

# awan festival

29 February-30 March 2024

Produced by Arts Canteen

arab women  
artists now



- visual arts
- performance
- ~ music
- || comedy
- film
- literature
- workshops
- @ commissions

[awan.org.uk](http://awan.org.uk)

Anthony Dawton Photography

# Welcome to AWAN Festival 2024

This edition of AWAN is more an act of defiance than a celebration. During a time when we witness horrific injustices on our screens unrelentingly – the work, voices, and perspectives of artists become radiant beacons, casting hopeful and uplifting rays of light.

We stand unwaveringly with the people of Gaza and Palestine. We also stand in solidarity with the people of Sudan and every single oppressed person or community around the world.

Amidst this darkness, we believe the purpose of art and culture is to reflect the times, shift the narrative, and allow opportunities for restoration and inspiration so that we may continue to fight. The fact that we continue during these times is an act of defiance in itself.

We feel a tremendous sense of pride in the growing achievements and confidence of artists from the Arab world and its diaspora. This year, for our 10th edition, we embrace a diverse range of creative projects expressed through commissions and residences, film, art, literature, performance, music, comedy, and workshops.

Our programme will certainly be in conversation with the current political and social climate we face – with a special emphasis on Gazan and Sudanese voices. Through creating opportunities for topical cultural exchange, our aim is to contribute to the formation and strengthening of communities that stand united for a shared vision of inclusivity, resilience, and positive transformation.

We also want to acknowledge the fact that ‘Arab’ may feel exclusionary to some, particularly those from North and East Africa. We assure everyone of a warm inclusive welcome.

We also want to clarify that ‘women’ is inclusive of all female-identifying peoples and are committed to challenging restrictive, reductive and binary stereotypes.

Times are changing. And while our hearts continue to break for the injustices around the world, a global and cultural shift is taking place. We are evermore committed to showcasing the always inspiring and forever evolving programme of Awab Women Artists Now.

We look forward to welcoming you for our special 10th edition.



[www.awan.org.uk](http://www.awan.org.uk)

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## YAZZ AHMED

music

### Opening Night

#### ROYAL ALBERT HALL / The Elgar Room

Kensington Gore, South Kensington, London SW7 2AP

SOUTH KENSINGTON, HIGH STREET KENSINGTON, KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Thu, 29 Feb - 9.30pm

FROM £13

British-Bahraini trumpeter Yazz Ahmed has garnered global acclaim with her own distinct brand of psychedelic-Arabic-jazz. Her career has included collaborations with Radiohead and Transglobal Underground, and commissions for Adult Swim and Blue Note.

Winning multiple rave reviews for her albums *La Saboteuse* (2017) and *Polyhymnia* (2019), *Downbeat Magazine* named her as an artist set to shape the future of jazz over the next decade. In 2020, she won two Jazz FM awards - Jazz Act of the Year and Jazz Album of the Year, plus the Ivor Novello Award for Innovation in Composition.



# CUTS

Exhibition - Malak Mattar

Curator: Cristina O'Hanlon

RICH MIX, The Lab

35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1 6LA

SHOREDITCH HIGH STREET, BETHNAL GREEN, LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

Fri, 1 Mar - 6 -8pm

FREE



As a Gaza native, who survived numerous military assaults in Gaza, Malak has been using this difficult and emotional time to go deep into her practice and is using her time at the residency to document the humanitarian losses unfolding in this genocide. Her current works are a series of stories of families and individuals in Gaza and their unimaginable pain and fortitude.



# FABLES OF THE SEA

Exhibition - Rehaf Al Batniji

RICH MIX, Mezzanine Floor

35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1 6LA

SHOREDITCH HIGH STREET, BETHNAL GREEN, LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

Fri, 1 Mar - 6 - 8pm

FREE

The besieged life doesn't cripple the fish's ability to breed and propagate within the only free space in the Gaza Strip. They definitely own themselves and no-one who soever administers, adopts or oversees them whereas they go into the water despite the survival tests most of the time.

