

**literaturen im kontext**  
**arabisch – persisch – türkisch**

**literatures in context**  
**arabic – persian – turkish**



**Reichert Verlag**

# Litkon: About this Series

**Literaturen im Kontext  
Arabisch – Persisch – Türkisch**

**Literatures in Context  
Arabic – Persian – Turkish**

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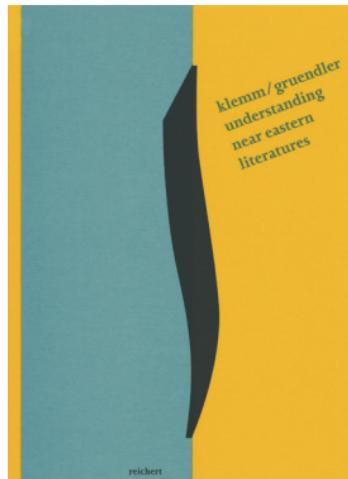
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Literatures in Context is a peer-reviewed book series devoted to Near Eastern and North African literatures. The editors want the title of the series to be understood programmatically. They presuppose a concept of world literature that includes Near Eastern and North African literatures. What is more, they assume that literatures are in many ways marked by intertextuality, that they constitute readings of extremely diverse earlier texts, and that they are posited within a field of tensions, much broader than their respective national language. For the earlier eras of Near Eastern and North African literatures, this field of tensions geographically covers the regions of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean and Asia Minor. In modern times, it has become a space of interaction that has long since included “global” Western literatures (and realities). This does not imply that the modern Near Eastern and North African literatures have severed themselves from their predecessors. Instead it is precisely the tension between different sets of references in modern Near Eastern and North African literatures, or their “local historical context”, which is a great part of their attraction, that remains a crucial field of research for the modern scholar.

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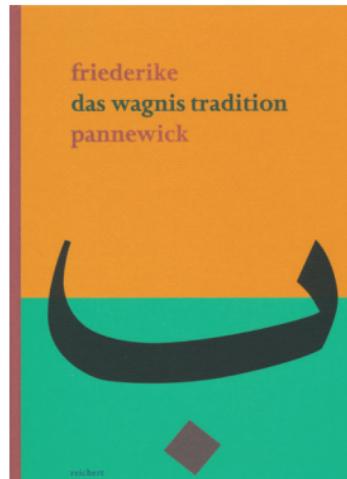




Verena Klemm – Beatrice Gruendler (eds.)  
**Understanding Near Eastern Literatures**  
A Spectrum of Interdisciplinary  
Approaches  
Vol. 1. 2000. 8°. Hc, 300 pp.,  
48,- EUR (978-3-89500-162-8)

The book offers an interdisciplinary perspective on Near Eastern Literatures and participates in their ongoing dialogue with literary theory. It presents 19 different readings of Arabic, Persian and Turkish works from the classical and modern periods, throwing new light on the texts as well as discussing chosen theoretical models, their applicability, and interconnection.

English and German text.



Friederike Pannewick  
**Das Wagnis Tradition**  
Arabische Wege der Theatralität  
Vol. 2. 2000. 8°. Hc, 336 pp.,  
42,- EUR (978-3-89500-185-7)

“There is no independent Arab theatre; the Arabs adopted this genre from Europe.” For a long time this was the predominant thesis in Europe and the Arab world. But what is theatre precisely? Does this concept have the same meaning in all cultures at all times? The author pursues these questions employing criteria developed in current cultural studies. She shows the status enjoyed by the storyteller and ritual games in modern Arab theatre. Such experimentation, wherein traditional elements are connected with current concerns, displays astounding parallels to theatre in Europe, Africa, China, and Latin America. Do these experiments share a common language, a global aesthetic? Drawing on numerous examples, the author shows that Arab theatre has emerged and developed in a process of transcultural interactions and that this transcultural dynamic is indispensable for understanding Arab theatre.

German text.



Andreas Pflitsch

## **Gegenwelten**

Zur Literaturtheorie Idwār al-Ḫarrāṭ

Vol. 3. 2000. 8°. Hc, 208 pp.,

32,- EUR (978-3-89500-186-4)

The Egyptian novelist, short story writer and literary critic Idwār al-Kharrāṭ (b. 1926) is one of the most influential contemporary authors in the Arab world. This first monograph devoted to his work focuses on his ideas concerning the forms and functions of literature developed around his concept of 'New Sensitivity', posing questions as to the possibilities which open up to literature beyond literary realism, the role of the author who now replaces the omniscient with a querying narrator, the construction of fictitious worlds beyond mimetic representation and how these relate to the genre of autobiography, the use of cultural and literary tradition for contemporary poetics, and the political relevance of a literary writing that prefers the subversion of fiction to traditional commitment. The study analyses his work within the context of 20<sup>th</sup>-century Arabic literature, compares it to developments in European literature, and thus positions this body of work within contemporary world literature.

German text.



Andrea Haist

## **Der ägyptische Roman**

Rezeption und Wertung

von den Anfängen bis 1945

Vol. 4. 2000. 8°. Hc, 620 pp.,

68,- EUR (978-3-89500-187-1)

Beginning in the 1820s, the decade Egyptians were first able to read a European novel, this study traces the process through which the novel subsequently established itself and then thrived as a genre in modern Egyptian literature, culminating in the first social-critical novel of the future Nobel Prize winner Najib Maḥfūz in 1945.

By taking the unique perspective of the respective contemporary readership, the study is also able to plot which aesthetic standards literary criticism established, how these standards and the values behind their assumptions changed, and how they were used to distinguish the novel from other literary genres and text types. This focus on reception provides an invaluable complementary dimension to the history of the modern novel in Egypt and is the first monograph of its kind in Arabic Studies.

German text.



Birgit Embaló  
**Palästinenser im arabischen Roman**  
 Syrien, Libanon, Jordanien, Palästina  
 (1948 bis 1988)  
 Vol. 5. 2000. 8°. Hc, 480 pp.,  
 52,- EUR (978-3-89500-190-1)

In contemporary Arabic fiction from Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan as well as in Palestinian exile novels, Palestinians are predominantly depicted as and judged in terms of being representatives of the Palestinian collective. They frequently appear on the scene as guerilla fighters, a role that seems to inevitably lead to an ideologically-loaded image and stereotypical portrayal. Although the public in the Arab world is acutely aware of and sensitive to the Palestine problem, the perception of Palestinians evident in novels is for the most part fixated on the political-military setting. The real-life circumstances – whether the refugees' sheer struggle to survive, the social and political situation of Palestinians in occupied territories or in exile, or Arab-Palestinian relations – play a subordinate role. The perspective taken by the novelist often draws on one-sided and rigid notions or is constricted to the projection of ideals: the fedayeen are depicted as the antithesis to Palestinian exile and the prototype of a “new Arab man”.

