

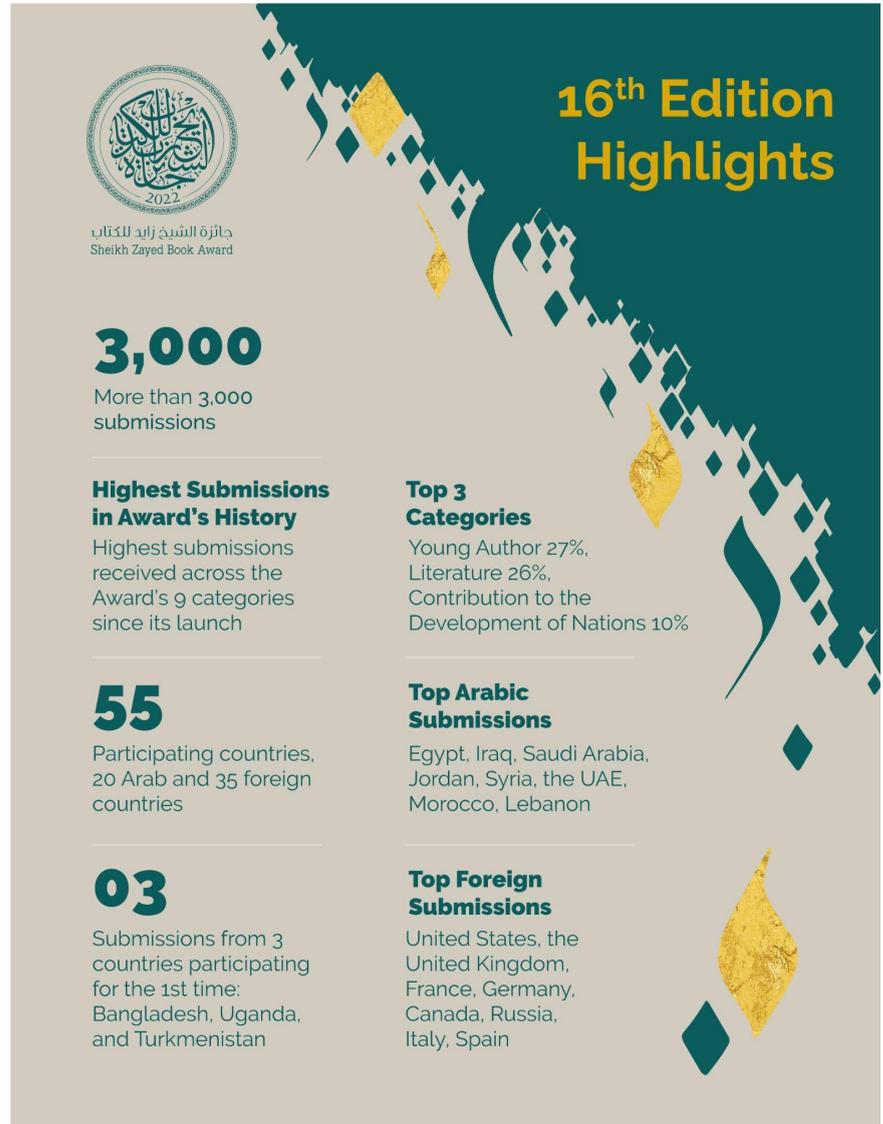


جائزة الشيخ زايد للكتاب
Sheikh Zayed Book Award

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Sheikh Zayed Book Award

One of the world's most prestigious prizes dedicated to advancing Arabic literature and culture



Submissions for the 16th edition were at record highs, with longlists announced in November 2020.

Introduction

The **Sheikh Zayed Book Award** is one of the world's leading prizes dedicated to Arabic literature and culture. Since 2006 the Award has brought recognition, reward and readership to outstanding work by authors, translators, publishers, and organisations around the world.

Now in its **16th year**, the annual Award aims to recognise some of the most challenging and exciting work coming out of the Arab world or engaging with its culture, including both literary and scholarly works.

Winners receive prize money of 750,000 UAE dirhams (£160,000 / \$204,000) to both recognise and foster their achievements.

British prize alumni **Dame Marina Warner** (Arabic Culture in Other Languages Winner, 2013) has hailed the Award as one that nourishes the academic community, as "less of a trophy than a

lavish bursary that allows the recipient to continue their adventures in understanding”, while Palestinian–American author **Ibtisam Barakat** (Children’s Literature Winner, 2020), dubbed it “the Arab world’s equivalent to the Nobel prize”.