Hundreds of fish species live in the Mediterranean while tens of these species are locked in the sea of this besieged city for over eleven years.

Fishermen sail up to six nautical miles to fish these species while the population of coastal cities live the best maritimes moments; the sea has not been friends with Gaza for years now.

This project is part of a series of photography projects that have been made this year entitled "Who turned the light off". I came across the statement sprayed in bold on a wall in the city which raises questions that faded away in our minds about demanding or advocating what we simply gave up dreaming of.



الحاج مراد الهسي  
Morad AlHissy



جربيدي  
Jarbedy

comedy

# ARABS ARE NOT FUNNY

## AWAN EDITION

Janine Harouni / Fatiha El-Ghorri / Farah Sharp / Isabelle Farah / Lama Alfard / Fathiya Saleh

**ROYAL ALBERT HALL / The Elgar Room Brasserie**

Kensington Gore, South Kensington, London SW7 2AP

 SOUTH KENSINGTON, HIGH STREET KENSINGTON, KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Fri, 1 Mar - 9.30 - 11.30pm

 £19.50

**generation**  
2030



You might have thought that Arabs couldn't get any funnier. Think again. The funniest Arabs in London are back on stage, in the flesh, funnier than ever before in the Elgar Room.

This special edition of Arabs Are Not Funny is performed by five Arab women comedians as part of Arab Women Artists Now – AWAN Festival 2024.

workshops  film  literature  visual arts 

# SUDAN IN FOCUS

## Memory and Vision

Curator : Frédérique Cifuentes

**VISUAL ARTS + PANELS + TALKS + SCREENING + WORKSHOP**

**RICH MIX, Main Stage**

35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1 6LA

 SHOREDITCH HIGH STREET, BETHNAL GREEN, LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

An afternoon conversations between Sudanese women artists from a range of artistic practices including cinema, photography, craftsmanship and literature. This special event will take the public into a visual journey of Sudan's beautiful cultural diversity and multiple artistic identities. Be with us to explore themes of love for fragrances, rituals, and resistance with sonic, audio-visual and sensory interludes.



### CURATOR BIO:

Frédérique Cifuentes is a multimedia storyteller working primarily with photography and video, a curator and educator leader based in London. She explores the notions of identity, heritage and community. She has worked and travelled extensively in Sudan in the last 20 years. She has produced many films and photographic essays on Sudan society and its rich cultural diversity. Frédérique has notably contributed to promoting art and media projects related to the MENA and sub-Saharan African Regions and worked with major international institutions such as UNESCO, British Council, The Arab British Center, Action Contre la Faim and UNHCR.

# music SUDAN IN FOCUS

Basma & Ola

**RICH MIX, Main Stage**

35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1 6LA

🚶 SHOREDITCH HIGH STREET, BETHNAL GREEN, LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

Sat, 2 Mar - 8pm

🎫 £8 - £10

Join us for a night of Sudanese sounds and poetry with Basma and Ola.

Taking inspiration from the sounds of zar and zanig, Ola and Basma sketch the Sudan of their dreams through spoken word and records.

Basma will open and close the evening with a DJ set based on Sudanese faves, along with footage from personal archives.

Ola Elhassan is a Sudanese poet / researcher / electrical engineer in South London. Sometimes her poetry experiments with (and about) music, mathematics, physics, and dancing. She is a resident poet and member of the Common Sound collective.

Basma is the host of Khartoum Arrivals on NTS Radio and the co-host of radio show and record label Hear, Sense and Feel. She plays music inspired by the long road, drawing from the wedding anthems and eclectic folk of Sudan, the Sahel, the Horn and beyond.



Basma



Ola

# film SALMA'S HOME

Director: Hanadi Elyan

Film Curator: Sarah Agha

**RICH MIX, Cinema**

35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1 6LA

🚶 SHOREDITCH HIGH STREET, BETHNAL GREEN, LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

Tue, 5 Mar - 8.15pm

🎫 £9



"When Salma's ex-husband passes away, a deep family secret is dug up to blackmail her into taking in an unwanted housemate, creating an awkward dynamic." Starring Juliet Awad, Sameera Asir and Rania Kurdi.

