

**Iman Mersal** is an Egyptian writer, translator and literary scholar. Professor of Arabic Language and Literature at the University of Alberta, Canada, she is the author of five books of Arabic poetry. In English translation, her poems have appeared in *The New Republic*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Parnassus*, *Paris Review*, and *The Nation*, among others. *The Threshold* (poems), translated by Robyn Creswell and published in 2022 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, was shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize and won the 2023 National Translation Award in USA.

Her most recent publications include three non-fiction books: *Archives and Crimes*, translated into English by Robin Moger (Archive books, Berlin, 2022). *Kayfa Talta'im: 'An al-Umuma wa Ashbahiha* (2017), translated into English by Robin Moger as *How to Mend: Motherhood and its Ghosts* (Kayfa Ta and Sternberg Press, Berlin, 2018). Mersal received the 2021 Sheikh Zayed

Book Award in Literature for her creative nonfiction book, *Fi Athar Enayat al- Zayyat*, translated into English by Robin Moger as *Traces of Enayat (And Other Stories)*, the UK in 2023 and *Transit Book* in USA, 2024). The book is now shortlisted for the UK 2024 James Tait Black Prize for biography.

**Said Khatibi** is an Algerian novelist, born in 1984. He studied in Algeria and France, graduating with a BA in French Literature from the University of Algiers and an MA in Cultural Studies from the Sorbonne. He has worked in journalism since 2006 and lives in Slovenia. His published works include: *The Orbit of Absence* (a translation into French of Algerian stories, 2009), *Book of Sins* (a novel, 2013), *Flaming Gardens of the East* (a book about travels in the Balkans, 2015), *Forty Years Waiting for Isabel* (a novel, 2016), *Firewood of Sarajevo* (a novel, 2018). And *The End of Sahara* (a novel, 2022).