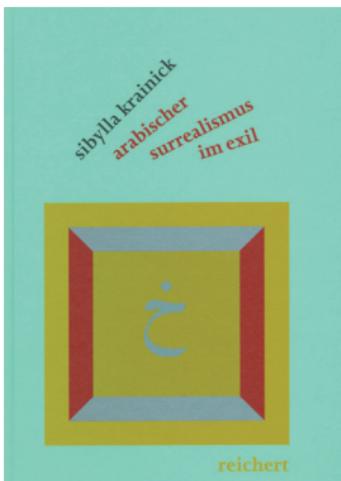
German text.



Nicola Lauré al-Samarai  
**Die Macht der Darstellung**  
 Gender, sozialer Status, historiographische Re-Präsentation: Zwei Frauenbiographien aus der frühen Abbasidenzeit  
 Vol. 6. 2001. 8°. Hc, 190 pp.,  
 49,- EUR (978-3-89500-241-0)

'Ulayya bint al-Mahdī (160–210/ 777–825), the younger sister of the Caliph Hārūn al-Rashid, and 'Arib (181–277/ 797–890), a first enslaved, later manumitted woman, are exceptional figures of the musical and poetic arts performed at the court of the early Abbasids. This study draws substantially on their biographical entries in the *Kitāb al-Aghānī* by Abū l-Faraj al-Isfahānī, one of the most important 10th-century sources for cultural history. Informed by postcolonial feminism and critical literary theory, the author investigates why and how women entered the androcentric historiographical writings of the Islamic Middle Ages and what happened to their life stories within the framework of powerful textual presentations. Localizing the close ties between gender, social status, and historiographical re-presentation, the author is able to identify Muslim women from this early period as historical agents and, moreover, show that their artistic contributions and specific knowledge are not only an integral part of Islamic history but essential for contemporary feminist discussions.

German text.



Sibylla Krainick  
**Arabischer Surrealismus im Exil**  
Der irakische Dichter und Publizist  
'Abd al-Qādir al-Ğanābī  
Vol. 7. 2001. 8°. Hc, 148 pp.,  
39,- EUR (978-3-89500-242-7)

Even after three decades of Parisian exile, the Iraqi poet and publicist 'Abd al-Qādir al-Janābī (b. 1944) still deserves greater attention in the West, both by scholars and critics as well as the broader public: not only because he is the self-appointed "heir" of Surrealism in the Arab world or due to his role as a provocative and iconoclastic agitator against Arab-Islamic culture and society, but also because he is a remarkable avant-garde poet and a charismatic initiator of literary and artistic projects. As the first approach to look at al-Janābī's thought and work from the intertwined aspects of content, expression, and reception, this study gives a fascinating picture of this incomparable enfant terrible of modern Arabic literature.

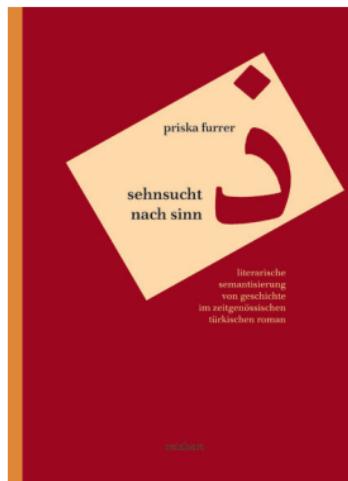
German text.



Sonja Mejcher  
**Geschichten über Geschichten**  
Erinnerung im Romanwerk  
von Ilyās Ḥūrī  
Vol. 8. 2001. 8°. Hc, 196 pp.,  
49,- EUR (978-3-89500-247-2)

Elias Khoury (b. 1948) is one of the most outstanding figures in Lebanon's cultural, intellectual and literary life today. The study focuses on the theme of memory in Khoury's novels. In the light of the Lebanese civil war of 1975-1990 memory has turned into a disputed and often neglected find in Lebanon. As the study shows, not only do Khoury's novels hold on to the memory of the civil war and transmit it at a time when memory itself is threatened, memory in its turn effects the novels' narrative structure. The study takes inspiration from narratology, especially Gérard Genette, and from Walter Benjamin's writings on memory and history.

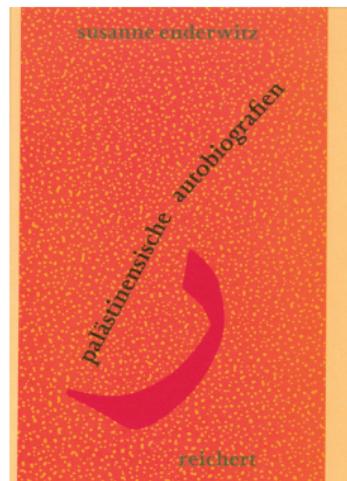
German text.



Priska Furrer  
**Sehnsucht nach Sinn**  
Literarische Semantisierung von Geschichte im zeitgenössischen türkischen Roman  
Vol. 9. 2005. 8°. Hc, 296 pp.,  
39,- EUR (978-3-89500-370-7)

Towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a new interest in the Ottoman and Seljuk past crystallized in Turkish fiction. In the process, not only an array of aspects connected with the “official”, heroic-nationalist version of history were subjected to a critical revision, but new narrative and fictional forms of historical representation developed. *Sehnsucht nach Sinn* (*Longing for Meaning*) examines this literary-inspired new definition of history in dialogue with more recent theoretical approaches to genre, which respond to innovative developments, departing from the traditional model of the “historical novel”, in the area of literary history representation.

German text.



Susanne Enderwitz  
**Unsere Situation schuf unsere Erinnerungen**  
Palästinensische Autobiographien zwischen 1967 und 2000  
Vol. 10. 2002. 8°. Hc, 328 pp.,  
42,- EUR (978-3-89500-249-6)

The history of Palestine is one written by others, Roman and Arab conquerors, Ottoman and British rulers, and today a Zionist shadow looms. As if finally realizing that claims to territory demand a claim to history, following the defeat of 1967 some individuals began to write down their memories, a trend that has gathered apace in subsequent decades. These authors are not historians and they do not venture into the archives; they rely solely on their memory and many of them do not even live in Palestine. They share one thing: the hope that they will one day return. This hope is however not to be understood as a concrete physical relocation but rather a hope for the return of a Palestinian state. And this marks the second key date of this work: the year 2000, when these hopes were dashed.

