



SWALLOW EDITIONS

FOR READERS OF GREAT LITERATURE ACROSS THE WORLD
THIS NEW FICTION LIST WILL PUBLISH THE BEST EMERGING,
YOUNG AUTHORS FROM THE ARAB WORLD AND IS FREE OF
TEDIUM, OIL AND DICTATORSHIP.

Founded and edited by
Rafik Schami

FOUNDED AND EDITED BY RAFIK SCHAMI in close cooperation with respected publishers and translators of literary fiction, Swallow Editions publishes only fiction. The series editor appreciates and reads both new as well as classical Arabic poetry for his own personal pleasure, but his long professional experience qualifies him to judge and select works of prose rather than poetry and he has therefore chosen fiction as the focus of this new list.

An editorial board made up of the knowledgeable experts of Arabic and English literature will assist the series editor in his selection. He is also advised and supported by a renowned board of trustees in his efforts to mentor the emerging writers and bring their work to publication. The editor, advisors and trustees volunteer their work so that the maximum reward goes to the authors and the translators.

THIS INITIATIVE WANTS TO BUILD A BRIDGE to connect Arab writers with readers in other continents. The literary quality, the creative power of the texts and the ability of the authors to tell a great story are the determining criteria in selection for publication. Neither the nationality nor religion plays a role in the selection.

These conditions will enable the books to fascinate readers in many countries – this is the expressed hope of both the series editor and the friends of Swallow Editions.

The series editor and his advisors will not select works of fiction for publication whose authors aim to copy the greats of world literature, as these imitators will always remain small and languish in the shadow of the great works' original creators. What the series editor is looking for are writers who possess courageous and vivid imaginations and fascinating voices.

Swallow Editions is open to all works of fiction. We seek good narrative writing, which is both fresh and original. Works already published, even in Arabic, are not eligible for consideration. I hereby call on all Arab writers, who want to be read worldwide, to send me their work for consideration.

Interested authors should send a synopsis of their new work (not more than two pages) and text samples (not more than 15 pages); if the submission is a collection of short stories a maximum of three texts comprising a total of no more than 20 pages will be considered.

IF CHOSEN BY SWALLOW EDITIONS, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

1. Swallow Editions will have the work translated and edited during a close collaborative and creative effort.
2. With the help of these translations Swallow Editions will enthrall the best publishers around the world for the work of these emerging writers. The criteria for the selection of these publishers are: firstly, respect for the literature of other languages; secondly, professionalism in the production and distribution of the works worldwide; and thirdly, their best efforts in finding publishers in other language territories for the translated works.
3. The author receives a contract, which licences the publisher to produce his or her work under the Swallow Editions imprint both in volume and digital form in all languages except Arabic, in which the author retains exclusive rights. This is a point of principle: the rights to the work in their mother-tongue should remain with the author – it is up to him or her to award the licence for the Arabic edition to a publisher of their choice.

We, Swallow Editions, would be thrilled and delighted, if we can help the chosen authors to find their readers worldwide. This is our only and biggest reward. The quality of the fiction, of the narrative, of the prose is the only criteria for the selection of the texts. Neither politics nor pity or prejudice will matter. And it is that quality which will appeal to the readers. It will also appeal to the generous and free spirits who support our efforts financially to assure our independence and with whose assistance we endeavour to bring new writing in maybe the most beautiful of languages to the attention of a worldwide audience.

Rafik Schami
London, Summer 2011