



Markaz Review

THE

Literature and Arts from the Center of the World

THE MARKAZ REVIEW

The multilingual online review conveying cultural and literary news of the Middle East, North Africa and our diasporas.

www.themarkaz.org

2024 Press Kit



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FOREWORD

“ *We're delighted to be a literary and cultural bridge from Los Angeles and Montpellier to the Middle East and North Africa – a celebration of the art, dialogue and diversity that thrives in the region and the diaspora.* ”



Jordan Elgrably
Editor-in-Chief and Art Director

ABOUT US

Our goals, our mission, our vision

Founded in 2020, The Markaz Review (TMR) has become the leading multilingual online publication for **cultural news from the Middle East and North Africa**. Its aim is to provide a **better understanding of the region**, as well as of its diaspora communities, in France, Europe, and throughout the world. In a world increasingly fragmented by all forms of racism and discrimination, TMR's mission is to promote, **through the arts**, a culture of human rights and freedom of expression.

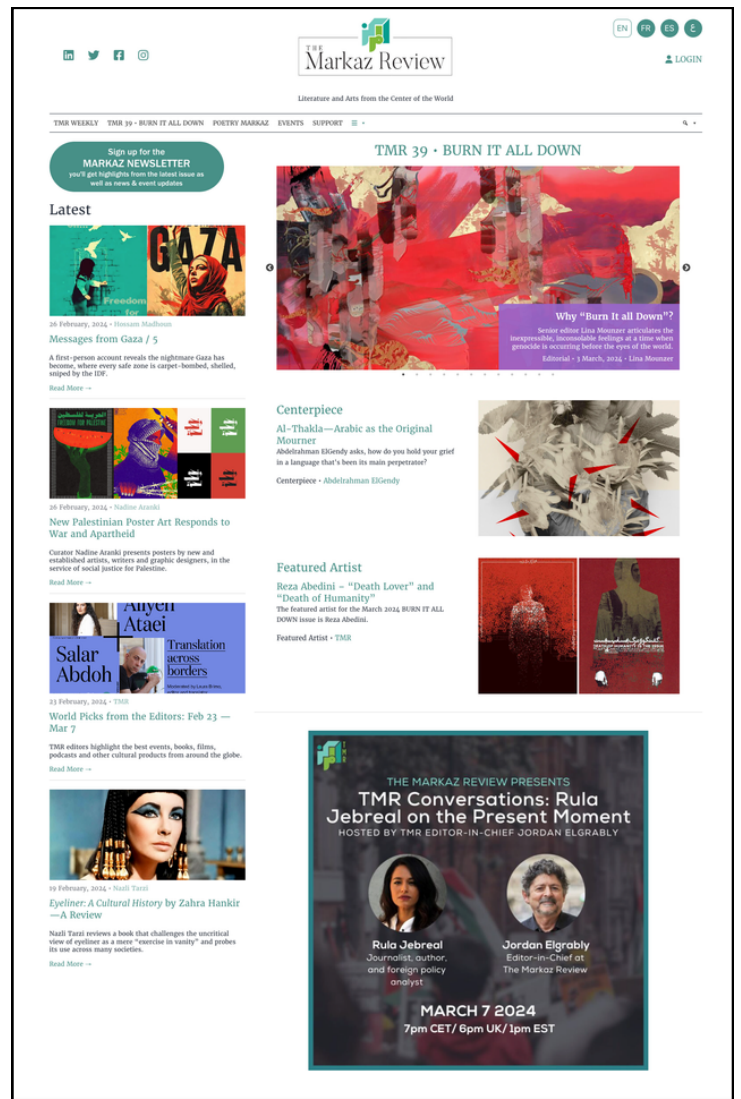


Jordan Elgrably, Sarah Naili, Malu Halasa, Rana Asfour, Megan Jarrell,
Lina Mouzer & Mohammad Rabie

WHO ARE WE?