SALMA'S HOME is set in Jordan and revolves around three women with distinct personalities. SALMA (Juliet Awad) is a talented baker living alone in a large old house overlooking downtown Amman running a unprofitable home-based bakery, her daughter FARAH (Sameera Asir) is a young working mother with marital problems with husband Malek (Firas Taybeh). Their lives are disrupted by the death of Salma's ex-husband. The funeral takes place at his current wife's house, LAMIA (Rania Kurdi), an aspiring socialite who is obsessed with building her brand online. After the funeral, Uncle Emad (Waleed Jizawi) brings shocking facts to light leading to territorial clashes and finally forcing the three women to accept some harsh realities and take control of their lives.



film

# TILKA

**RICH MIX, Cinema**

35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1 6LA

SHOREDITCH HIGH STREET, BETHNAL GREEN, LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

Wed, 6 Mar - 8.15pm

£9



Tilka is an intimate portrait of five women navigating multiple crises in Lebanon: prolonged economic collapse, a global pandemic and the aftermath of the Beirut port blast. Najah, Tima, Rania, Fatima and Fida meet in March 2021 for an artist's residency in the mountains outside Beirut, coming together to create an original piece of theatre. As the country grapples with collapse, they weave together a story inspired by their experiences as women fighting against the odds for their rights.



literature

# 3EIB x AWAN

Curator: Dania Arafah

Designers: Mai Zarkawi, Leena Sobeih, Dana Khoury and Karmel Sabri

Patterns of Protest

**THE MOSAIC ROOMS**

226 Cromwell Rd, London SW5 0SW

EARL'S COURT, GLOUCESTER ROAD

Thu, 7 Mar - 6 - 8pm

£5



An evening of reflection and connection, guided by the narratives of female Palestinian voices. Four designers – Mai Zarkawi, Leena Sobeih, Dana Khoury and Karmel Sabri – will explore the theme of 'decolonising fashion' within the context of the current times.

Followed by sonic resistance, Karmel Sabri will debut a sound collage that layers sounds, songs and words in response to Gaza, and Bint Mbareh will play a short improved piece rooted in archival research exploring the social context of '3eib'.



comedy

# ESTHER MANITO x AWAN

Fri, 8 Mar - 8pm  
£12  
16+

**RICH MIX, The Studio**

35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1 6LA

SHOREDITCH HIGH STREET, BETHNAL GREEN, LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

Esther Manito's greatest hits one hour, one off, special. Esther will take you through the rollercoaster that is family life combining kids, a Lebanese dad, and a British husband and very conservative mother-in-law. All this combined with the joys of being a woman in her 40s, living near the West Ham stadium, and losing her mind over a coat rack that just is too overloaded, and not a metaphor.



music

# AWAN RE-SISTERS: SOUNDS AND ECHOS

Fri, 8 Mar - 9pm  
£8 - £10

ETAF + HAWAZIN + HABIB-TATI

**RICH MIX, Main Stage**

35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1 6LA

SHOREDITCH HIGH STREET, BETHNAL GREEN, LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

ETAF is a Kuwaiti/Palestinian singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist currently living in London.

HABIB-TATI is an Iraqi/Iranian-Armenian DJ who is passionate about decolonizing music by blending the sounds of SWANA music and drum beats that reflect her identity and values.

HAWAZIN AL OTAIBI is a Saudi interdisciplinary artist, curator, DJ and music producer.





# READING GAZA!

CURATOR: NORA PARR & GUESTS

**RICH MIX, Main Stage**

35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1 6LA

🚶 SHOREDITCH HIGH STREET, BETHNAL GREEN, LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

Sat, 9 Mar - 11.30 - 12.30pm

£8

When the news is patchy, unreliable, and follows innumerable international agendas, Palestinian Literature gives us powerful direct access to the impact and understanding of catastrophe and its long legacy.

