

Ramallah Poetry Festival

15-18 August 2018

For the second year, Ramallah launches its poetry festival and opens its windows to welcome the air of the Mediterranean sea. This is the Palestinian image for the Voix Vives poetry festival that expands from shore to shore. Ramallah continues to pursue its endeavor to be one of the cities that provides its space for the different manifestations of language. In this it captures an imaginative collective image of poetic voices.

Lively images and profound beating voices that erupt within the body of a place is what can be referred to as memory. Civilization is the readiness to constantly travel between the elements of life, and the consciousness that can continuously connect between time and place and between what was, what is, and what will be. Ramallah's poetry festival is an honorable recognition that the cities are its poets. It is a generous house of the Mediterranean that welcomes its old and new partners as well as, friends that have witnessed together a single history that comes with a diverse but harmonious rhythm and varying images that are still similar.

With the new poetic voices, innovative inspirations, and diverse spaces, Palestine holds on to the accomplishments it has brought forth last year. With a high sense of responsibility that is shared by the Ramallah Municipality, Mahmoud Darwish Institution, and Association Libre Culture – France, we would like to reiterate our deep gratitude and thanks to all the teams that contributed in preparing and executing this event. We send our warmest thanks to our poets as they celebrate poetry in a city that is joyous in celebrating them.

Maïthé Vallès-Bled

International Director of the Festival

Sally Abu Bakr

Director of Culture and Social Affairs Department

Ramallah Municipality

Sameh Khader

Director General- Mahmoud Darwish Museum

Voix Vives

مهرجان الشعر
من متوسط إلى متوسط

The International coordination committee

Director and Founder of the Festival

Maïthé Vallès-Bled

Honorary Chairman

Salah Stétié (France-Liban)

" Marraine "

Sapho (France-Morocco)

Antoine Jockey (France-Lebanon)

Antoine Simon (France)

Casimiro De Brito (Portugal)

Catherine Farhi (France)

Claudio Pozzani (Italy)

Ghassan Zaqtan (Palestine)

Frank Smith (France)

Janine Gdalia (France)

Kolia Micevic (Bosnia-Herzegovina)

Iossif Ventura (Greece)

Marianne Catzaras (France)

Mohammed Bennis (Morocco)

Noni Benegas (Spain)

Ozdemir Ince (Turkey)

Pierre Oster (France)

Vénus Khoury-Ghata (France-Lebanon)

Víctor Rodríguez Nuñez (Cuba)

Xévahir Spahiu (Albania)

Voix Vives

مهرجان الشعر
من متوسط إلى متوسط

Ramallah Festival staff

Direction

Maïthé Vallès-Bled

Sally Abu Bakr

Sameh Khader

International coordination

Ghassan Zaqtan

Ramallah artistic staff

Faris Sabaneh

Hama Freij

Maram Totah

Nidal Ka'bi

Raneen Hadeed

Taghreed Assaira

Wattan Miqdady

Sète artistic staff

Marie- Helene Monclus

Ramallah technical staff

Abdalla Weshahi

Adi Al-Hindi

Ali Thabet

Ashraf Mashni

Basim Shunnarah

Hassan Wahsh

Ibrahim Ataya

Khaled Mtour

Malvena Aljamal

Muhannad Abu Hamdia

Said Abu Zaid

Safaa Dweik

Tareq Reshmawi

Sète technical staff

Soan Czepczynski

Yann Guerrero

Graphic creation

Kamil Qallalwah

Voix Vives

مهرجان الشعر
من متوسط إلى متوسط

Poets

Albania	Malta
Agim Vinca	Glen Calleja
Algeria/France	Palestine
Yvan Tetelbom	Ahmad Yacoub
Chile	Ali Mawasi
Patricio Sanchez Rojas	Amer Badran
Cuba	Anas Alaily
Rodolfo Häsler	Dalia Taha
France	Jadal Al-Qasim
Antoine Simon	Khaled Juma
Janine Gdalia	Rajaa Ghanem
Greece	Razan Bannoura
Liana Sakelliou	Sheikha Hlewa
Italy	Tarek Alkarmi
Claudio Pozzani	Wasim Kurdi
Luxembourg	Portugal
Jean Portante	Maria João Cantinho
Macedonia	Spain
Filip Kletnikov	Carlos Avila
	Sweden/ Palesine
	Ghayyath Almadhoun
	Syria
	Faraj Bayrakdar
	Marwan Ali

Voix Vives

مهرجان الشعر
من متوسط إلى متوسط

Presenters

Ahmad Harb
Ali Abu Ajamieh
Asmaa Abu Ayyash
Bashar Alhroub
Carol Khoury
Emile Ashrawi
Faris Sabaneh
George Khleifi
Hala Shrouf
Hanna attallah
Iman Oun
Lina Qadri
Maram Totah
Mahmoud Abu Hashhash
Moheeb Barghouthi
Nabil Barham
Nadia Harhash
Nidal Rafe'
Nida Awine
Omar Ziadeh
Rania Alhusseini
Rawan Farhat
Rita Taha
Saleem Tamari
Sameh Abboushi
Suad Al-Amri
Tanya Nasser
Tarek Asrawi

