

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Greek and Arab Poets

‘From another place’

Participants Short CVs

### Georgios Veis

The life of previous Greek Ambassador to UNESCO and prolific writer Georgios Veis (Athens, Greece 1955-) revolves around making connections between Greece and other countries, mainly P. R. of China, where he served twice as diplomat, totally for 8 years. In addition to his 35-year career in diplomacy, Georgios Veis is also a reputable Greek writer who has written 28 books, including 14 collections of poems that have been translated into nine languages. Georgios Veis won twice Greece's most distinguished literary honor, the State Literary Award, for his travel memoirs 'Asia, Asia, Chinese memories' and 'From Tokyo to Khartoum'. Also the Academy of Athens awarded twice his poetry in the years 2008 and 2014. He is member of the Society of Greek Writers.

### Stathis Gourgouris

Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, UCLA 1990. Professor Gourgouris writes and teaches on a variety of subjects that ultimately coalesce around questions of the poetics and politics of modernity and democracy. He is the author of *Dream Nation: Enlightenment, Colonization, and the Institution of Modern Greece* (Stanford, 1996); he has also published numerous articles on Ancient Greek philosophy, political theory, modern poetics, film, contemporary music, and psychoanalysis.

### Iman Mersal

Iman Mersal is an Egyptian poet, translator and literary scholar, and Professor of Arabic Language and Literature at the University of Alberta, Canada. She is the author of five books of Arabic poetry, selections from which have been translated into numerous languages. In English translation, her poems have appeared in *The New York Review of Books*, *Parnassus*, *Paris Review*, *The Nation*, *American Poetry Review*, and *Michigan Quarterly Review*. A selection of Mersal's poetry, entitled *These Are Not Oranges, My Love*, translated by the poet Khaled Mattawa, was published in 2008 (Sheep Meadow Press- New York). Her most recent publications include an Arabic translation of Charles Simic's memoir, *A Fly in the Soup* (Al Kotob Khan, 2016), *Kayfa Talta'im: 'An al-Umuma wa Ashbahiha* (Kayfa Ta and Mophradat, 2017), translated into English by Robin Moger as *Motherhood and its Ghosts* (Kayfa Ta and Sternberg Press - Berlin, 2018), and *Fi Athar Enayat al- Zayyat* (In pursuit of of Enayat al-Zayyat) Al Kotob Khan - Cairo, 2019.

### **Najwan Darwish**

Najwan Darwish born December 8, 1978 in Jerusalem, is an Arabic-language poet. The New York Review of Books has described him as "one of the foremost Arabic-language poets of his generation". In 2014, NPR included his book *Nothing More To Lose* as one of the best books of the year.[2] In 2009, Hay Festival Beirut pronounced him one of the 39 best Arab writers under the age of 40. Named as "one of Arabic literature's biggest new stars" Darwish's work has been translated into over 20 languages. His collection titled "with-out" is translated into the Greek language and is under publication.

### **Khaled Raouf**

Khaled Raouf born in Alexandria, Egypt, studied History and Archeology at the University of Athens and theater in Greece and the USA. He holds a PhD in History from the University of Chicago and works as a researcher. He translates Greek Literature (Kazantzaki, D. Dimitriadis, K. Politis, Ritsos, Tsirkas, Grigoriadis, Koumoutsis, Sotiropoulou etc.). From English he has translated into Arabic George Bernard Shaw, Tennessee William, Samuel Beckett) & a book on African Theater and Performance of "Kene Igweonu". Collaborates with the National Translation Center, & the Book Organization of Egypt and the EIP annex Alexandria.

### **Persa Koumoutsis**

Persa Koumoutsis, is a novelist and literary translator. Born in Cairo, Egypt, came to Greece after completing her studies at the University of Cairo. Since 1993 she has been professionally engaged in literary translation from Arabic and English. In addition to her personal novels, she has translated 15 works of Egyptian Nobel Prize-winning writer Nagib Mahfouz, as well as numerous works of other prominent Egyptian and Arab writers and poets. Among others, her bibliography includes the first Anthology of Contemporary Arabic Poetry in Greek. for which she received the Hellenic Society of Literary Translators Prize. She has also been awarded the Cavafy International Prize and special honors from the Department of Greek and Italian Studies at Al-Azhar University. She has also been distinguished several times for her work as it has contributed in the promotion of intercultural dialogue between East and West. She has published 8 novels.