German text.



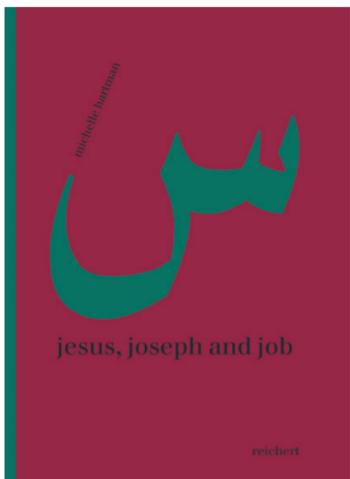
Anna Akasoy

### **Arabische Romantik im Exil**

Das poetische Werk des Fauzī al-Ma'lūf  
Vol. 11. 2002. 8°. Hc, 320 pp., 1 ill. b/w,  
49,- EUR (978-3-89500-293-9)

Thanks to his cycle of poems *On the carpet of the wind*, the Lebanese writer Fawzī al-Ma'lūf (1899–1930) is considered one of the most outstanding representatives of Arabic romantic poetry in Latin American exile. This study undertakes a dual approach of topographical and typological analysis to his multifaceted work, which comprises spiritualistic and political as well as love poetry. Finally, comparisons with European romantic and contemporary Arabic poetry present al-Ma'lūf's work in a broader historical context.

German text



Michelle Hartman

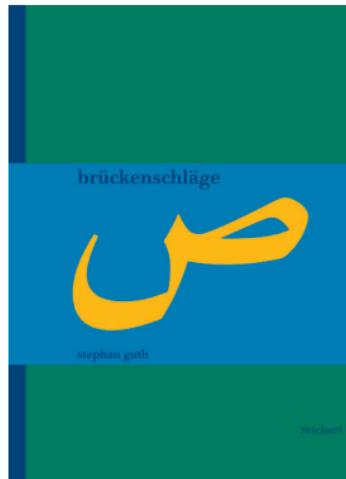
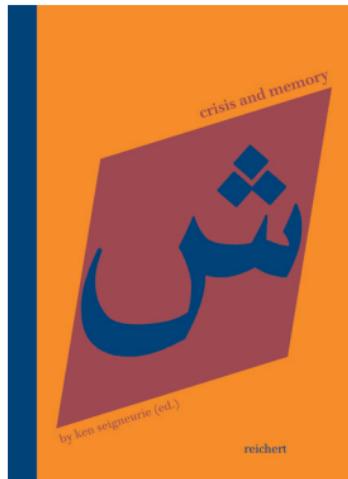
### **Jesus, Joseph and Job**

Reading Rescriptings of Religious Figures in Lebanese Women's Fiction  
Vol. 12. 2002. 8°. Hc, 188 pp.,  
39,- EUR (978-3-89500-298-4)

Joseph, Jesus and Job are all immediately recognizable religious figures in both Christianity and Islam who have been incorporated into a range of artistic and literary projects both inside and outside the Arab world. This study examines how three Lebanese women authors borrow and use these religious figures within their works of creative fiction. It proposes that the social, political and literary contributions of these works are interlinked and that their messages, especially those related to religion and gender, emerge through their innovations and artistry as creative works.

Drawing on the dual critical frameworks of intertextuality and postcolonial feminist theory, the study sets these works and their themes in relationship to multiple contexts, posing the question: Are these Arabic, French and/or Francophone novels? Should they be understood as Arab, Lebanese, and/or 'Third' World texts? As women's literature? The works treated are: Hudā Barakāt's *Hajar al-dahik*, Najwā Barakāt's *Hayāt wa-ālām Ḥamad ibn Sīlāna*, and Andrée Chedid's *La femme de Job*.

English text.



Ken Seigneurie (ed.)

**Crisis and Memory**

The Representation of Space  
in Modern Levantine Narrative  
Vol. 13. 2003. 8°. Hc, 260 pp.,  
49,- EUR (978-3-89500-340-0)

This volume explores the literary representation of social and political crises that have punctuated the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the Middle East. From the creation of the state of Israel and its continuing aftermath, to the Suez crisis, to the expulsion of the PLO from Jordan, to the Lebanese Civil War, literature "has been there" but seldom has it been considered a useful lens for understanding the causes and perpetuation of these crises. This collection of essays aims to show how literature can illuminate crises of ethnicity, gender, class, religion, and nation. While the contributors hail from several countries and display a variety of critical approaches, they all focus on the representation of space in narrative.

English and French text.

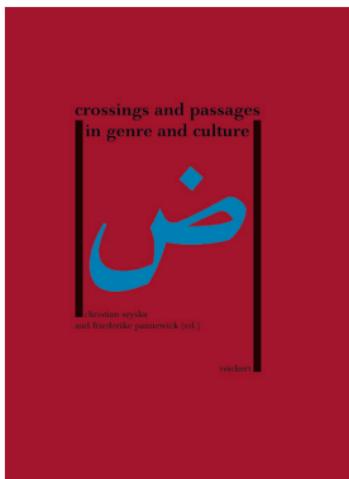
Stephan Guth

**Brückenschläge**

Eine integrierte 'turkoarabische'  
Romangeschichte (Mitte 19. bis  
Mitte 20. Jahrhundert)  
Vol. 14. 2003. 8°. Hc, 656 pp.,  
59,- EUR (978-3-89500-341-7)

*Brückenschläge* (*Building Bridges*) is the first detailed and systematic comparison of two modern Middle Eastern literatures, taking the novel genre as a paradigm. The study's synoptic approach challenges, and gets past, the concept of Arabic resp. Turkish "national literatures", outlining a model for the description and periodisation of the processes at work in modern Middle Eastern literatures in general. An extensive comparison of the contexts, literary and extra-literary, in which each literature is being produced points to the conditions which favoured a similarity of development in spite of the scarcity of exchange between both literatures.

German text.

