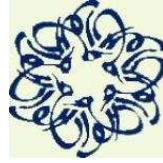


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PRESS RELEASE/FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Alwan for the Arts

Is Proud to Present

An Evening of Arabic Poetry and Music: Trajectories of Modernity and Tradition

Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Alwan for the Arts is proud to present Professor Muhsin al-Musawi in a discussion of his book *Arabic Poetry: Trajectories of Modernity and Tradition*. The evening will also feature musical accompanist Amir ElSaffar and poetry readings in Arabic by Taoufiq Ben Amor. This event will be held at Alwan for the Arts at 16 Beaver Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10004. Admission is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

About the Presenters:



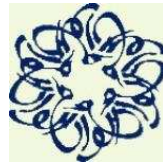
Professor Muhsin al-Musawi is a literary critic and a scholar of classical and modern Arabic literature and comparative cultural studies. He taught for over two decades at universities in the Arab world before moving to Columbia University. He is the author of twenty-eight books (including four novels) and over sixty scholarly articles. He has been the editor of the *Journal of Arabic Literature* since 2000.

Taoufiq Ben Amor is Gordon Gray Jr. Senior Lecturer at Columbia University specializing in Arabic language and linguistics, language pedagogy, language and identity, Arab music, poetry and Maghrebian Francophone literature, especially by authors who have written in both Arabic and French. His research combines his interests in music, language and identity in the Arab world through the study of lyrics.

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Amir ElSaffar put his career as a jazz trumpeter on hold in 2002 to travel to Iraq and explore the music of his ancestry, the Iraqi maqam. ElSaffar, who was born in the US in 1977 to an Iraqi father and an American mother, was already an accomplished trumpeter, having performed with many esteemed jazz and classical artists and winning several international competitions. He spent several years traveling in Iraq, throughout the Middle East and in Europe, where he encountered masters of the Iraqi maqam, such as Hamid al-Saadi, Baher al-Rajab, and Farida Mohammed Ali and her ensemble, as well as masters of various other Arabic musical styles.



About Alwan for the Arts

Since its founding in 1998, Alwan for the Arts has been an organization dedicated to the presentation and production of the arts and cultures of the Arab world, Middle East and North Africa. Alwan organizes film festivals and screenings, book/poetry readings and signings, lectures and conferences, art exhibits, musical and theatrical performances, and language and literature classes. In 2003, Alwan established a center at 16 Beaver Street in lower Manhattan. In the second decade of its existence, Alwan remains committed to providing a space for reflection, dialogue, and growth in the arts and cultures of the peoples of the Arab world, Middle East, North Africa, and their diasporas, serving their communities and educating the broader public through programs that enrich the artistic and cross-cultural encounter.

*Alwan for the Arts is grateful to **Union Square Awards** for its support in 2007 and 2008. Alwan is also grateful for support from **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council** and the **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs**.*