



دار بلومزبري - مؤسسة قطر للنشر
B L O O M S B U R Y
Q A T A R F O U N D A T I O N
P U B L I S H I N G

BLOOMSBURY QATAR FOUNDATION PUBLISHING AND DELFINA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE WINNER OF ARAB WRITING RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

Palestinian Writer Beat 150 Regional Applicants For Place On 8-Week Programme In London

Doha, Qatar, 4 March 2015: Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing (BQFP), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF), and Delfina Foundation are pleased to announce the winner of the Arab Writer's Residency programme in London this summer.

After careful consideration of more than 150 applications, the panel of judges chose Atef Abu Saif, a Palestinian writer and journalist living in the Gaza Strip, whose most recent novel made it on the International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF) 2015 shortlist.

The eight-week residency will provide Abu Saif with the opportunity to research, write and engage with a broad range of cultural practitioners, as well as creative thinkers in London. During the residency, Abu Saif will develop work, which will be considered for publication by BQFP in both Arabic and English translation.

BQFP, a joint collaboration between Qatar Foundation and Bloomsbury Publishing in London, supports QF on its mission to preserve and develop the Arabic language, promoting education and a culture of knowledge-seeking. UK-based Delfina Foundation provides residency space in London dedicated to developing creative practice for artists, curators, writers, musicians and thinkers.

"We were thrilled with the sheer volume of submissions and were deeply impressed by the quality, originality and range of the writing samples," said Thalia Suzuma, Head of English Publishing at BQFP.

"It is very encouraging to see how many writers from the region are eager to cultivate their talent and connect with other artists. Delfina Foundation and BQFP are proud to have awarded the residency to Atef Abu Saif, a talented emerging voice from the region who will be completing his final work in Arabic."

Added Aaron Cezar, founding director of Delfina Foundation. "Delfina Foundation is honoured to be partnering with the BQFP on this amazing residency opportunity. As we have experienced at Delfina Foundation, a residency can be a career-defining moment for artists, writers, and curators to develop their ideas, sharpen their practice and widen their networks. We are excited to offer this important opportunity to Atef Abu Saif and to help build the next generation of contemporary writers from the Middle East."



دار بلومزبري - مؤسسة قطر للنشر
B L O O M S B U R Y
Q A T A R F O U N D A T I O N
P U B L I S H I N G

Born in Jabalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip in 1973, Abu Saif currently teaches Political Science at the University of Al-Azhar, Gaza, and regularly writes articles from Gaza for the *New York Times*, *Slate* and other major publications. He has also authored five novels, the most recent of which, *A Suspended Life*, was shortlisted for the IPAF award in 2015. The winner of the award will be announced at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair in May.

ENDS

About Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation

Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation (BQF) is owned by Qatar Foundation and managed by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc in London. BQF is based in Doha, Qatar, and has four core aims:

*Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing: To publish books of excellence and originality to the highest editorial, design and production standards, in Arabic and in English. The list ranges from board books for babies, children's books, fiction and non-fiction for adults, information and reference, and academic monographs.

*Knowledge Transfer: To transfer publishing and related skills to Qatar and the Gulf region via training and other initiatives.

*Reading and Writing Development: To encourage lifelong literacy in Qatar and the Arab World.

*Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Journals (BQFJ) focuses on fostering scholarly and research communication. BQFJ publishes a range of peer reviewed, high-quality, open access journals, databases and repositories on the QScience.com platform which adheres to the highest scholarly publishing standards.

About Delfina Foundation

Founded in 2007, Delfina Foundation is dedicated to developing creative practice with residencies for artists, curators, writers, musicians and thinkers forming the core of our activities. We create opportunities for emerging, as well as established, practitioners to experiment with new ideas, explore connections, and build collaborations with colleagues, communities and institutions.

As London's largest international residency space, we host over 40 residencies each year in UK, and through national and international partnerships, we create platforms for cultural practitioners around



دار بلومزبري - مؤسسة قطر للنشر
B L O O M S B U R Y
Q A T A R F O U N D A T I O N
P U B L I S H I N G

the world. Our public programme of events and exhibitions fosters critical discourse on the contemporary arts in relation to everyday life. Through seasonal themes, we bring together salient issues and common ideas to be explored via our residencies and related public programmes.

Delfina Foundation is the successor to Delfina Studio Trust, which held an unprecedented record for nurturing the careers of artists, including more than a dozen Turner Prize nominees over its 20-year history. Also founded by Delfina Entrecanales CBE, Delfina Foundation is an independent, non-profit organisation, governed by a Board of Trustees and funded through a mix of public and private funding.