This session shares writing from Gaza over the course of this latest atrocity, and reads it within its longer literary history. A far cry from the sense that silence is the most eloquent tribute to atrocity, Palestinian writing--and today writing from Gaza--speaks powerfully and eloquently to events of the day. Writing stings of the scope and magnitude of loss, of determination for survival, anger that such a crime could be committed in plain sight, and love- for what is lost, for what remains, and for the inevitable future.

Nora Parr is a Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham and the Center for Lebanese Studies. She works on Palestinian, Arabic, and Postcolonial literature. She leads the Palestine Case Study with the Rights for Time research network, and with her project partner the Palestine Trauma Center in Gaza, is working to offer expanded definitions of trauma that can speak better to ongoing experiences of harm. Her first book *Novel Palestine: Nation through the works of Ibrahim Nasrallah* came out last month from the University of California Press. Her reading today is from this work.



# ARAB WOMEN PUBLISHERS:

DIVERSITY and CHALLENGES

**RICH MIX, Main Stage**

35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1 6LA

🚶 SHOREDITCH HIGH STREET, BETHNAL GREEN, LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

Sat, 9 Mar - 1 - 2.30pm

£6 - £8

The event aims to showcase the latest trends in publishing - highlighting the adaptation of books into other formats, opening a debate between various challenges that publishers encounter on a global scale - with a focus on small and medium sized publishing houses which face tough competition from digital platforms such as social media, online news aggregators, and self-publishing platforms.



Feda Shtia



Nada Sabet



Nadine Kaadan



Lynn Gaspard



Nariman Youssef  
(Moderator)

**Feda Shtia: SUNONO PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**Nada Sabet: LIBLIB PUBLISHING**

**Nadine Kaadan: ILLUSTRATOR AND BOOK PUBLISHER**

**Lynn Gaspard SAQI BOOKS**

**Nariman Youssef: TRANSLATOR and WRITER**

# GAZA REBORN:

ARCHITECTS FOR GAZA

Curator: Yara Sharif

Nishat Awan (UCL), Minerva Fadel (University of Westminster)

Dr Muna Dajani (LSE), Luma Darakeh (Cardiff University)

## RICH MIX

35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1 6LA

SHOREDITCH HIGH STREET, BETHNAL GREEN, LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

In a time marked by urgency, scarcity, resilience and hope for Gaza, Arab Women Artist Now (AWAN) in collaboration with Architects for Gaza will bring together architects from the Arab world showcasing innovative approaches to challenge the colonial erasure of the city and offer an alternative expression in architecture that can capture and revive the identity and memory of this coastal city.

While the exhibition reconstructs the reality of the besieged fractured Gazan landscape, Arab women architects employ architecture, drawings and visual media as tools to narrate, heal and re-read the city.

With a foot on earth and a hand in the sky, the work attempts to reclaim the right to the city and asserts Gazan's right to reclaim their homes.

The recent genocide with its human, spatial, and environmental catastrophe calls for architects to reevaluate their agency and practice. Women Architects for Gaza will bring to the surface the resilient world of Gaza; a world that stands in defiance against the geography of exclusion that has been enforced on it. It is a world where the power of the everyday with its rituals and practices, can cultivate small changes.



Sat, 9 Mar - 3 - 5pm

£8

# CLOWNEFFECT

Sabine Choucair, Sally Souraya & Guest Clowns

RICH MIX, The Studio

35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1 6LA

SHOREDITCH HIGH STREET, BETHNAL GREEN, LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

Sat, 9 Mar - 6 - 7.30pm

£6 - £8

Clown  
me in



The ClownEffect is an immersive invitation to unlock the transformative power of play and laughter in daily life by connecting with our inner selves and communities. The Clowns will guide the audience on an interactive and reflective journey, engaging in playful exercises, lively conversations and humanitarian experiences that delve into the ClownEffect and its advocacy for social change, justice, and wellbeing.