Musicians

Baker Khleifi (Oud)
George Ghattas (lute)
Joseph Duqmaq (Piano)
Karam Faris (Lute)
Mohammad Karazoun
(Percussion)
Mohammad Qutati
(Accordion)
Nadim Faris (Clarinet)
Reem Malki (Singer)
Roula Safar (Vocal &
Guitar)
Samer Jaradat (Percussion)
Tarek Abboushi (lute)
Tarek Faris (Oud)
Tarek Imseh (Zither)

Translators & Editors

Hala Shrouf - English
Manal Rafe - Arabic
Mariam Barghouthi - English
Nidaa Awine - French
Nuha Abu Arqoub - Spanish
Sameh Khader - English
Walid Sweirki - French

Wednesday 15

18H00

18:00

**Ramallah Park,
4 Issa Ziadeh St., City center**

Opening Ceremony

Music improvisation: Duo of Mandoline and Percussion by Samer Jaradat and Tarek Abboushi.

Musical performance and singing: Roula Safar (France)

All poets: Agim Vinca (Albania), Yvan Tetelbom (Algeria/France), Patricio Sanchez Rojas (Chile), Rodolfo Häsler (Cuba), Janine Gdalia (France), Antoine Simon (France), Liana Sakelliou (Greece), Claudio Pozzani (Italy), Jean Portante (Luxembourg), Filip Kletnikov (Macedonia), Glen Calleja (Malta), Ahmad Yacoub (Palestine), Ali Mawasi (Palestine), Amer Badran (Palestine), Anas Alaily (Palestine), Dalia Taha (Palestine), Jadal Al-Qassim (Palestine), Khalid Juma (Palestine), Rajaa Ghanem (Palestine), Razan Bannoura (Palestine), Sheikha Hlewa (Palestine), Tarek Alkarmi (Palestine), Wasim Kurdi (Palestine), Maria João Cantinho (Portugal), Carlos Avila (Spain), Ghayyath Al-Madhoun (Sweden/Palestine), Faraj Bayrakdar (Syria), Marwan Ali (Syria).

Presenter: Mrs. Maram Totah & Mr. Faris Sabaneh.

*We do as prisoners and unemployed do:
We nurse hope*

Mahmoud Darwish - Palestine



Thursday 16

10H00

10:00 - 11:00

City Plaza, Ramallah
4 Issa Ziadeh St., City Center

Reading at the Foot of the tree

Agim Vinca (Albania), Rodolfo Häsler (Cuba), Glen Calleja (Malta), Khaled Juma (Palestine).

Presenter: Mr. Bashar Alhroub.

10:00 - 11:00

Beit Sa'a
3 Dar Awwad St., Old City

10H00

Poetry and Music in the Air

Ahmad Yacoub (Palestine), Marwan Ali (Syria), Janine Gdalia (France), Maria João Cantinho (Portugal).

Music: Roula Safar.

Presenter: Mrs. Tanya Nasser.

10:00 - 11:00

Old City Court
Old City - Ramallah

10H00

Resounding Poetry

Sonorous & Visual Poetry

Amer Badran (Palestine), Carlos Avila (Spain), Filip Kletnikov (Macedonia), Ghayyath Al-Madhoun (Sweden/Palestine).

Presenter: Mrs. Nida Awine.

11H30

11:30 - 12:30

Al-Kamandjati Music Association
72 Al-Shaqra St., Old City

Solo Voice

Faraj Bayrakdar (Syria).

Presenter: Mrs. Asmaa Abu Ayyash.

11H30

11:30 - 12:30

Ramallah Park,
4 Issa Ziadeh St., City Center

Being a Poet in His Own Country

Rajaa Ghanem (Palestine), Yvan Tetelbom (Algeria/ France).

Presenter: Mrs. Rania Alhusseini.

Thursday 16

Bethlehem Reading

12H00

Nativity Court Reading:

Claudio Pozzani (Italy), Glen Calleja (Malta),
Ghayyath Almadhoun (Sweden/ Palestine),
Razan Bannoura (Palestine)

15H00

15:00 - 16:00

A. M. Qattan Foundation
22 Al-Jihad St., Al-Masyoun

Full Blast Poetry

Sonorous & Visual Poetry

Sheikha Hlewa (Palestine), Filip Kletnikov
(Macedonia).

Music: Tarek Imseh (Zither).

Presenter: Mr. Nabil Barham.

15H00

15:00 - 16:00

Ottoman Courthouse
25 Issa Ziada St., Old City

Siesta with Sound & Words

Dalia Taha (Palestine), Ali Mawasi (Palestine),
Antoine Simon (France).

Music: Roula Safar

Presenter: Mr. Omar Ziadeh

16H30

16:30 - 17:30

Tamer Institute for Community Education
50 Al-Shaqra St., Old City

From Voice to Voice

Tarek Alkarmi (Palestine), Liana Sakelliou
(Greece), Janine Gdalia (France), Jadal Al-
Qasim (Palestine).

