



Authors shortlisted for the 2010 International Prize for Arabic Fiction

Abdo Khal

'She Throws Sparks' – Al-Jamal Publications

Abdo Khal is a Saudi novelist born in al-Majanah, southern Saudi Arabia, in 1962. He studied political science at King Abdel Al Aziz University in Jeddah before starting writing in 1980. He is the author of several works, including: 'A Dialogue at the Gates of the Earth', 'There's Nothing to be Happy About' and 'Cities Eating the Grass'. Some of his works have been translated into English, French and German. In addition to his writing, he is a member of the board of directors of the Jeddah Literary Club and the editor-in-chief of the Ukaz newspaper, for which he writes a daily column.

Jamal Naji

'When the Wolves Grow Old' – Ministry of Culture Publications

Jamal Naji is a Jordanian writer of Palestinian descent, born in the 'Aqbat Jaber refugee camp, Jericho (Ariha) in 1954. He began writing in 1975 and his published works include: 'The Road to Balharith', 'Time', 'The Remnants of the Last Storms', 'Life on the Edge of Death', 'The Night of the Feathers', 'What Happened Thursday' and 'The Target'. He was president of the Jordanian Writers Association from 2001–2003 and he currently works as head of the Intelligentsia Centre for Research and Survey in Amman, Jordan.

Mansoura Ez Eldin

'Beyond Paradise' – Al-Ain

Egyptian novelist and journalist Mansoura Ez Eldin was born in Delta Egypt in 1976. She studied journalism at the Faculty of Media, Cairo University and has since published short stories in various newspapers and magazines: she published her first collection of short stories, 'Shaken Light', in 2001. This was followed by two novels, 'Maryam's Maze' in 2004 and 'Beyond Paradise' in 2009. Her work has been translated into a number of languages, including an English translation of 'Maryam's Maze' by the American University in Cairo (AUC) Press. This year, she was selected for the Beirut39, as one of the 39 best Arab authors below the age of 40. She was also a participant of the inaugural nadwa (writers' workshop) held by the International Prize for Arabic Fiction in Abu Dhabi this November.

Muhammad Al-Mansi Qindeel

'A Cloudy Day of the West Side' – Dar Al-Shorouk

Egyptian novelist Muhammad Al-Mansi Qindeel was born in 1946 in the Egyptian Delta city of al-Mahalla al-Kubra, where his father was a worker. His first novel, 'Breaking of the Spirit', was inspired by events surrounding workers' unrest in the city. A medical school graduate, he worked as a doctor in the countryside before dedicating himself to writing. He currently lives in Kuwait, where he works as an editor for monthly magazine Al-Arabi. He has won two awards for his writing, the State Incentive Award in 1988 and the Sawiris Foundation Award in 2006. He has published several novels, short story collections and children's books and his novel 'Moon over Samarkand' has been published in English by the American University in Cairo (AUC) Press.



Raba'i Madhoun

'The Lady from Tel-Aviv' – Arab Institute for Publishing and Studies

Palestinian writer Raba'i Madhoun was born in al-Majdal, Ashkelon, Israel, in 1945. Along with his parents, he was uprooted from his homeland during the 1948 Nakba exodus and as a consequence his childhood was spent in the Khan Younis Palestinian refugee camp situated in the Gaza Strip. He studied at Alexandria University, Egypt, and since 1973 has worked as a journalist. His written works include the short story collection 'The Idiot of Khan Younis', an academic study ('The Palestinian Intifada') and his autobiography, 'The Taste of Separation'. He currently works as an editor for Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper in London.

Rabee Jabir

'America' – Al-Markhaz al-Thaqafi al-Arabi (Arab Cultural Centre)

Lebanese novelist and journalist Rabee Jabir was born in Beirut in 1972. He has been editor of Afaq, the weekly cultural supplement of Al-Hayat newspaper, since 2001. His first novel, 'Master of Darkness', won the Critics Choice Prize in 1992. He has since written 16 novels, including: 'Black Tea'; 'The Last House'; 'Yousif Al-Inglizi'; 'The Journey of the Granadan' (published in German in 2005) and 'Berytus: A City Beneath the Earth' (published in French by Gallimard in 2009).