Sabine Choucair is an award-winning humanitarian clown, director, and activist. She is the founder of Clown Me In, a group that uses the art of clowning to fight social injustice. Sabine is also the founder of the International Institute for Very Very Serious Studies, a performance training program in Lebanon focusing on engaged street theatre. Certified in social therapy and performing art from New York and London, Sabine brings years of international experience, combining therapy techniques with clowning and storytelling.

Sally Souraya is a Lebanese multidisciplinary artist and performer based in London. Sally combines performance and activism as catalysts to raise awareness and promote social change. A member of Clown Me In since 2014, Sally has actively participated in various clowning initiatives, as both a performer and trainer, advocating for health, political, and environmental justice.

Clown Me In is a social clowning group established in 2008, spreading laughter, fighting inequality, and facilitating healing in communities and humanitarian settings through the power of art and play. Providing workshops, performances, and activism campaigns, Clown Me In's vision is to empower people, encourage dialogue between communities, and advocate for social change and justice, in Lebanon and globally.

## music AMENA & BAND

RICH MIX, Main Stage

35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1 6LA

SHOREDITCH HIGH STREET, BETHNAL GREEN, LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

Sat, 9 Mar - 8pm

£10 - £12



Her goal is to create music that blends her cultural roots with the harmony and rhythms of Jazz, creating a captivating sound that speaks to people from all walks of life. In her newest project, she's drawing inspiration from pioneers of early Egyptian Folk music like Sheikh Imam and Sayed Darwish. She's set to infuse their timeless compositions with her own unique twist.

## workshops 3 EMPOWERING ARTISTS IN MOVEMENT

Wed, 13 Mar - 6 - 8pm

£8 - £10

Led by DR. SHREHAN LYNCH

ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

1 Gough Square, London EC4A 3DE

CHANCERY LANE

المركز العربي  
The Arab  
British  
البريطاني Centre

This workshop is led by Dr. Shrehan Lynch, a British Palestinian and a Senior Lecturer in Sport at the University of East London (UEL). Shrehan's research has explored how movement (physical education, physical activity, and sport) has notoriously been socially unjust and has worked to amplify the ways to make movement more socially just through her network Socially Just Physical Education & Youth Sport. In her former role of training physical education teachers at UEL, she taught through a sociocultural approach where students were encouraged to create physical education lessons based on fun, culturally relevant activities, and would be wholly inclusive of every student.

Workshop info:

The workshop will firstly explore participants own experiences in movement, these might be positive, negative or both! Dr Shrehan Lynch will then give a summary of her research and share the art of movement for life. She will finish by sharing examples of socially just movement and empower attendees by sharing some basic self defence moves that artists can draw upon if they ever need them!



## TALE TONIC

visual arts

NADA ELKALAAWY & MARIANNE FAHMY

Curator: Hanya Elghamry

Opening Night, Drinks Reception, Exhibition 14 - 30 March

**THE AFRICA CENTRE**

66 Great Suffolk St, London SE1 0BL

 SOUTHWARK, BOROUGH

Thu, 14 Mar - 6.30 - 8.30pm

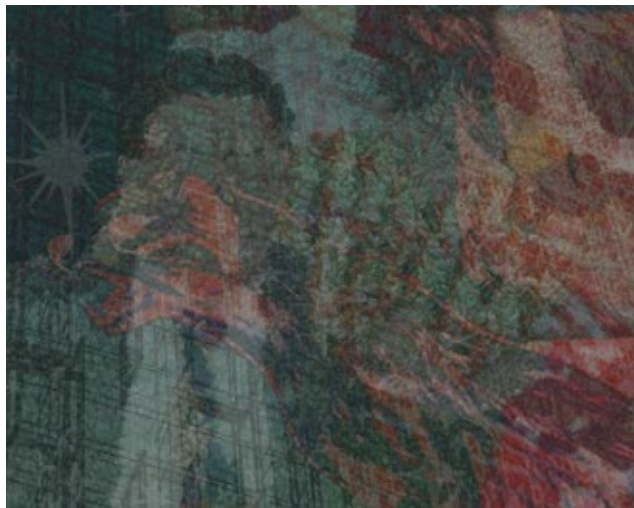
 FREE



"Tale Tonic" focuses on the paradoxical works of artists Marianne Fahmy and Nada El Kalaawy. The exhibition is characterized by an array of artistic mediums, including paintings, textile designs, and video. Through their respective practices, El Kalaawy and Fahmy move between the metaphorical and literal visualizations, through the construction and deconstruction of cultural motifs, found images, objects, and historical references in their respective practices.