Presenter: Mrs. Nidal Rafe

16H30

16:30 - 17:30

Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center
4 Al-Raja' St., Al-Masyoun

A Capriccio Music and Poetry

Razan Bannoura (Palestine), Agim Vinca
(Albania), Maria João Cantinho (Portugal).

Music: Nadim Faris (Solo Clarinet).

Presenter: Mrs. Iman Oun.

Thursday 16

18H00

18:00 - 18:45

Ottoman Courthouse
25 Issa Ziada St., Old City

One Poet and a Book

Patricio Sanchez Rojas (Chile).

Presenter: Mrs. Nadia Harhash.

18H00

18:00 - 18:45

Beit Sa'a
3 Dar Awwad St., Old City

Poetry for Youngsters

Ali Mawasi (Palestine).

Presenter: Mrs. Hala Shrouf.

19H00

19:00 - 20:00

Mahmoud Darwish Museum
1 Al-Sindiyanah St., Al-Masyoun

From Shore to Shore

Anais Alaily (Palestine), Rajaa Ghanem (Palestine), Ghayyath Almadhoun (Sweden/Palestine), Carlos Avila (Spain), Liana Sakelliou (Greece).

Presenter: Mrs. Lina Qadri.

19H00

19:00 - 20:00

City Plaza, Ramallah
4 Issa Ziada St., City Center

Poetry: A Territory for Peace

Dalia Taha (Palestine), Rodolfo Häsler (Cuba), Maria João Cantinho (Portugal), Khalid Juma (Palestine), Amer Badran (Palestine).

Presenter: Mr. Saleem Tamari.

20H30

20:30 - 22:00

Nilson Mandela Square
Al-Tireh

Poetry and Music

Wasim Kurdi (Palestine), Sheikha Hlewa (Palestine), Janine Gdalia (France), Claudio Pozzani (Italy), Faraj Bayrakdar (Syria).

Music: Baker Khleifi (Solo Oud)

Presenter: Mrs. Suad Al-Amri.

Friday 17

10H00

10:00 - 11:00

Ottoman Courthouse
25 Issa Ziadeh St., Old City

Reading at the Foot of the tree

Razan Bannoura (Palestine), Ali Mawasi (Palestine), Marwan Ali (Syria), Yvan Tetelbom (Algeria/ France).

Presenter: Mrs. Nida Awine.

10H00

10:00 - 11:00

Beit Sa'a
3 Dar Awwad St., Old City

Poetry and Music in the Air

Wasim Kurdi (Palestine), Patricio Sanchez Rojas (Chile), Glen Calleja (Malta), Amer Badran (Palestine).

Music: Baker Khleifi (Solo Oud)

Presenter: Dr. Ahmad Harb.

10H00

10:00 - 10:30

Old City Court
Old City - Ramallah

Resounding Poetry

Sonorous & Visual Poetry

Tarek Alkarmi (Palestine), Liana Sakelliou (Greece).

Presenter: Mrs. Rania Alhuseini

11H30

11:30 - 12:30

Beit Sa'a
3 Dar Awwad St., Old City

Solo Voice

Reading and Debate with a poet
Agim Vinca (Albania).

Presenter: Mr. Nabil Barham.

11H30

11:30 - 12:30

Old City Court
Old City - Ramallah

Being a Poet in His Own Country

Khaled Juma (Palestine), Antoine Simone (France).

Presenter: Mrs. Nidal Rafe.

Friday 17

15H00

15:00 - 16:00

Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center

4 Al-Raja' St., Al-Masyoun

Siesta with Sounds & Words

Ahmad Yacoub (Palestine), Maria João Cantinho (Portugal), Patricio Sanchez Rojas (Chile), Rajaa Ghanem (Palestine).

Music: Tarek Faris (Solo Oud)

Presenter: Mr. Sameh Abboushi

15H00

15:00 - 16:00

Ramallah Park,

4 Issa Ziadeh St., City Center

Sonorous & Visual Poetry

Rodolfo Häslar (Cuba), Faraj Bayrakdar (Syria), Tarek Alkarmi (Palestine), Agim Vinca (Albania).

Presenter: Mrs. Rita Taha.

16H30

16:30 - 17:30

A. M. Qattan Foundation

22 Al-Jihad St., Al-Masyoun

From Voice to Voice

Dalia Taha (Palestine), Anas Alaily (Palestine), Janine Gdalia (France), Claudio Pozzani (Italy), Glen Calleja (Malta).

Presenter: Mr. Mahmoud Abu Hashhash.



Friday 17

16H30

16:30 - 17:30

Old City Court

Old City - Ramallah

A Capriccio Music and Poetry

Sheikha Hlewa (Palestine), Razan Bannoura (Palestine), Filip Kletnikov (Macedonia), Yvan Tetelbom (Algeria/ France).

Music: Baker Khleifi (Solo Oud).

Presenter: Mr. George Khleifi.

