#) by Wajdi Al-Ahdal, translated by **William M. Hutchins** (DarArab for Publishing and Translation)
- [\*We Never Swim in the Same River Twice\*](#) by Hassouna Mosbahi, translated by **William Maynard Hutchins** (Syracuse University Press)
- [\*The Tale of a Wall: Reflections on Hope and Freedom\*](#) by Nasser Abu Srou, translated by **Luke Leafgren** (Penguin Press)
- [\*A Long Walk from Gaza\*](#) by Asmaa Alatawna, translated by **Caline Nasrallah** and **Michelle Hartman** (Interlink Publishing)
- [\*Thunderbird: Book 3\*](#) by Sonia Nimr, translated by **M. Lynx Qualey** (Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas at Austin)
- [\*Sand-Catcher\*](#) by Omar Khalifah, translated by **Barbara Romaine** (Coffee House Press)

For digital images of the judges and the front covers of the entries, click [here](#). Most of the books are available for purchase from the prize's page on [Bookshop.org](#). Please note that the Trust, as an affiliate, receives 10% of the proceeds of sales made on Bookshop.org.

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## Notice of Twentieth Anniversary Celebrations

The 2025 prize marks the twentieth anniversary of the Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize. To celebrate this important milestone, the Banipal Trust for Arab Literature will be producing online content and hosting a series of events in London and Dubai between October 2025 and February 2026. More information will be added to the

Trust's [website](#) in due course, and announcements will be made on the prize's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter/X](#) pages.

This year's short list will be announced on 1 December 2025, and the winner and runner-up on 7 January 2026.



### **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 during or after 1967 and first published in English translation in the year prior to the award. This year, for the first time, an award of £1,000 will also be made to a runner-up.

The Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize 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 on 9 October 2006.

### **Administration of the Prize**

The prize is administered by the Society of Authors in the United Kingdom, alongside other (annual, biennial, triennial) prizes for literary translation from languages that include Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish, and also the Society's Translators' Association First Translation Prize for a debut translation into English from any language and the newly established John Calder Translation Prize for a full-length ambitious, groundbreaking work of literary merit and general interest translated into English from any language. More information on the SoA's translation prizes can be found [here](#).

### **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 it is named in his memory.

### **For further history of the prize, please go to:**

<https://www.banipaltrust.org.uk/prize/award2025>

<https://www.banipaltrust.org.uk/prize/judges2025>

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