These elements serve as the raw materials for the artists to create hypothetical narratives and storylines within their work. The elicited narratives within the exhibition serve as a platform for an introspective journey, inviting viewers to question and assume. The exhibition aims to put emphasis on the viewer's interpretation, encouraging a personal and subjective engagement with the artworks.

A central thematic focus of the exhibition is challenging longstanding notions of a singular, authoritative interpretation or meaning imposed on perception. El Kalaawy and Fahmy prompt viewers to reflect on how historical references, cultural motifs, and found images contribute to the shaping of our present reality. Inviting audiences to approach the archival material in an unarmored manner, examining and contemplate.



literature

## TALE TONIC: ARTISTS & CURATOR TALK

Sat, 16 Mar - 1 - 2.30pm

 FREE



**THE AFRICA CENTRE**

66 Great Suffolk St, London SE1 0BL  SOUTHWARK, BOROUGH

A central thematic focus of the "tale tonic" exhibition is challenging longstanding notions of a singular, authoritative interpretation or meaning imposed on perception. Through their respective practices, Egyptian Artists Nada Elkalaawy and Marianne Fahmy move between the metaphorical and literal visualizations of narratives. Moderated by curator Hanya Elghamry, Elkalaawy will discuss the exhibited works in the space, while Fahmy joins online from Egypt.



Marianne Fahmy  
Artist



Nada Elkalaawy  
Artist



Moderated by  
Hanya Elghamry  
Curator

film

# ANOTHER REALITY

Genre Shorts by Arab Female Filmmakers

Curator: Sarah Agha

THE GARDEN CINEMA London WC2B 5PQ  HOLBORN

“Another Reality” : Genre Shorts by Arab women filmmakers

Sun, 24 Mar - 4 - 6pm

 £12



AWAN Festival (Arab Women Artists Now) in association with The Arab Film Club present an afternoon of short films curated by Sarah Agha.

The Arab Film Club. AWAN is the UK's only contemporary multi-arts festival dedicated to showcasing inspiring works from Arab women artists.

This year we have hand picked a unique and memorable line-up of sci-fi and horror shorts for The Garden Cinema.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers on stage, hosted by actress and film curator Sarah Agha.



**Ladies Coffee (2023) by Amal Al-Agroobi - 10 min.**

On the prowl for lady suitors, Roula invites Zeina and her daughter over for Arabic coffee. But when young Reem participates in a cup reading ritual, she gets more than she bargained for.

**The Call (2023) by Riffy Ahmad - 14 min.**

During a difficult visit to her single immigrant mother, Athena discovers that what she thought was age-related mental decline is in fact an inherited magical gift.


**In Vitro (2019) by Larissa Sansour - 28 min.**

In an underground orchard in Bethlehem, decades after an otherworldly eco disaster, two scientists ruminate on exile, loss, identity and nostalgia.

workshops

## ARTS MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION FOR NON PROFIT

Wed, 27 Mar - 6 - 8pm

 £8 - £10

AMBER MASSIE-BLOMFIELD

ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

1 Gough Square, London EC4A 3DE

 CHANCERY LANE



Amber has been producer and executive director for theatre productions on a variety of scales, with a particular emphasis on international working, including producing an R&D for Riham Isaac in AWAN festival, and most recently as executive director of Complicité. Here, she will share some insights from her career to date, exploring where the opportunities for early career artists lie, and offering insights into international practice.