18H00

18:00 - 18:45

Ottoman Courthouse

25 Issa Ziada St., Old City

One Poet and a Book

Carlos Avila (Spain).

Presenter: Mrs. Carol Khoury.

18H00

18:00 - 18:45

Amphitheater, Ramallah City Hall

4 Issa Ziadeh St., City Center

Poetry for Youngsters

Jean Portante (Luxembourg).

Presenter: Mr. George Khleifi

19H00

19:00 - 20:00

Mahmoud Darwish Museum

1 Al-Sindiyana St., Al-Masyoun

From Shore to Shore

Antoine Simon (France), Jadal Al-Qasim (Palestine), Ghayyath Almadhoun (Sweden/ Palestine), Rodolfo Häsler (Cuba).

Presenter: Mrs. Suad Al-Amri.

19H00

19:00 - 20:00

Ottoman Courthouse

25 Issa Ziada St., Old City

Poetry: A Territory for Peace

Rajaa Ghanem (Palestine), Liana Sakelliou (Greece), Claudio Pozzani (Italy).

Presenter: Mrs. Hala Shrouf.

Friday 17

Jerusalem

19H00

19:00 - 20:00

Al-Ma'mal Foundation

**8, Al-Jawalida St., New Gate, Old City,
Jerusalem**

Jerusalem

Old City Reading

Sheikha Hlewa (Palestine), Janine Gdalia (France), Agim Vinca (Albania), Filip Kletnikov (Macedonia).

Presenter: Mrs. Nadia Harhash

20H30

20:30 - 22:00

Garden of Nations

40 Al-Jihad St., Al-Masyoun

Poetry and Music

Ali Mawasi (Palestine), Marwan Ali (Syria), Patricio Sanchez Rojas (Chile), Wasim Kurdi (Palestine).

Music: Tarek Alkarmi (Solo Flute), Karam Faris (Solo Mandoline)

Presenter: Mr. Emile Ashrawi.



Saturday 18

10H00

10:00 - 11:00

Old City Court

Old City - Ramallah

Reading at the Foot of the tree

Rajaa Ghanem (Palestine), Jean Portante (Luxembourg), Faraj Bayrakdar (Syria), Agim Vinca (Albania).

Presenter: Mrs. Asmaa Abu Ayyash.

10H00

10:00 - 11:00

Beit Sa'a

3 Dar Awwad St., Old City

Poetry and Music in the Air

Ali Mawasi (Palestine), Tarek Alkarmi (Palestine), Janine Gdalia (France), Marwan Ali (Syria),

Music: Roula Safar

Presenter: Mr. Emile Ashrawi.

10H00

10:00 - 10:30

Amphitheater, Ramallah City Hall

4 Issa Ziadeh St., City Center

Visual Poetry

Glen Calleja (Malta), Ghayyath Al-Madhoun (Sweden/ Palestine).

Presenter: Mrs. Rawan Farhat.

11H30

11:30 - 12:30

Beit Sa'a

3 Dar Awwad St., Old City

Solo Voice

Ahmad Yacoub (Palestine).

Presenter: Mr. Moheeb Barghouthi.

11H30

11:30 - 12:30

A. M. Qattan Foundation

22 Al-Jihad St., Al-Masyoun

Being a Poet in His Own Country

Jadal Al-Qasim (Palestine), Anas Alaily (Palestine), Claudio Pozzani (Italy), Antoine Simon (France).

Presenter: Mr. Mahmoud Abu Hashhash.

Saturday 18

15H00

15:00 - 16:00

City Plaza, Ramallah
4 Issa Ziadeh St., City Center

Siesta with Sound & Words

Sonorous & Visual Poetry

Amer Badran (Palestine), Agim Vinca (Albania).

Music: Nadim Faris (Solo Clarinet).

Presenter: Mr. Tarek Asrawi.

15H00

15:00 - 16:00

Ottoman Courthouse
25 Issa Ziada St., Old City

Full Blast Poetry

Glen Calleja (Malta), Sheikha Hlewa (Palestine),
Carlos Avila (Spain), Filip Kletnikov (Macedonia).

Presenter: Mr. Hanna Attallah.

16H30

16:30 - 17:30

AlKamandjati Music Association
70 Al-Shaqra St., Old City

From Voice to Voice

Maria João Cantinho (Portugal), Khaled Juma
(Palestine), Razan Bannoura (Palestine), Yvan
Tetelbom (Algeria/ France).

Presenter: Mrs. Lina Qadri.

16H30

16:30 - 17:30

Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center
4 Al-Raja' St., Al-Masyoun

A Capriccio Music and Poetry

Ahmad Yacoub (Palestine), Marwan Ali (Syria),
Dalia Taha (Palestine).

Music: Roula Safar.

Presenter: Mrs. Iman Oun.

Saturday 18

18H00

18:00 - 18:45

Beit Sa'a

3 Dar Awwad St., Old City

One Poet and a Book

Ghayath Al-Madhoun (Sweden/ Palestine).

Presenter: Mr. Ali Abu Ajamieh.