The Award does not only recognise major literary and cultural achievements, but also aims to boost the publishing industry. 2018 saw the launch of **Sheikh Zayed Translation Grants**, to help produce more quality Arabic books that are translated, published and distributed outside the Arab World.

Categories

The prize awards nine categories that reflect and promote Arabic culture in its broadest sense, from young authors and children’s books to translation and art criticism.

The [categories](#) are:

- Arabic Culture in Other Languages
- Translation (either to or from Arabic)
- Cultural Personality of the Year (contributing to the advancement of Arabic culture)
- Publishing and Technology
- Contribution to the Development of Nations
- Children’s Literature (including young adult, or YA, titles)
- Young Authors
- Literature (including poetry, short stories, novels, biographies, playscripts, and more)
- Literary and Art Criticism

The ‘**Arabic Culture in Other Languages**’ category was introduced in 2012 to recognise works, published in languages other than Arabic, on aspects of Arab civilization and culture from fields including the humanities, fine arts, literature and history.

Timeline

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|---------------------|---|
| ★ November 2021 | Longlists announced for 16th edition |
| ★ March 2022 | Shortlists announced for 16th edition |
| ★ April 2022 | Winners announced for 16th edition |
| ★ May 2022 | Winners ceremony during Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, 23–29 May |
| ★ June–October 2022 | Submissions open for the 17th edition of the Award |
| ★ Year-round: | <i>Applications open to publishers for the SZBA Translation Grant</i> |

Translation Grants

The aim of SZBA’s translation grant is to encourage the appreciation of Arabic writing in other languages, and to contribute to increasing the number of Arabic books that are translated, published and distributed abroad. Funding is available for translation of all literary and children’s titles that are shortlisted for or win a Sheikh Zayed Book Award.

In 2021, five international publishers were awarded translation grants, resulting in six translations of SZBA-winning titles, including three children’s books and two from the Literature category. From the Children’s category: 2017 winner *Hatless* by Kuwaiti author Lateefah Boti translated into English by Nancy Roberts in collaboration with Darf Publishers; 2020 winner

Lilac Girl by Palestinian-American author Ibtisam Barakat, translated into German by Suleman Taufiq in collaboration with German publisher Sujet Verlag; and 2014 winner *Thirty Poems for Children* by Lebanese poet Jawdat Fakhreddine, translated into French by Leila Tahir and into English by Huda Fakhreddine, in collaboration with Bookland Press.

From the Literature category, 2018 winner *Remorse Test* by Syrian author Khalil Sweileh has been translated into German by Suleman Taufiq in collaboration with Sujet Verlag as well as into Ukrainian by Oksana Prokhorovych at Nora-Druk Publishers, and 2015 winner *The Madmen of Bethlehem* by Palestinian author Osama Alaysa, now has a Georgian translation by Darejan Gardavadze in collaboration with Intelekti Publishing.



In 2021, five international publishers were awarded the Translation Grant resulting in six translated titles from the SZBA shortlists.

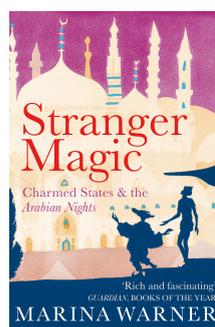
Previous winners



Iman Mersal – Literature Award, 2021

Fee Athar Enayat Al Zayyat (In the Footsteps of Enayat Al Zayyat), (Al Kotob Khan Library 2019)

Egyptian poet, translator and novelist, Iman Mersal received the Literature Award for her multi-genre book based upon the life, work and tragic death of Egyptian writer Enayat Al Zayyat. Her title has been published in multiple Arabic editions and her work has been translated into 22 languages.



Marina Warner – Arabic Culture in Other Languages Award, 2013

Stranger Magic: Charmed States and the Arabian Nights (Vintage, 2012)

British academic and author Marina Warner's ground-breaking book won for its exploration of the prophetic enchantments of the *Nights*, revealing how its magic helped to create the modern world, and how profoundly it is still inscribed in the way we think today.



