



The 2018 Lecture of the Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation

Adonis: Translation, a Second Act of Creation?



Photo: Bahget Iskander

7pm, Friday 9 November 2018

The Knowledge Centre, British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

Is this the time of translation?

Is translation a second act of creation?

In the lecture Adonis will consider the relationship of translation to human identity and explore the fact that human beings live in the same chronological moment, but in multiple, disparate moments culturally. And in the translation of poetry, the responsibility of the translator is to breathe new life into the linguistic destruction that is the translated poem – the migrant living in an alien house.

Internationally renowned poet, philosopher and theoretician of Arab poetics Adonis has been writing poetry for 75 years and has more than fifty published works in Arabic of poetry, criticism, essays, with translations into many languages. He has been referred to in interviews as “the greatest living poet of the Arab world” and this “grand old man of poetry, secularism and free speech in the Arab world”, while his modernist influence on Arabic poetry is often compared to that of T S Eliot on Anglophone poetry.

Tickets (£12, with concessions £10 & £8) from the British Library
<https://www.bl.uk/events/adonis-translation-a-second-act-of-creation>

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