18H00

18:00 - 18:45

Ottoman Courthouse

25 Issa Ziada St., Old City

Poetry for Youngsters

Liana Sakelliou (Greece).

Presenter: Mr. Sameh Abboushi.

19H00

19:00 - 20:00

Amphitheater, Ramallah City Hall

4 Issa Ziada St., City Center

From Shore to Shore

Jean Portante (Luxembourg), Rodolfo Häsler (Cuba), Jadal Al-Qasim (Palestine), Agim Vinca (Albania).

Presenter: Mrs. Nadia Harhash.

19H00

19:00 - 20:00

Beit Sa'a

3 Dar Awwad St., Old City

Poetry: A Territory for Peace

Khaled Juma (Palestine), Wasim Kurdi (Palestine), Patricio Sanchez Rojas (Chile), Marwan Ali (Syria).

Presenter: Mr. Omar Ziadeh.

20H30

20:30 - 22:00

Mahmoud Darwish Museum

1 Al-Sindiyana St., Al-Masyoun

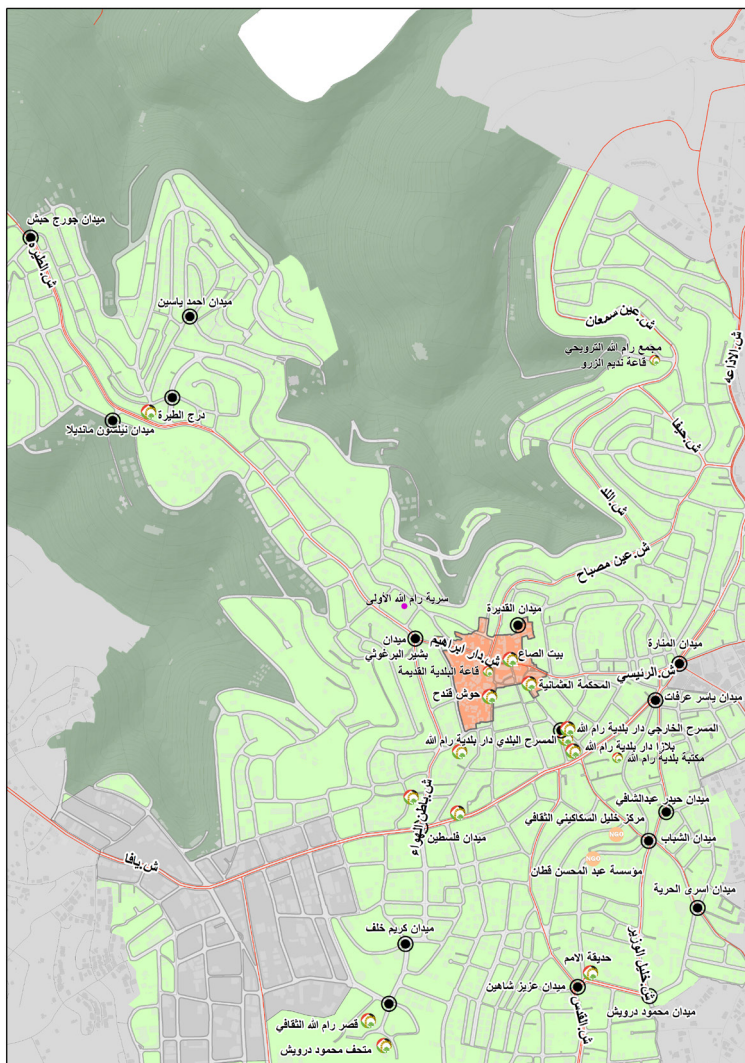
Closing Ceremony

All Poets.

Music: Joury Band (Palestine) & Roula Safar (France).

Presenter: Mrs. Maram Totah & Mr. Faris Sabaneh.

Locations map



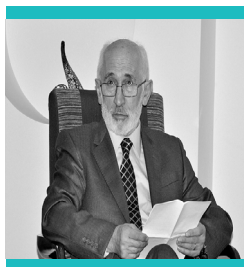
You can download the Festivals program through "Ramallah" application from Apple Store and Play Store.

Albania

Agim Vinca

A contemporary Albanian poet and a scholar of Albanian Literature. He holds a Ph.D. in Albanian Language and Literature from the University of Pristina, where he is a professor in the Philology Department and teaches Albanian Contemporary Literature.

He is among the well-known contemporary Albanian poets and one of the most distinguished scholars of Albanian Literature. He is also engaged with literary translations. Among his main books are: *Feniks* 1972, «*Shtegu i mallit* 1975, «*Buzëdrinas* 1981, «*Arna dhe ëndra* 1987 and «*Orët e poezisë* 1990. His mother tongue is Albanian and he resides in Pristina, Kosovo.



Algeria

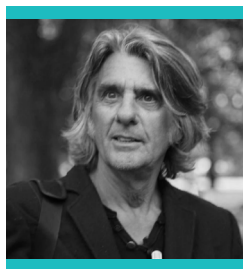
Yvan Tetelbom

A Poet and author. Born in Algeria (Kabylia) in Port-Gueydon (Azefoun) in 1947. After Algerian independence in 1962, he moved to live in France.

