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presents

## Traduit de l'Arabe

On Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2012 at 12.00 the book and documentary 'Traduit de l'Arabe' will be presented in Amsterdam by Moussem.eu.

Moussem.eu, a project of the arts centre Moussem (BE) with De Nieuw Amsterdam (NL), Compagnie Nacera Belaza (FR) and the Liverpool Arabic Arts Centre (GB), stands for a process of deep discussion and intimate negotiations to inhabit and broaden the common ground of Mezzaterra where everybody is welcome.

Artists stand with both feet in the mire of the past - their personal history or the tradition of their culture - and they recreate that swamp in the smooth surface of their imagination. A mirror in which everyone who makes an effort can recognise and question themselves. This is beautifully illustrated in the documentary "Traduit de l'Arabe' made by *Arnout Mampaey* and *Isabel Voets* showing portraits of *Nacera Belaza*, *Sabri Saad El Hamus*, the *LAAF* and *Strange Fruit*.

Why does it appear so difficult for people to freely take on the confrontation and the discussion between new expressions of culture compared to the mainstream in their own environment, with the prevailing classical canon? Leaving the safe space of being right to negotiate what is beautiful and important in the journey of the new world, does not appear to be easy.

With [moussem.eu](http://mousse<u>m</u>.eu) we note that artists with an Arab background play an important role here, with the Arab communities in Europe as a bridge. Shaping European society is more than changing a façade. Indeed, the confrontation of ideas, attitudes and values require not only a negotiation on criteria and meanings. The responsibility for an assertive participation in the brewing of new European cultural identities lies with everyone who participates. A major challenge in Europe today therefore seems to lie in the field of supporting artists with an Arab background. Otherwise the discussion on participation and cultural exchange risks being held on unequal terms. The European canon is a process, a challenge, a concept that must be interpreted.

The multilingual book 'Traduit de l'Arabe' in an endreading of *Razanne Carmey* contains articles, essays, poems of *Ahdaf Soueif*, *Abdelkader Benali*, *Gérard Mayen*, *Professor Gema Martin-Muñoz*, *Taha Adnan* and *Ramsey Nasr* with an introduction of *Mohamed Ikoubaân* and closing remarks by *Pascal Nicolas*.

More info:

[www.moussem.eu](http://www.mousse<u>m</u>.eu)

Co-ordinator Mr. Pascal Nicolas

[info@moussem.eu](mailto:info@mousse<u>m</u>.eu)

+ 32 471 25 65 19

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