Our goals, our mission, our vision

Through the publication of essays, fiction, poetry and reviews, and the organization of various programs and events, we promote **poets, writers and artists** aligned with TMR's values. Taking North Africa and the Middle East as our point of departure, TMR is an international review of **ideas, positive inquiry and critique**, as well as a **space for dialogue** at the intersection of the arts and humanities.



TMR'S LEGACY

TMR has 20 years of existence and is the legacy of the Levantine Cultural Center and Markaz, formerly based in Los Angeles

TMR is rooted in the Levantine Cultural Center in the United States. Founded in Los Angeles in 2001, the center gave a voice to Middle Eastern and North African communities living in the United States, who were severely under-represented in the cultural, artistic and literary sectors. The center's mission was to offer **alternative narratives** about the Middle East, North Africa and its communities, and to **create bridges** and **dialogue** between the different cultures in the United States. The place was later renamed "The Markaz," meaning the **center** in Arabic, Persian, Hebrew, Turkish and Urdu.



TMR'S BEGINNINGS

Our DNA

The name "Markaz" underscores the **cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity** of the region. Throughout the years, the **artistic and literary programs** presented by The Markaz have succeeded in bringing people together, overcoming biases, and fostering self-understanding and mutual comprehension. Regrettably, the Covid crisis has resulted in the closure of The Markaz center. Nonetheless, its mission has persevered through the establishment of **The Markaz Review**, enabling artists, writers, and poets to persist in having an outlet for expression and discourse, albeit in an online format: www.themarkaz.org. The Markaz Review also edits books and partners with such publishers as City Lights in San Francisco, Seven Stories Press in New York, and Saqi Books in London.



TMR'S JOURNEY IN FRANCE

A fresh start for TMR in the Mediterranean city Montpellier

In 2021, a new chapter begins: TMR permanently leaves the West Coast of the United States to establish itself on the shores of the Mediterranean, in Montpellier. Now, operating as a French association under the regulations of the law passed on July 1st, 1901, the magazine aspires to carve its place in the French media, literary, and artistic scene, in addition to its Anglo-American footprint.

This new Euro-Mediterranean endeavor grants TMR a foothold on the northern Mediterranean, where the historical ties with the MENA region are indisputable. Through this journey, TMR celebrates the **cultural** and **linguistic diversity** of North Africa.



TMR'S AIM

The establishment of TMR in Montpellier at 7 rue de Verdun

Our ambition is to create a **community of readers** with a keen interest in cultural matters in our beloved region.

In the fall of 2024, TMR will launch its new exhibition space. The decision to locate in Montpellier was an obvious one for us, as the city is well-known for its **vibrant cultural scene** and **Mediterranean-oriented events** such as the Festival Arabesque and Cinemed. We are excited to contribute to the city's **cultural dynamism** and hope to meet the expectations of a new audience that is constantly on the lookout for **cultural pluralism**.



TMR ISSUE

The **monthly** issue focuses on a theme, a region, an art form or current news.



TMR WEEKLY

The **weekly** issue covers a variety of themes, cultural picks and literary reviews.

POETRY MARKAZ

The **monthly** publication features international poets.



4 July, 2023 • Joyce Mansour, Emilie Moorhouse

Joyce Mansour

Syrian Jewish, Egyptian and French, Joyce Mansour was a prolific poet and Surrealist.



TMR WORLD PICKS

A new format on cultural news, events, festivals, exhibitions from the Arab world, and a calendar of events **every second Friday** of the month.

TMR BOOK CLUB

The online book club meets **monthly**.



THE LAUNCH OF OUR ONLINE STORE

Offer our readers our issues in e-book or pdf format and promote our contributors' books. More than 30 issues are available for purchase on our website with secure payment. A members' area will be created for access to exclusive content.