He studied comedy as a profession at René Simon school in Paris and he also sings his own lyrics in public places. He writes for several institutions such as SACEM (Society of Authors Composers and Publishers of Music) and SACD (Society of Dramatic Authors and Composers). He performs his poetry at national and international literary festivals and events in a wide range of venues and countries.

He created many poetry events in France and in the world including the International Festival of Poetry in Paris

Among thousands of performances, he did a poetry tour in Palestine, Paris, Rome, London, Genève, Budapest, Brussels, Geneva, Istanbul, and Algeria.



France

Antoine Simon

A French Poet born in 1943. He has published 16 poetry collections. He is a member of the international committee of the Voix Vives Poetry Festival in Sète. At the age of 17, Antoine Simon made the pilgrimage to Rimbaud's tomb, then Charleville's journey to Charleroi on foot. His poetry appeared in several anthologies, and he participated in many international poetry festivals.



Janine Gdalia

Author, poet, and translator. Born in Tunisia then moved to France where she lived in Paris before permanently moving to Montpellier. She also worked as a journalist. "Deserts" and "The Narrow Bridge" were among her 10 published books which were received well by critics and readers. She published joint books with Jean Louis Povida, and Flex Rozen. She is a member in the house of poetry.



Greece

Liana Sakelliou

Liana Sakelliou is a poet, translator, critic, and editor. She is the author of eighteen books, among them: *Where the Wind Blows Softly* (poetry collection, Typothito, 2017), *Creative Reading, Writing, and Living: volume 1, The Novel* (co-authored with W. Schultz, Gutenberg, 2013), *Prends-moi comme une photo* (poetry collection, L' Harmattan, 2012), and *Portrait Before Dark* (poetry collection, Typothito, 2010). She wrote a monograph as well as edited and co-authored the translation of 60 Poems.

She is a professor of English and Creative Writing at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and serves as Member of the Board of the Hellenic Authors' Society. Currently, she is Member of the Jury for the European Prize for Literature on the topic "A European Story: EUPL Winners Write Europe". Her poems have been widely anthologized and translated into several languages.



Italy

Claudio Pozzani

Claudio Pozzani was born in 1961 in Genoa (Italy). A poet, narrator, and musician, he is appreciated in Italy and overseas for his poetic performances in the most important international literary festivals. His poems have been translated and published in more than 10 countries.

Since 1995 Pozzani has been the director of the Genoa International Poetry Festival in Italy and has created and organized several poetry events in Europe. He is also the director of the House of Poetry in Genoa. He has been awarded the Prize for the Best Poetry Festival, Ministry of Culture of Italy, 2009, Prize Catullo, City of Verona and World, Academy of Poetry, 2012 Genovino, Highest honor of the City of Genoa 2014 Grigor Narekatsi Medal, highest honor of Ministry of Culture of Armenia Montale Prize, Premio Montale Board, 2016 and Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary Club, 2017.



Macedonia

Filip Kletnikov

A Macedonian poet, essayist, writer of short stories, and translator. Among his publications: «Somewhere in Between» (2007), «Wings and Failure» (2011), and «Metaphysical Blue» (2016).

His poetry is translated into several languages and is featured in many domestic and foreign anthologies of Macedonian poetry.

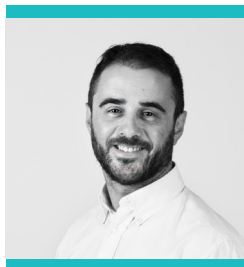


Malta

Glen Calleja

A poet, storyteller and theatre performer from Malta. He writes mainly in Maltese, his mother tongue, but has also published poetry, essays and short stories in English, Malta's co-official language.

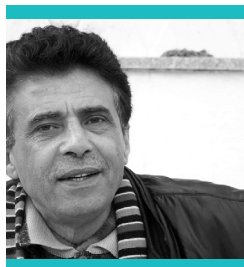
He is also the co-founder of Fondazzjoni AWL, an independent group working on poetry with an interdisciplinary approach which led theatre formation workshops in Malta, Greece and Italy. Calleja also led the international interdisciplinary project TKEČNIR: kitchen work (2011-2010) and the storytelling and book art project The Depot of Living Things (2009).



Palestine

Ahmad Yacoub

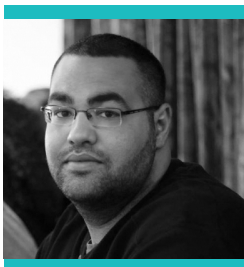
A Palestinian poet and translator of Spanish language, he published several poetry collections, among them: «Hold on to Homeland,” and «Texts from the Intifada.” He translated from Spanish to Arabic the following works: «Ancient Tales,” «New Immigrants- Chilean Poets of Palestinian Origin,” and «Theory and Play of Duende” by Lurca.