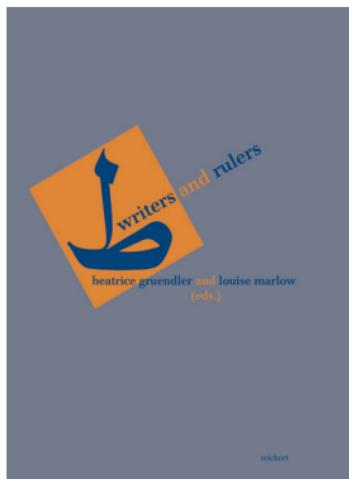


Christian Szyska –  
Friederike Pannewick (eds.)  
**Crossings and Passages in Genre  
and Culture**

Vol. 15. 2003. 8°. Hc, 228 pp., 6 ill. b/w,  
49,- EUR (978-3-89500-365-3)

*Crossings and Passages in Genre and Culture* scrutinizes the fascinating and diverse wanderings forms of artistic expression, in particular literature, have taken through different cultural fields, both within and outside a specific geographical region or historical époque. Approaching the topic with a flexible genre concept and avoiding any superficial group classification of texts, the common focus of the essays collected in this volume is to explore the dimensions and potentiality which cultural encounters release in the field of genre transformation.

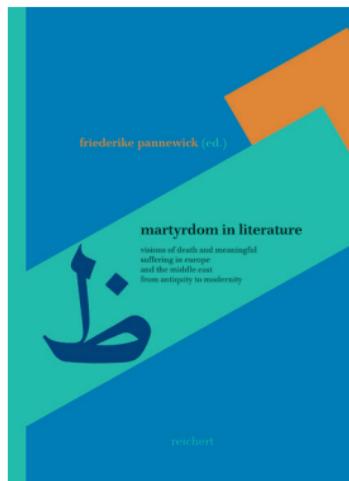
English and German text.



Beatrice Gruendler –  
Louise Marlow (eds.)  
**Writers and Rulers**  
Perspectives on Their Relationship from  
Abbasid to Safavid Times  
Vol. 16. 2004. 8°. Hc, 260 pp., 3 ill. b/w,  
59,- EUR (978-3-89500-376-9)

Nine essays explore the ways in which individual Arabic and Persian authors between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries (with examples drawn from the Abbasid to the Safavid dynasties) chose rulers and other political leaders as the recipients for their writings, instrumentalizing or recreating literary traditions in order to forge and establish the status of an authority for themselves, to fulfill their own requirements and aspirations, and finally to meet the demands of their addressees.

English text.



Friederike Pannewick (ed.)

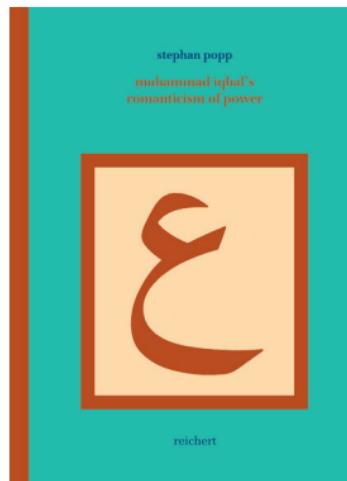
### Martyrdom in Literature

Visions of Death and Meaningful Suffering in Europe and the Middle East from Antiquity to Modernity  
Vol. 17. 2004. 8°. Hc, 380 pp., 2 ill. b/w,  
59,- EUR (978-3-89500-382-0)

This book aims to achieve a deeper understanding of the very human phenomenon of martyrdom by analysing in detail its highly varied re-enactments in European and Middle Eastern literatures. Despite its divergent historical, religious, philosophical or political circumstances, there does seem to be a certain inner logic, a metaphorical structure or symbolical subtext underpinning and thus unifying these heterogeneous literary manifestations of the idea of martyrdom.

In this volume, eighteen researchers from the fields of literary, historical and religious studies reflect on the way concepts of martyrdom are represented, staged, praised or critically deconstructed in different world literatures.

English and German text.



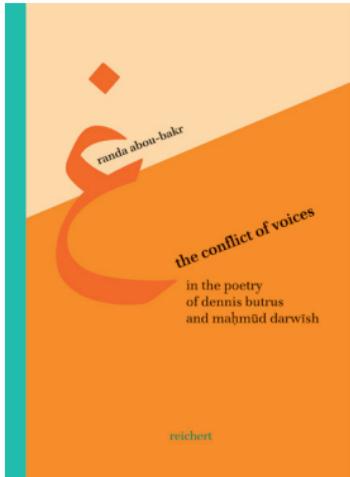
Stephan Popp

### **Muhammad Iqbāl's Romanticism of Power**

A Post-Structural Approach to His Persian Lyrical Poetry  
Vol. 18. 2004. 8°. Hc, 284 pp.,  
59,- EUR (978-3-89500-378-3)

A study of the Persian poetry of Muhammad Iqbāl (1877-1938), today Pakistan's national poet, this work identifies the position his poems occupied between tradition and modernity, specifying the appeal they held for his contemporaries. Drawing on structural text analysis, the aesthetics of reception, and the semiotics of Umberto Eco, the study undertakes to demonstrate that the message in *Payām-i Mashriq* (*Message from the East*) and *Zabūr-i 'Ajām* (*Persian Psalms*) is romantic. An adaptation of national romanticism, Iqbāl's version may be called a pan-Islamic romanticism of power and so very distinct from a nature-inspired romanticism. The traditional forms utilized for the poems are revealed to be mere tools for rendering this message plausible. Employing traditional rhetorical devices to convey a thoroughly modern content, Iqbāl succeeded in establishing a bridge for the Muslims of India to connect into the discourses of pan-Islam and self-governance, thus motivating them to join India's independence movement.

English text.



Randa Abou-Bakr

**The Conflict of Voices in the Poetry of Dennis Brutus and Mahmud Darwish**

A Comparative Study

Vol. 19. 2004. 8°. Hc, 224 pp.,  
49,- EUR (978-3-89500-372-1)

A comparative analysis of the work of the South African poet Dennis Brutus (1924-2009) and the Palestinian poet Mahmud Darwish (1942-2008), this study aims to demonstrate how a conflict of voices in their poetry emerged and developed across four stages, covering a period from the mid-1960s to the mid-1990s. Based on a critique of theories proclaiming the 'death of the author', a productive approach to voice is elaborated while taking a modifying perspective on aspects such as 'lyricism', 'polyphony', and 'impersonality'.

English text.



Reuven Snir

**Palestinian Theatre**

Vol. 20. 2005. 8°. Hc, 256 pp.,  
59,- EUR (978-3-89500-479-7)

The book outlines the development of Palestinian theatre from the first theatrical attempts before 1948, to the heavy blow, which these attempts suffered as a result of the Nakba, to regeneration of the professional theatre out of the ashes of the 1967 defeat, through to the role the theatrical troupes played in the Palestinian nation-building process. The study also provides a glimpse into the nature of the current Palestinian theatrical movement, its artistic framework, the main themes and poetic traits as well as its major sources of influence.

English text.