Amber Massie-Blomfield is Executive Director of Complicité, and was recently included in The Stage 100 List of the Most Influential People in British Theatre. Previously, she has been a freelance producer for clients including Riham Isaac (as part of AWAN festival) and Pro Helvetia (the Swiss Arts Council). She was also Executive Director of Camden People's Theatre (2014-18) and is author of two books, Twenty Theatres to See Before You Die and Acts of Resistance.



Photo: Rosie Powell

# LETTERS HOME:

STORIES OF IDENTITY AND BELONGING

Curator & Moderator Alice Guthrie

Guests Speakers : Lisa Luxx and Amerah Saleh

**RICH MIX, Main Stage**

35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1 6LA

SHOREDITCH HIGH STREET, BETHNAL GREEN, LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

Sat, 30 Mar - 2 - 3pm

£5 - £6



Lisa Luxx

Amerah Saleh

How do we find ourself in words and stories? Can words ever truly translate the mystery of identity? What does it mean to write home? Join us for an exploration of story and meaning.

Alice Guthrie is an independent translator, editor, researcher, and curator, specialising in contemporary Arabic literature and media. Her work often focuses on subaltern voices, orality, and queerness / queering. Among various accolades over the years, she won the Jules Chametzky Translation Prize 2019 for her translation of Gazan author Atef Abu Saif's *The Lottery*. Her bilingual editorial and research work aims to be part of the growing movement to decolonize the Arabic-English literary translation sector.

She teaches undergraduate and postgraduate Arabic-English translation at institutions including the University of Exeter, and regularly curates the literary strand of Shubbak, London's biennale of contemporary Arab cultures.



# ASWAT COMMISSIONS:

Alia Hamou - Bint Mbareh - Jessica El Mar - Riwa Saab - Tasneim Zyada

WIP + SPOKEN WORD + POETRY + PERFORMANCE + MUSIC

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Five artists have been selected for the commission, funded by the Cockayne foundation. The commission includes a three-day residency at Toynbee Studios and production support from both Artsadmin and Arts Canteen, and the opportunity to showcase work at AWAN festival.



Alia Hamou

Bint Mbareh

Jessica El Mar

Riwa Saab

Tasneim Zyada

Sat, 30 Mar - 5 - 8pm

FREE



music

# PROTEST SOUNDS FESTIVAL FINALE

Sat, 30 Mar - 9 - 11.45 pm  
£8 - £10

LUMA + GUEST ARTISTS invited by HABIBTI NATION

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Habibti Nation collaborates with AWAN for a night of electronic music centered on protest, revolution and solidarity across the Arab World and it's Arab diaspora.

Music is political and has always existed as a form of resistance, especially when other forms of resistance have been silenced. Explore this with LUMA & Nihal over the course of the evening through their sets from Palestine to Sudan with music, soundscapes and field recordings.

LUMA is a British-Iraqi DJ, radio host and club promoter. She has been establishing her presence in the London music scene and beyond with her eclectic selection of high energy sounds, playing at fabric, Boiler Room, Jazz Cafe, Keep Hush and Boomtown Festival and globally in Berlin, Amman, Switzerland and Bethlehem. LUMA runs Habibti Nation, consistently sold out party and monthly radio show on Balamii, showcasing underground electronic music from SWANA and the Arabic speaking world with a focus on femxle, gender nonconforming and trans artists.

Nihal is an Egyptian DJ, radio host, writer and researched based in London, with a show on NTS radio. Influenced by her hometown Cairo's underground scene, she selects contemporary left-field hip hop, drill, drum & bass and experimental sounds from SWANA capturing the organic crossovers traversing the region.



## SUPPORTERS



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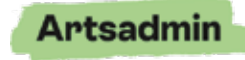
COCKAYNE



## PARTNERS & VENUES



RICH MIX



GRAND JUNCTION



SAQI



Clown me in



Produced by



AWAN Festival is founded and produced by Arts Canteen



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[artscanteen.com](http://artscanteen.com)

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awan

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