Ali Mawasi

A Poet, researcher, journalist, and teacher of Arabic Language and Literature. He works as an editor for the Fusha Cultural Magazine, is an editor of institutional and private publications, and trainer in the fields of creative writing, the components of identity, and gender in the Islamic heritage.

He published one poetry collection entitled «If There Hadn't been An Apple» (2016), and he won Al- Mawred Production Award in 2018.



Palestine

Amer Badran

A Palestinian poet and doctor, born in Ramallah. He has five poetry collections and one in print. He writes poetry in both classical/standard and colloquial Arabic. Several of his poems have been translated into English and German, and were published in anthologies. He has participated in many Arab and European poetry festivals, and he's the director of Aristotle Cultural Salon in Jordan.



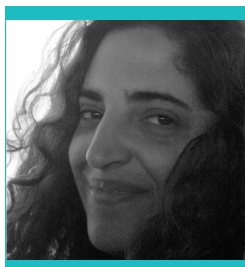
Anas Alaily

A Palestinian poet from the city of Qalqilya, currently residing in Paris where he completed his doctorate in literature. He works at the University of Paris VIII, and he's the artistic director for the festival «Poetry Intervals for Palestine» organized annually in Paris. His first poetry volume «With a Simple Difference» was published in 2006. His works have been translated into French and presented by the poet Bernard Noel. He published a poetry collection in Arabic and French entitled «Late Hugs» in 2016. His poems have been translated into several languages, including English and Spanish, and some of his poems have been tuned and presented in several centers in Ramallah and Paris. He participated in several international poetry festivals.



Dalia Taha

A Palestinian poet and playwright. She has published two collections of poetry «A Balcony With No One There» and «Less Metaphor.» Her poems were translated into English, French, German, and Swedish. Her play «Fireworks» was staged in 2015 by the Royal Court Theatre. She holds a master degree in Playwriting from Brown University, U.S.A.



Palestine

Jadal Al-Qasim

A Palestinian poet and writer, born in Sofia, Bulgaria, holds a postgraduate degree in Democracy and Human Rights from Birzeit University. She is a researcher in the field of human rights. She won the Young Writers Award by A.M. Qattan Foundation for her poetry collection «Wheat in Cotton» in 2015.



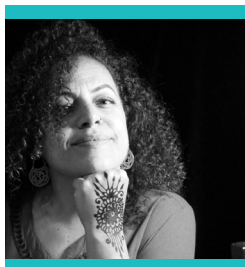
Khalid Juma

Born in Rafah in 1965. He is currently Head of the Cultural Department in Palestine News and Information Agency (WAFA). He has a portfolio of 32 publications in a variety of genres; poetry, prose poetry, short stories, children's stories, TV sketches, plays and over 100 songs. His works have been translated into English, French, Bulgarian, German, Danish, and Spanish. He participates in international poetry festivals.



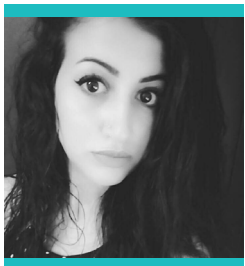
Rajaa Ghanem

A Palestinian poet born in Damascus, specialized in the fields of creative writing, identity and conflict. She published a poetry book entitled «The Lady of White» in 2015, and she published her poems in various anthologies and joint groups. She has participated in many poetry festivals in Palestine, Paris, and Jordan.



Razan Bannoura

A Palestinian poet and lawyer from the city of Bethlehem, she holds a bachelor's degree in law. She has many poems and stories published in local and Arabic print media as well as electronic newspapers and magazines. She received the Young Short Story Writer Award and recommendation for her poetry collection «Snoring.»



Palestine Sheikha Hlewa

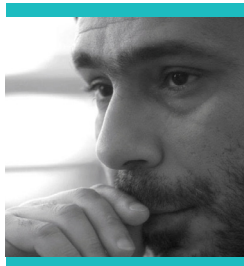
A Palestinian poet born in an unrecognized Bedouin village in the Haifa district. She studied Arabic and Hebrew at Tel Aviv University. She has been teaching Arabic for years and has worked for three years as a guidance counselor of educational leadership in East Jerusalem. She has four publications: «Outside the Seasons I Learned to Fly,» «Women of Darkness,» « Windows are the Worst Books» and « Order C345.»



Tarek Alkarmi

A Palestinian Poet from the city of Tulkarim. He has produced and presented numerous programs for local Palestinian radio stations, and he teaches and plays professionally the Ney (reed flute).

He has participated in a number of local and international poetry festivals, and he has written several books of poetry including: "The Bull's Path," "Morning of the Lonely," «The Eye of the Handsome Blind Man,» and «Ambiguous Poems.»



Wasim Kurdi

A poet, writer and specialist in the field of Drama in Education. He holds B.A in Arabic Language and Literature from Birzeit University, and a Master's Degree in Drama in Education from University of Central England in Birmingham, U k. He's the Director of the Educational Research and Development Programme/ A.M. Qattan Foundation. He published several poetry collections. He also wrote lyrical dance performances to the most important bands and dancers in Palestine. He has several published studies and books in the field of Drama and Education.