Renate Würsch

**Niẓāmī's Schatzkammer**

**der Geheimnisse**

Eine Untersuchung zu *Makhzan ul-asrār*  
Vol. 21. 2005. 8°. Hc, 432 pp.,  
35,- EUR (978-3-89500-462-9)

This study of Niẓāmī's (d. 1209) *Makhzan ul-asrār* (*Treasure of Mysteries*) deals with problems of the work's history and reception, analyzing the formal setting of the poem as well as its stylistic elements, in particular its rich and difficult imagery. This demands a detailed examination of the alternately reflective, homiletic, and narrative textual structure of *Makhzan ul-asrār*, of Niẓāmī's virtuoso technique of forming chains of associations, and of the didactic topics. Finally, the study provides a translation with commentary of the twenty parables, included by Niẓāmī in his first *Mathnawī*.

German text.



Peter Dové

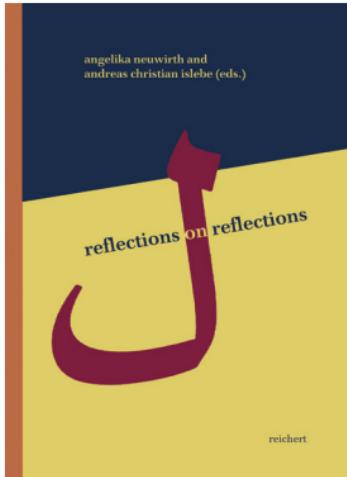
**Erzählte Tradition**

Historische und literarische Figuren im Werk von Zakariyyā Tāmir. Eine narratologische Analyse

Vol. 22. 2006. 8°. Hc, 208 pp.,  
29,- EUR (978-3-89500-461-2)

Zakariyyā Tāmir (b. 1931) is generally considered to be one of the most innovative authors in contemporary Arabic literature. One characteristic of his short stories is how they take up and retell the historical and literary traditions in a variety of ways: in his texts Tāmir works – and plays – with subjects, literary models, conventions, lore, and popular folk fictions. It is this work with and on tradition which this study explores in narratological and intertextual analyses. The study shows how Tāmir narrates tradition and how he – through this very same narrative act – forges a new concept of tradition.

German text.



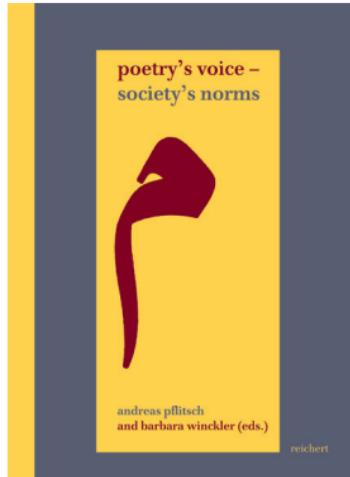
Angelika Neuwirth –  
Andreas Christian Islebe (eds.)

### **Reflections on Reflections**

Near Eastern Writers Reading Literature  
Vol. 23. 2006. 8°. Hc, 408 pp., 1 ill. b/w,  
88,- EUR (978-3-89500-369-1)

This volume assembles the papers read at a symposium on the diverse forms of literature reception and intertextuality in Middle Eastern literatures in general and Arabic literature in particular. Arabic Studies are continuously confronted with powerful traditions and notions of canon. Yet, questions of intertextuality have only rarely been systematically pursued and a comprehensive study of the various modes of literary reception is equally absent. One key intention of the volume is to alert attention to these desiderata.

English and German text.



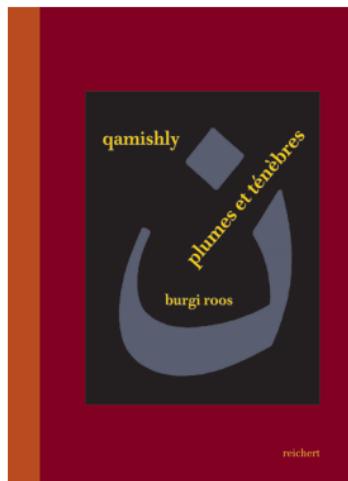
Andreas Pflitsch –  
Barbara Winckler (eds.)

### **Poetry's Voice – Society's Norms**

Forms of Interaction between Middle  
Eastern Writers and their Societies  
Vol. 24. 2006. 8°. Hc, 306 pp.,  
68,- EUR (978-3-89500-518-5)

Literary works are much more than mere illustrations of societal conditions. Literature is the setting in which society discusses itself. In this volume, international scholars of Literary Studies as well as specialists in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian and Turkish Studies explore the dimensions and ways of how writers, from the classical period to modernity, tackle the values of their societies.

English and German text.



Burgi Roos

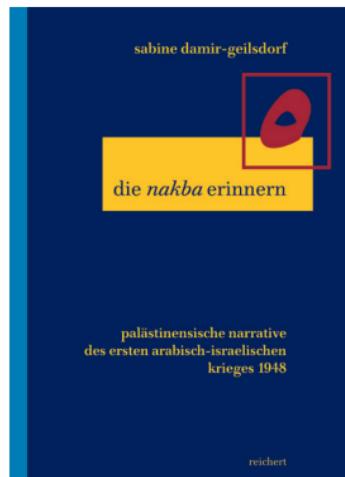
**Qamishly, Plumes et Ténèbres**

Lectures de quatre œuvres en prose  
de Salim Barakat

Vol. 25. 2008. 8°. Hc, 226 pp.,  
49,- EUR (978-3-89500-513-8)

This study explores the early prose work of the Syrian-Kurdish novelist and poet Salim Barakat (b. 1951). Containing elements of both the realistic and fantastic, his narrative texts center on the life and culture of the Kurds in the 1950s and 1960s, the growing pressure exerted by Arab nationalism on the Kurdish minority in Syria, and how the Kurds have responded to the political reality. Drawing on methods of modern literary studies and following a dialogical structure, Burgi Roos analyzes the construction of Kurdish identity and the deconstruction of Kurdish nationalism.

French text.



