

March 14, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**A reading and book signing by Lebanese poet Zeina Hashem Beck
Co-Presented with Poetry Asylum & Moon Palace Books**

WHEN: Monday, April 8, 2019. 7 pm

WHERE: Moon Palace Books, 3032 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55406

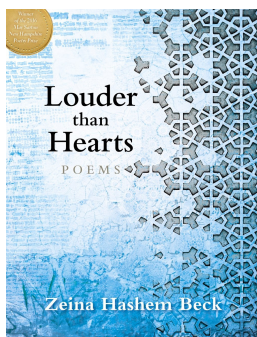
FREE EVENT! Books available for purchase at Moon Palace Books

Minneapolis (March XX, 2019)—Mizna teams up with Poetry Asylum & Moon Palace Books to present a reading from **Zeina Hashem Beck** (*Louder Than Hearts*, Bauhan Publishing). Mizna has published Beck's poetry in the locally produced literary journal, *Mizna: Prose, Poetry, and Art Exploring Arab America*. Zeina will be accompanied by an exciting lineup local artists including acclaimed poet and playwright **Ifrah Mansour**, award-winning playwright **Willie Nour**, poet, rapper, and comedian **Nader Helmy**, and poet **Valérie Déus**.

ABOUT Zeina Hashem Beck

Zeina Hashem Beck is a Lebanese poet. Her second full-length collection, *Louder than Hearts*, won the 2016 May Sarton New Hampshire Poetry Prize. She's also the author of two chapbooks: *3arabi Song*, winner of the 2016 Rattle Chapbook Prize, and *There Was and How Much There Was*, a smith|doortop Laureate's Choice, selected by Carol Ann Duffy. Her first book, *To Live in Autumn*, won the 2013 Backwaters Prize. Her work won Best of the Net, was included in *Bettering American Poetry*, nominated for the Pushcart, and has appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Poetry*, the *Academy of American Poets*, and *World Literature Today*, among others. Her poem, "Maqam," won *Poetry Magazine's* 2017 Frederick Bock Prize. She lives in Dubai, where she has founded the poetry collective PUNCH.

zeinashembeck.com



PRAISE FOR *Louder than Hearts*

"Lebanese poet Zeina Hashem Beck delivers a tour de force in her second collection, inviting the reader to join her in the emotional interstices between the Arab and Western worlds that she inhabits and embodies." — **World Literature Today**

"Here, as always in the poetry of Zeina Hashem Beck the world plies before us in all of its ruthless beauty and terror." — **Best American Poetry**

Ifrah Mansour is a Somali, refugee, muslim, multimedia artist and an educator

ABOUT the readers

based in Minnesota. Her artwork explores trauma through the eyes of children to uncover the resiliencies of blacks, muslims, and refugees. She interweaves poetry, puppetry, films, and installations. She's been featured in BBC, Vice, OkayAfrica, Star Tribune, and City Pages. Her critically-acclaimed, "How to Have Fun in a Civil War" premiered at Guthrie Theatre and toured to greater cities in Minnesota. Her first national museum exhibition; "Can I touch it" premiered at Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Her visual poem, "I am a Refugee" is part of PBS's short Film festival. "My Aqal, banned and blessed" Premiered at Queens Museum in New York. Learn more: facebook.com/ifrahmansourart



William Nour is a Palestinian American Writer and community activist. His work appeared in Mizna Journal and he has performed his poetry at community functions and local public schools. William Nour is an actor and a student of traditional Arabic drumming. He's 2018 recipient of a Minnesota State Arts Board grant for his play "Turbulence" which was part of the New Arab American Theater Works reading series, and he has participated in workshops at the Loft with David Mura and Elmaz Abinader at VONA.



Nader Helmy is a writer, developer, entrepreneur, and musician born in Cairo, currently living in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He enjoys writing poems, songs, screenplays, sketches, jokes, and essays. His primary profession is building innovative technologies in software architecture and design, where he is currently developing a transformative new framework for human-first digital identity and data freedom on the internet. A regular slam poet for several years, his team placed 2nd in the nation at CUPSI 2016. His poetry has been featured in Button Poetry as well as numerous live art exhibitions, projects and performances and several newsletters and zines.



Valérie Déus is a poet and film curator. Her work has been featured in The Brooklyn Rail, Midway, aforementioned productions, the St. Paul Almanac and most recently in The BeZine. Her chapbook, *Skull-Filled Sun*, is available on Amazon. When she's not writing, she hosts Project 35, a local low-fi radio show featuring music from all over the diaspora and poetry. She curates Film North's Cinema Lounge and is the Shorts Programmer for the Provincetown International Film Festival. Photo by Fotos for Barcelona.

ABOUT MIZNA

Mizna is a Twin Cities non-profit arts organization that promotes contemporary expressions of Arab American culture. We publish the literary journal *Mizna: Prose, Poetry and Art Exploring Arab America*, produce the Twin Cities Arab Film Festival, and offer varied other readings, performances, art exhibitions, and community events involving a talented and diverse range of local, national, and international Arab artists.

ABOUT MOON PALACE

Your neighborhood independent bookstore located in south Minneapolis. Selling new and used books since 2012.

ABOUT POETRY ASYLUM

Poetry Asylum creates diverse platforms outside privileged spaces to bring poetry to traditionally marginalized communities through open dialogue, innovation, collaboration & advocacy [& in some cases, bring marginalized voices INTO privileged, white spaces]. In recognition of the urgencies of our political moment, Poetry Asylum aims to provide refuge for underrepresented voices by celebrating the expansive field of language & expression in all its forms.