Amin Maalouf – Cultural Personality of the Year Award, 2016

In 2016, Lebanese-born French novelist Amin Maalouf won an SZBA award in recognition of his achievement as a novelist who has conveyed key moments in the history of Arab people to the entire world. Writing in French, his works have been translated into over 40 languages. His writing is dedicated to promoting harmony and dialogue between the East and the West.



Banipal – Publishing & Technology Award, 2020

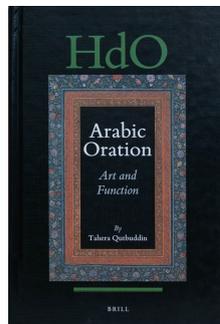
2020 award-winner Banipal magazine showcases contemporary Arab authors in English translation, acting as a vehicle for intercultural dialogue and opening a window for UK and other Western audiences on the realities of Arab culture in all its diversity.



Ibtisam Barakat – Children’s Literature Award, 2020

Al-Fatat Al-Laylakeyyah (The Lilac Girl), (Tamer Institute for Community Education, 2019)

Ibtisam is a Palestinian-American author, translator, artist and peace activist. Her beautifully illustrated winning book is about a young Palestinian refugee who loves to paint and finds freedom through her imagination.



Tahera Qutbuddin – Arabic Culture in Other Languages Award, 2021

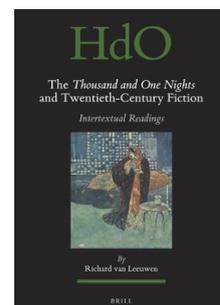
Arabic Oration: Art and Function (Brill Publishers, 2019)

Hailed as a “ground-breaking” book in understanding Arabic oratory, US researcher Qutbuddin’s title explores a vast tradition “in all its diverse guises and contexts, from the battlefield to the pulpit, from political to legislative speeches.”



Institut du Monde Arabe – Cultural Personality of the Year Award, 2018

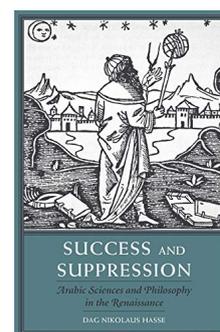
The IMA won the 2018 title in recognition of the Institute’s role in contributing to the advancement of Arabic language and culture in Europe, supporting Arab authors and scholars, and hosting numerous cultural events and seminars.



Richard van Leeuwen – Arabic Culture in Other Languages Award, 2020

The Thousand and One Nights and Twentieth-Century Fiction (Brill, 2018)

Dutch author and scholar van Leeuwen’s book highlights the importance of the *Nights* for European and world literature in the twentieth century – from Marcel Proust and James Joyce to Margaret Atwood – emphasising the centrality of cultural exchange in the development of modernity.



Dag Nikolaus Hasse – Arabic Culture in Other Languages Award, 2018

Success and Suppression: Arabic Sciences and Philosophy in the Renaissance (Harvard University Press, 2017)

German Orientalist and Historian of Philosophy Dag Hasse won for his significant work of scholarship that fills in an important gap in modern knowledge, namely how works in the Arabic Sciences and Philosophy played an important role in the Western Renaissance Movement.

For further information please contact:

Sooanne Berner

sooanne.berner@flint-culture.com

Further information about the prize is available at www.zayedaward.ae

About the Sheikh Zayed Book Award

Mission

The modern Arab world is a vibrant mosaic; different countries and regions contribute to its make-up. It is reflected in Arabic literature, which is a catalyst for intercultural dialogue and the mutual exchange of worldviews.

We believe there is a real opportunity through the sharing of knowledge across cultures. Our winners offer some of the most exciting and, in some cases, challenging new cultural works.

The Sheikh Zayed Book Award is the foremost Arabic literature award programme and a catalyst for international cultural engagement with Abu Dhabi, intended to open up opportunities for both Arabic writers and foreign writers.

In each category, the decisions of the jury are meant to answer the program's overarching goal, to encourage greater scholarship and creativity by recognizing and rewarding significant cultural achievements in Arabic culture.

About the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair

Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF) is the most diverse book fair in the region. Abu Dhabi is a driving force behind the professional and commercial development of the regional publishing industry, and is committed to the long-term expansion of the global book business.

Inaugurated 30 years ago by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Fair has gained a global reputation as a leading literary trade and cultural event in the region. Running from 23-29 May 2022, ADIBF aims to highlight the UAE's rich heritage, showcasing its authenticity and modernity, as well as its cultural and literary output.