Sabine Damir-Geilsdorf

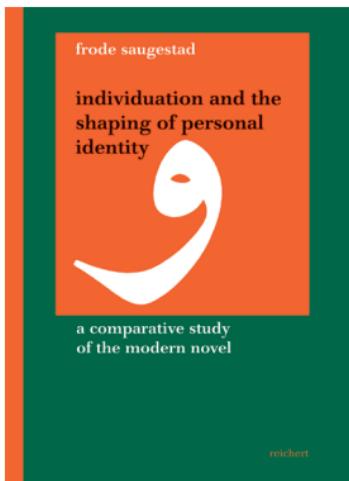
**Die nakba erinnern**

Palästinensische Narrative des ersten  
arabisch-israelischen Kriegs 1948

Vol. 26. 2008. 8°. Hc, 360 pp.,  
59,- EUR (978-3-89500-637-1)

For Palestinians, the term *nakba* (catastrophe) subsumes the events within the context of the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948, immediately after the foundation of the state of Israel. To this day, the *nakba* is referred to continuously – not only within the context of politics, but also in literature and popular and everyday culture. Using interviews with Palestinian refugees in Jordan and a wide range of written sources, this volume for the first time approaches the forms and functions of *nakba* memories from the perspective of memory theory, demonstrating how the various events are assigned significance through narrative structures.

German text.



Frode Saugestad

## **Individuation and the Shaping of Personal Identity**

A Comparative Study of the Modern Novel  
Vol. 27. 2009. 8°. Hc, 304 pp.,  
45,- EUR (978-3-89500-568-8)

This book endeavors to contribute to comparative literary studies, especially the study of the modern novel, through its analysis of the process of individuation in four distinct literatures, two Western and two Arabic: Norwegian literature through the work of Knut Hamsun, Irish through the work of James Joyce, Egyptian through the work of Naguib Mahfouz, and Sudanese through the work of Tayeb Salih. The overarching aim is to link the process of individuation to the novel as a distinct literary genre and demonstrate how one can probe certain aspects of individuation through studying the novel.

The investigation of the texts draws on a set of complex and discerning theories from the sociology of culture as well as identity and literary theory, represented by the thinkers Pierre Bourdieu, Stuart Hall, Anthony Giddens, René Girard, and Mikhail Bakhtin. Contextualizing each writer in their specific literary field of production enables us to identify the specificity of their literary contribution in the process of shaping personal identity.

English text.

Ibrahim Taha

## **Arabic Minimalist Story**

Genre, Politics and Poetics in the Self-Colonial Era  
Vol. 28. 2009. 8°. Hc, 184 pp.,  
49,- EUR (978-3-89500-666-1)

One of the major aims of this book is to characterize the Arabic minimalist story as a newly established genre of narrative fiction that exploits a host of "austere" techniques in order to present a variety of socio-political issues. Believing in "less is more", Arab minimalist writers hope to generate an extreme effect by relating and saying several things with a minimum of words. The unique powerful effect of inspiring its readers to fight and resist that is attributed to the Arabic minimalist story stems paradoxically from its concentrated, focal, sudden, and immediate presentation.

English text.



Atef Botros  
**Kafka**  
Ein jüdischer Schriftsteller  
aus arabischer Sicht  
Vol. 29. 2009. 8°. Hc, 276 pp.,  
19,80 EUR (978-3-89500-673-9)

The book is devoted to the subject of the Arab reception of Franz Kafka between 1939 and today. The study focuses on the examination of Kafka and his work in the form of intellectual reflective commentaries. It deals with the productive reception and presents modern Arabic literary works which were somehow inspired by or close to the writing of Kafka. The central question of reception as a process of cultural translation includes the preoccupation with Kafka's Jewish affiliation in the context of the Jewish Arab conflict, tracing back the modern Arab history of thought with all its varieties via such indirect ways of reception.

German text.



Stephan Milich  
**Poetik der Fremdheit**  
Palästinensische und irakische Lyrik  
des Exils  
Vol. 30. 2009. 8°. Hc, 432 pp.,  
79,- EUR(978-3-89500-729-3)

This first study on contemporary Arabic exile poetry focuses on four poets who contributed essentially to the innovation of the contemporary Arabic "Qaṣīda": Sa'dī Yūsuf (b. 1934) and Kamāl Sabtī (1955–2006) from Iraq as well as Zakariyyā Muḥammad (b. 1951) and Ghassān Zaqtān (b. 1954) from Palestine. The comparative work offers a profound interpretation and exhaustive analysis of the main features, topics and motifs relevant to Arabic exile poetry today making use of postcolonial (Homi Bhabha), deconstructivist (Jacques Derrida) and hermeneutic (Paul Ricoeur) theories. Oscillating between the loss of identity and its recovery, between nostalgic and traumatic remembrance both of their past and their homelands, the poets strive to find new poetic and meta-poetic forms and linguistic expressions for a world experienced as being out of joint.

German text.



Nadia Al-Bagdadi

### **Vorgestellte Öffentlichkeit**

Zur Genese moderner Prosa in Ägypten  
(1860 bis 1908)

Vol. 31. 2010. 8°. Hc, 224 pp.,  
59,- EUR (978-3-89500-248-9)

This socio-literary study examines the relationship between processes of modernisation and reform, and new literary genres produced in Egypt of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. How did heterogeneous modern literary forms emerge in this particular environment, and what were the underlying motivations of the new authors? Literature is regarded here as a specific sphere of knowledge and representation, facilitating in its modes of reflection novel individual and societal patterns of experience. If urbanity played a special role as constitutive element of narrative prose, ideas about new forms of public sphere and public opinion also played their role. The new means of text production, finally, attested to the recession of the auratic perception of a text.

German text.



Yvonne Albers

### **Scheiternde Zeugen,**

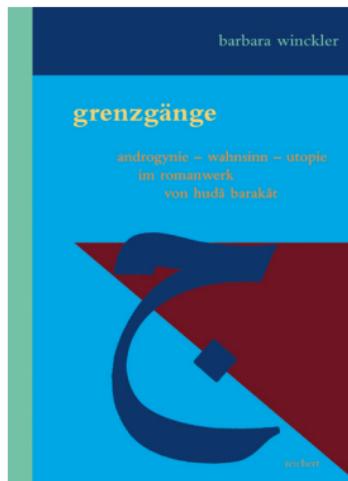
### **machtlose Wähler**

Der Zuschauer im zeitgenössischen libanesischen Theater

Vol. 32. 2011. 8°. Hc, 118 pp.,  
49,- EUR (978-3-89500-803-0)

The study provides new insights into the development of contemporary theatre in Lebanon. Focusing on selected stage works by Rabih Mroué (b. 1967) and Hisham Jaber (b. 1980), the author presents a thorough analysis which draws on current theoretical approaches. She is thereby able to furnish an illuminating definition of the politics of this theatre: although still concerned with critically reflecting on the civil war and a society fragmented by inner conflict, its real political substance is to be found in its form of representation rather than specific content. Mroué and Jaber challenge the self-reflection and participation of the critical individual by placing the audience at the centre of their attention. By adopting the very same innovative perspective on the audience, the study also succeeds in linking it to recent trends in international theatre.