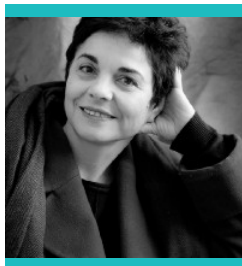


Portugal

Maria João Cantinho

A Portuguese poet, essayist, and researcher. She has a PhD in Contemporary Philosophy from the New University of Lisbon (NOVA). She is a Secondary School teacher and has been a professor at IADE. She was awarded the Glória de Santa Anna Literary Prize 2017, nominated as a finalist for the 2006 Telecom Prize, and also nominated as a finalist for the PEN Prize in Poetry in 2017.

She has been a member of several literary juries since 2011.

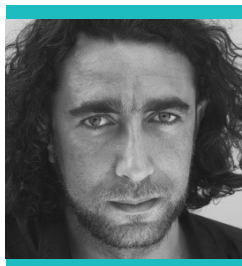


Sweden/ Palestine

Ghayath Almadhoun

A Swedish-Palestinian poet born in Damascus in 1979. He has lived in Stockholm as of 2008. He has published four collections of poetry, the latest "Adrenaline" in Milano 2017. His work has been translated into Swedish, German, Greek, Slovenian, Italian, English, Dutch, French, Danish, Spanish, Czech, Croatian, Albanian and Chinese. The Dutch translation of Al-Madhoun's poems, *Weg van Damascus*, Amsterdam 2014, was one of the top 10 selling poetry books in Belgium for several weeks in 2017 & 2015.

He founded Bayt al-Qasid (the House of Poetry), which is a space for freewheeling expression in Damascus, together with the Syrian poet Lukman Derky.



Spain

Carlos Ávila

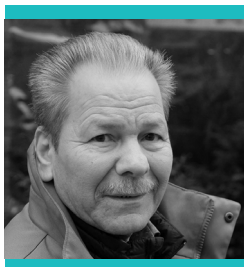
Born in Toledo (Spain) in 1978. He studied Political Science at the Complutense University of Madrid, which has influenced his writings. He has published two poetry volumes. He is a presenter of a radio program about music and poetry called «La burr.» He is currently the editor of «Gato encerrado» which is a newly founded publishing house.



Syria

Faraj Bayrakdar

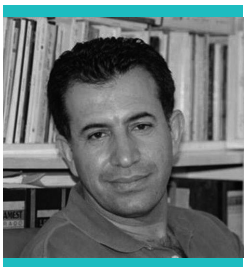
A Syrian writer, he is the author of five books of poetry and one of prose. Imprisoned by the Syrian authorities in 1987, he was only set free 14 years later, thanks to an international campaign that involved human rights and free speech organizations as well as writers and artists. Among his awards: the 1998 Hellman-Hammet grant; the 1999 International PEN Award – American Center West; the 2004 Free Word Award from NOVIB – Netherlands; the 2006 Oxfam Novib / PEN Freedom of Expression Award Netherlands; and the 2007 Tucholsky Prize – Sweden. He has been in Sweden since 2005.



Syria

Marwan Ali

A Syrian poet, born to a Kurdish family in Alqamishly, Syria. Published «It's Weird..Nothing about You in Wikileaks», «Yesterday Waten», and «The Way Home». His poems have been translated into English, French, Spanish, Kurdish, and Dutch. He participated in several local and international festivals. Marwan Ali is currently living between Netherlands, and Germany.



**MEDITERRANEAN IN THE WORLD
 Across the Atlantic**

Chile

Patricio Sanchez Rojas

A poet, teacher, translator and animator in creative writing workshops. Born in Chile, he spent his childhood in Talca and Valdivia. In 1977, his family was expelled from the country and moved to Paris. He teaches Spanish in high schools and at the universities of Nîmes, Avignon and Montpellier. His poems are published in various French, Spanish, and Italian literature reviews and anthologies. He has received numerous literary awards from Chile, Spain, and France.



Cuba

Rudolf Hasler

A poet and translator. He was born in Cuba in 1958, and has been living in Barcelona, Spain since 1968. He studied French Literature and Historical Art in Lausanne University. He published seven poetry volumes. His poetry appears in several anthologies in Spain and Latin America.



Luxembourg

Jean Portante

He is a writer from Luxembourg who resides in Paris. He has written novels, stories, plays, journalistic articles and poetry, that have been widely translated.

He is a translator of poetry into French from Spanish, Italian, English and German. His collection of poems *L'Etrange langue* (Editions Le Taillis Pré, 2002) won the Mallarmé award in France in 2003. He received the Grand Prix d'Automne de la Société des Gens de Lettres for his entire life's work in poetry. In 2011 he was awarded Luxembourg's Batty Weber National Prize, which is given every three years for a life's work.



Singer and music performer:

Roula Safar - France

A singer and Mezzo-Soprano musician, she was born in Lebanon, she studied instrumental music, voice and musicology, first in Beirut, later in Paris

