

BRITISH
LIBRARY

Shubbak

Two days of inspirational
Arab literature

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 July 2017



شبابك: نافذة على
الثقافة العربية
المعاصرة
A WINDOW ON
CONTEMPORARY
ARAB CULTURE

SHUBBAK

Shubbak and the British Library present a fascinating range of writers from across the Arab world and the diaspora to amuse, move, uplift, provoke and soothe with tales of the ancient, the modern, the futuristic and the timeless.

The traditional meets the experimental as we cross literary genres, from poetry to graphic novels, science fiction to romance, and everything in between.

Featuring big names and emerging voices, with authors writing in Arabic, English or even a mixture of the two, and authors translating their own work or each other's work into and out of Arabic. We are excited to welcome a vibrant and diverse group of writers, each one of them pushing boundaries in their own way.

Al Saqi Bookshop will be running a book stall featuring all the writers appearing at the festival in the Knowledge Centre foyer throughout the weekend.

Prices

Single event tickets	£8 (£6 concs)
One day tickets	£16 (£14 concs)
Two day tickets	£24 (£22 concs)

www.shubbak.co.uk

www.bl.uk/whats-on

Saturday 15 July

Writing Against the Grain

Saturday 12.30 – 13.45

What are the inspirations and challenges for the engaged Arab author writing against the grain in 2017? Syrian British writer Robin Yassin-Kassab hosts Iraqi novelist, poet and publisher Ali Badr, Libyan playwright and novelist Mansour Bushnaf and Kuwait-born poet and translator Mona Kareem.

A New Confidence: Recent Queer Writing

Saturday 14.15 – 15.30

A new confidence has blossomed in Arab artists creating queer narratives in recent years. Join Saleem Haddad, Amahl Khouri and Alexandra Chreiteh, three ground-breaking contemporary writers from across the region, for readings from their work and discussion. Hosted by Alberto Fernández Carbajal.

Comics and Cartoon Art from the Arab World

13 June – 29 October

Explore the art, history and significance of Arab comics from the 19th century to today.
Sir John Ritblat Treasures Gallery

FREE

Sunday 16 July



Rasha Abbas: The Seven of Cups

Saturday 16.00 – 17.00

Syrian writer Rasha Abbas has undertaken a month-long creative research residency with Shubbak and the British Library, exploring the brief period when Syria and Egypt became one nation (1958–61). She will reflect on the questions this historical phase raises about Arab nationalism and populism.

Keepers of the Flame: Contemporary Arabic Poetry

Saturday 17.30 – 19.00

An array of mesmerising performances hosted by Malika Booker. Joining the event: Golan Haji, a Syrian Kurdish poet premiering new work translated by Stephen Watts; New York-based bilingual poet and translator Mona Kareem; multi-award-winning Iraqi American poet Dunya Mikhail; and Al-Saddiq Al-Raddi, one of the most acclaimed African poets writing in Arabic today.



The Waking Nightmare: Post-revolutionary Egyptian Dystopias

Sunday 3.30 – 14.45

Horror, realism and black humour. Hear award-winning writers from the dark new wave of Egyptian literature read from and discuss their work. Journalist, novelist and psychiatrist Basma Abdel Aziz joins multimedia and graphic artist Ganzeer, and novelist and editor Mohammad Rabie. Hosted by literary translator Elisabeth Jaquette.

Under the Radar: Women writing from outside the Arab literary mainstream

Sunday 15.15 – 16.30

Facing multiple intersectional challenges, how do female Libyan and Yemeni authors keep creating? Journalist and broadcaster Bidisha hosts a discussion and readings from Najwa Benschatwan (shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction) from Libya, and Nadia Al-Kokabany from Yemen, whose acclaimed novel *The Ali Muhsin Market* is a tale of the Yemeni revolution.



Susan Abulhawa in conversation with Gillian Slovo

Sunday 17.30 – 19.00

In this special appearance, multi-award winning Palestinian American novelist Susan Abulhawa (*Mornings in Jenin*) will read from her books and discuss themes from the politically specific, to the timeless and universal. Hosted by South African born author Gillian Slovo.



Children's Poetry Workshops
Weaving a Magic Carpet of Poems

FREE

Sunday 14.30 – 15.30

Join poet Sabrina Mahfouz for a lively, fun and interactive children's poetry workshop. Learn to weave your everyday experiences into the fabric of Arab folk tales and produce your own magic carpet of poetry.

Saturday: ages 6 years +
Sunday: ages 10 years +

Places limited, advance booking essential

Cie Chatha: SACRÉ PRINTEMPS!

FREE

Thursday 6 July 12.00, 16.00, 18.30

A choreographic Tunisian streetscape recreated on the British Library Piazza

Inspired by the hopes and pressures of building a new civil society, choreographers Aïcha M'Barek and Hafiz Dhaou create a visceral streetscape of today's Tunisia. Five dancers jostle, fight and compete among more than 30 life-sized silhouettes based on drawings by street artist Bilal Berreni.

Co-presented with The Place. Additional support from Institut Français and En Scene!

Shubbak Festival in association with the British Library with support from: The A M Qattan Foundation; Arab Fund for Arts and Culture – AFAC; British Council; International Prize for Arabic Fiction; Al Mawred Al Thaqafy; The British Institute for the Study of Iraq; and Institut Français du Royaume-Uni.

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The British Library
96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB
📍 King's Cross St Pancras and Euston