German text.



Barbara Winckler

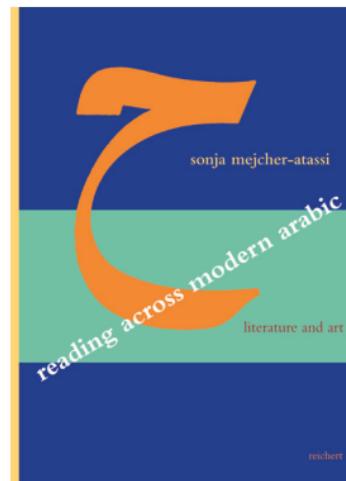
### **Grenzgänge**

Androgynie – Wahnsinn – Utopie  
im Romanwerk von Hudā Barakāt  
Vol. 33. 2014. 8°. Hc, 272 pp.,  
69,- EUR (978-3-89500-804-7)

Hudā Barakāt's novels are complex and densely woven texts that focus on the obsessions and inner conflicts of their protagonists. The first monograph dealing with the Lebanese author's work, this book presents in-depth analyses of her first three novels, each of which addresses one key aspect: androgyny as metaphor, madness between lovesickness and mystical experience, and utopia or 'real' counter-worlds.

In the context of the 'spatial turn', the study analyzes these aspects as transgressions or borderline situations. It starts by developing a concept of 'Grenzgänge' ('moving across/along borders') that encompasses various physical as well as conceptual spaces, combining ideas from different disciplines: heterotopy, borderline and transgression, threshold and liminality as well as interspaces or 'Third Spaces' and 'ZwischenWeltenSchreiben' ('writing-between-worlds'). The concept elaborated here offers an instrument for analyzing literary texts that opens up new perspectives and reveals analogies and differences between various borderline situations.

German text.



Sonja Mejcher-Atassi

### **Reading across Modern Arabic**

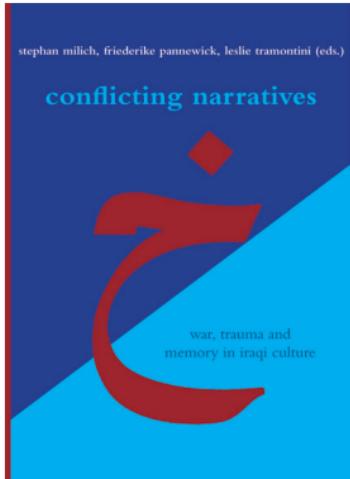
#### **Literature and Art**

Vol. 34. 2012. 8°. Hc, 120 pp.,  
69,- EUR (978-3-89500-805-4)

Interrelations of literature and art, word and image, are manifold. However, they have remained largely unexplored when it comes to literature and art in the Arab world. This book aims at introducing interarts studies to Middle Eastern studies and, at the same time, hopes to widen the horizon of interarts studies, which represents an interdisciplinary field of research in comparative literature.

The book focuses on three case studies, examining the rapport of Arab writers, Jabra Ibrahim Jabra (1920–1994), Abd al-Rahman Munif (1933–2004) and Etel Adnan (b. 1925), with art, be it as an art critic, an art lover, or an artist in his/her own right. It then sets out to read selected literary texts relationally, across the fields of literature and art, breaking with conventional ways of reading as well as seeing.

English text.



Stephan Milich – Friederike Pannewick –  
Leslie Tramontini (eds.)

### **Conflicting Narratives**

War, Trauma and Memory in Iraqi Culture  
Vol. 35. 2012. 8°. Hc, 286 pp.,  
69,- EUR (978-3-89500-806-1)

This volume deals with the Iraqi cultural production under and after Baathist rule, a research field which, in comparison to Iraqi history and politics, has attracted relatively scant scholarly attention. The contributors depict the impact of dictatorship, sanctions, and successive wars on Iraqi culture, analyze the predominant narratives and counter-narratives in Iraqi culture, as well as considering the effect of the demographic shift to exile and diaspora. Further contributions deal with the fragmentation of Iraq's political culture and artistic representations of diverse identities and historical memories. And last but by no means least, the volume asks how the strategies of those intellectuals who supported and legitimized official politics during the Baathist rule can be approached and studied critically with a view to gaining a better understanding of how official culture functioned.

English text.



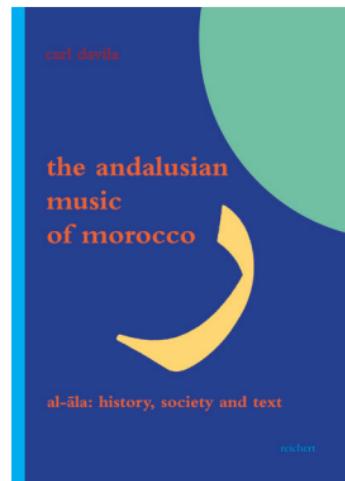
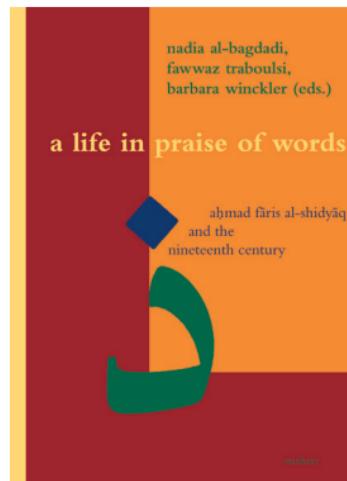
Osman Hajjar

### **Die Messingstadt**

Eine Erzählung aus Tausendundeiner  
Nacht. Architektur einer Heiligung  
Vol. 36. 2012. 8°. Hc, 304 pp.,  
79,- EUR (978-3-89500-807-8)

Anyone associating *The Arabian Nights* with erotic stories will doubtlessly be disappointed when reading "City of Brass" (Nights 566–578). This tale deals not with the lust for life but, on the contrary, with the vanity of existence: Each individual who attempts to safeguard his own memory will inevitably fail because of the destructiveness of time. This is a lesson the reader learns together with the protagonist Mūsā Ibn Nuṣayr (d. 716–717), accompanying him on his fantastic expedition to the end of the world, which at the same time also seems to be the beginning of time. The study examines how the detailed steps of Mūsā Ibn Nuṣayr's "sentimental journey" are staged with respect to space and time, and how the recurrent motif of vanity gradually leads him to religious awareness.

German text.



Nadia Al-Bagdadi – Fawwaz Traboulsi – Barbara Winckler (eds.)

