

# mizna

## The Palestine Issue

### Release Event

Above photograph by Palestinian artist Yazan Khalili.

High-res image for press use:

<http://bit.ly/ThePalestineIssue>

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**St. Paul, MN, January X, 2019** — Mizna is proud to release its our latest issue of *Mizna: Prose, Poetry, and Art Exploring Arab America, The Palestine Issue* on **Monday, February 18 at 7pm** at Open Book in Minneapolis, MN.

**What:** Reading and reception

**When:** Monday, February 18, 7pm (Doors 6:30pm)

**Where:** Open Book Target Performance Hall

1011 S Washington Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55415

**Tickets:** [RSVP here](#). A \$10 donation includes a FREE JOURNAL (\$12 value)

Join us for an intimate evening of readings, light snacks, and music as we celebrate the publication of Mizna's 37th issue, which has a special Palestine theme, marking seventy years of the occupation of Palestine. Chile-based guest editor **Ismail Khalidi** will be joining us for the occasion. There will also be readings by visiting authors **Khaled Mattawa** and **Fargo Tbakhi**, as well as local authors **Bao Phi** and **Ed Bok Lee**. We will also unveil the new design of our journal—part of Mizna's new look as we commence our 20th year!



Ismail Khalidi



Khaled Mattawa (PC Khairy Shaaban)



Fargo Tbakhi

## **Mizna: The Palestine Issue**

Marking seventy years of displacement and occupation in Palestine, Mizna presents The Palestine Issue, centering the Palestinian struggle for liberation and the rich literature it has spurred, guest edited by playwright and poet **Ismail Khalidi**. Acclaimed authors engage with seven decades of resilience and creativity in the face of catastrophe, sharing work that combats erasure by remembering, as well as by imagining possible (and impossible) futures.

Including a list of acclaimed and innovative writers, this will be an expanded issue, with more authors and content than any issue in our history. It will also launch a redesign of the print journal, engaging the design skills of Morcos Key and Alex DeArmond. This is part of a broader rebranding at Mizna, which we will also celebrate this evening.

Featured in this journal are contributions by Lannan Literary Fellow **Hala Alyan**, acclaimed poet **Najwan Darwish**, MacArthur Fellow **Natalie Diaz**, an interview with Pulitzer Prize winner **Hisham Matar**, poetry from **Naomi Shihab Nye**, **Nathalie Handel**, and **George Abraham**, comics from **Joe Sacco** and **Leila Abdelrazaq**, essays by **Ahdaf Soueif** and **Eileen Myles**. Visual art by Palestinian artist **Yazan Khalili**. We are also publishing the full transcript of **Marc Lamont Hill**'s recent speech to the United Nations, and work from many more incredible authors:

**Lina AlSharif**  
**Janan Alexandra**  
**Zaina Alsous**  
**Zeina Azzam**  
**Bryonn Bain**  
**Jehan Bseiso**  
**Kevin Coval**

**Summer Farah**  
**Sahar Mustafah**  
**Donal O'Kelly**  
**Najla Said**  
**Mandy Shunnarah**  
**Lena Khalaf Tuffaha**  
**Naomi Wallace**

This issue's publication is supported by the Center for Arab American Philanthropy and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. This event is supported by Milkweed Books.

## **About Mizna**

Mizna is a Twin Cities non-profit arts organization that promotes Arab American artistic expression. We produce the annual Twin Cities Arab Film Festival and publish an award-winning literary journal *Mizna: Prose, Poetry, and Art Exploring Arab America*, which features both local and international artists. Additionally, Mizna stays active in the community by hosting book readings, Arabic classes, and art projects. Through art, we strive to highlight the multifaceted experiences of Arab Americans. 2019 marks our 20<sup>th</sup> year of publishing the Mizna journal, and we are honoring that with a major visual art exhibition, **History is Not Here: Art and the Arab Imaginary**, which will open on August 22. Please stay tuned for updates!