### **A Life in Praise of Words**

Aḥmad Fāris al-Shidyaq  
and the Nineteenth Century  
Vol. 37. 2014. 8°. Hc, ca. 240 pp.,  
ca. 59,- EUR (978-3-89500-808-5)

This book assembles for the first time a broad range of international scholarship on one of the leading figures of 19<sup>th</sup>-century Arabic letters, Aḥmad Fāris al-Shidyaq (1804–1887), considering biographical, philological, aesthetical, and historical perspectives.

*A Life in Praise of Words* addresses the central motif of this eccentric polymath, whose entire literary, publicist and scholarly oeuvre bears witness to the author's striving for a new language that would be adequate for the cultural and social needs of his time. The essays analyze al-Shidyaq's life, thought, and literary output, all of which were deeply influenced by the lifelong experience of exile and social marginality, alternating with dependence on major political figures of the century. If both his biography and his oeuvre mark al-Shidyaq as vanguard author, the present volume explores the reasons for his long lasting misrecognition and late inclusion into the canon of the Arab *nahḍa*, focusing in particular on his biography and on his literary masterpiece *al-Sāq 'alā al-sāq*.

English text.

Carl Davila

### **The Andalusian Music of Morocco**

Al-Āla: History, Society and Text

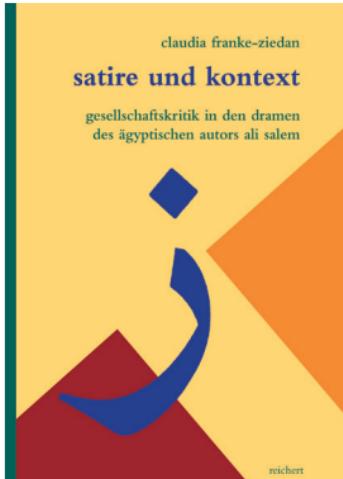
Vol. 38. 2013. 8°. Hc, 368 pp.,

incl. Audio – CD

89,- EUR (978-3-89500-913-6)

This book reframes the history of the Andalusian music of Morocco by highlighting the interplay of oral and literary processes in the preservation and transmission of this poetic-musical tradition across generations. Although oral communication and the social intimacy it fosters have been highly valued by participants in the tradition throughout its evolution from the elite music of Islamic Spain to its present status as Morocco's national classical music, over the past two and a half centuries, written anthologies also have evolved as iconic representations of the tradition that function alongside the oral processes without replacing them. Davila brings a new approach to studies of the social foundations of Arabic poetic traditions by proposing a "value theory of tradition" and arguing that this "mixed orality" within the boundaries of the tradition persists because the two embody distinct but complementary sets of values.

English text.



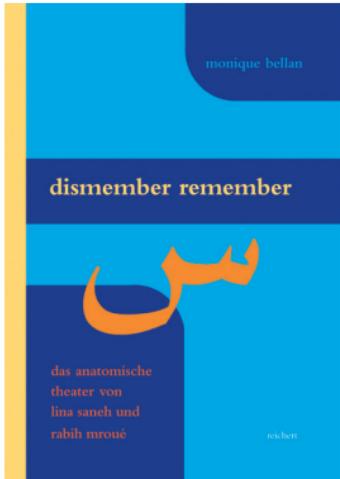
Claudia Franke-Ziedan

### Satire und Kontext

Gesellschaftskritik in den Dramen des ägyptischen Autors Ali Salem  
Vol. 39. 2013. 8°. Hc, 272 pp.,  
69,- EUR (978-3-89500-939-6)

This study examines the dramas of the Egyptian writer Ali Salem (b. 1936). In addition to determining Salem's position in literary history and outlining developments in modern Arab theatre, the contemporary dramatist's plays written in Egyptian dialect are given detailed consideration. Specifically, the satirical style of these texts is analyzed, enabling the socio-critical potential of these stage works to be identified and gauged.

German text.



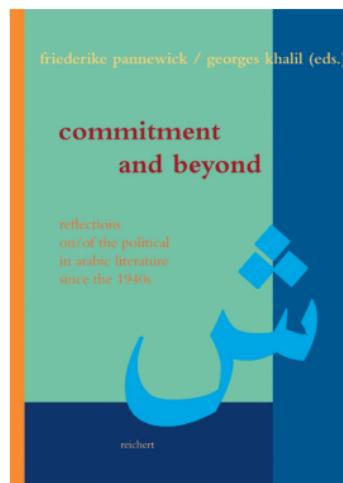
Monique Bellan

### Dismember Remember

Das anatomische Theater von Lina Saneh und Rabih Mroué  
Vol. 40. 2013. 8°. Hc, 240 pp.,  
59,- EUR (978-3-89500-982-2)

What happens if a body is dissected with words rather than physically? If what is taken apart is reassembled? What impact does this have on how we see things? This volume is the first comprehensive introduction to the work of Lebanese theatre artists Lina Saneh (b. 1966) and Rabih Mroué (b. 1967) and provides an insight into their approach to theatre and their understanding of political matters. The artists offer new perspectives and ways of looking at things by deconstructing omnipresent images, long-established beliefs and myths. They do so using theatre, performance and video to unravel existing constructions of reality and uncover the interspaces. The study presents five works by the artists and analyses them in light of different theories from the fields of theatre and cultural studies. Saneh and Mroué are also considered in relation to local theatre history and within the context of contemporary art in Lebanon as well as international developments.

German text.



Friederike Pannewick –  
Georges Khalil (eds.)  
**Commitment and Beyond**  
Reflections on/of the Political in Arabic  
Literature since the 1940s  
Vol. 41. 2014. 8°. Hc, ca. 450 pp., ca. 7 b/w-  
ill, ca. 79,- EUR (978-3-95490-040-4)

This book is about relations between literature, society and politics in the Arab world. It is an attempt to come to terms with the changing conceptualizations of the political in Arabic literature in recent modern history. It examines historical and contemporary conceptions of literary commitment (*iltizām*) and how notions of ‘writing with a cause’ have been shaped, contested, re-actualized since the 1940s until today. Against the backdrop of the current social and political transformations in the Arab world, questions on the role of the arts, specifically literature and its politics, arise with immediacy and require profound reflection and analysis.

The chapters reexamine critically both current and historical notions of the political in modern Arabic literature as well as the legacy of *iltizām* as a term and an agenda. Literary commitment is understood here not just solely as a (completed) period in Arabic literary history but also as a vivid, changing and continuing idea that questions the role of literature and the author in and for a society.

English text.

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