<p>TMR Issue N° 36 • ARCHITECTURE \$4.99</p> <p>Add to cart</p>	<p>TMR Issue N° 35 • PUBLIC INTELLECTUAL \$4.99</p> <p>Add to cart</p>	<p>TMR Issue N° 34 • A DAY IN THE LIFE \$3.99</p> <p>Add to cart</p>	<p>TMR Issue N° 33 • Stories from The Markaz \$7.99</p> <p>Add to cart</p>
<p>TMR Issue N° 32 • EARTH \$4.99</p> <p>Add to cart</p>	<p>TMR Issue N° 31 • WORK \$3.99</p> <p>Add to cart</p>	<p>TMR Issue N° 30 • DOHA \$0.00</p> <p>Add to cart</p>	<p>TMR Issue N° 29 • HOME \$4.99</p> <p>Add to cart</p>
<p>TMR Issue N° 28 • IRAQ \$3.99</p>	<p>TMR Issue N° 27 • FREEDOM \$4.99</p>	<p>TMR Issue N° 26 • GAMES \$3.99</p>	<p>TMR Issue N° 25 • HEROINES \$5.99</p>

KEY FIGURES

+150

Writers

+300

Articles published in 2023

4

Languages

40

Monthly issues

57

Newsletters

18

Partnerships

10

**Book clubs &
webinars**

3K

**Subscribers receive
our newsletters**

500K

**Visitors on our
website since
2020**

+50K

**A growing community +5K in
2022 on our social media
networks such as Facebook,
Instagram and Twitter.**

EDITORIAL GROUP



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Editor-in-Chief and
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Malu Halasa
Literary Editor



Rana Asfour
Managing Editor



Mohammad Rabie
Arabic Editor



Lina Mounzer
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Sholeh Wolpé
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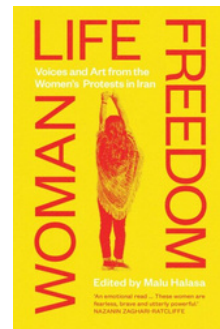
Megan Jarrell
Social Media Manager
megan@themarkaz.org

2023



Enhancing our content through the development of multimedia supports such as the launch of the "Radio Tabbouli" podcast and the production of videos for our social networks.

Co-publication of the book "Woman Life Freedom" by Malu Halasa (Saqi Books) on the women's revolution in Iran.



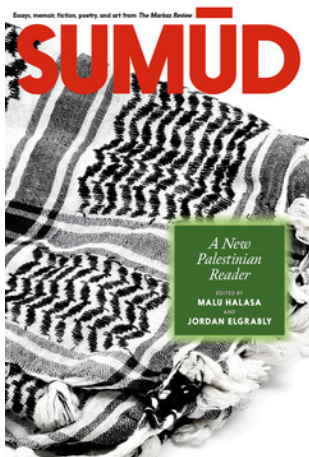
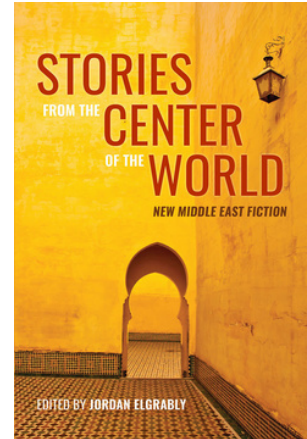
The inauguration of our exhibition space and offices at 7, rue de Verdun in Montpellier in the autumn of 2023, to offer a place for exchange and encounters between artists from the Middle East, North Africa, the diasporas and the general public.

The development of a program of cultural and literary events on our Montpellier premises.



2024

- ★ The publication of the anthology *Stories from the Center of the World: New Middle East Fiction* brings together the best fiction published in TMR magazine, edited by Jordan Elgrably, published by City Lights (to be released in the USA on May 7, 2024).



- ★ Publication of a collection of Palestinian essays, fiction poetry and art, *SUMUD: a New Palestinian Reader*, edited by Malu Halasa and Jordan Elgrably and published by Seven Stories Press (scheduled for release on October 22, 2024).

- ★ The publication of our **first print magazine** featuring the best works of 2023.



- ★ The creation of a **festival on the freedom to write and create** in Montpellier in the autumn.

International conference and arts program for authors, filmmakers and journalists at risk.

OUR PARTNERS



Hawthornden
Foundation



Diane Shammass



Family Trust

Bijan and Soraya Amin
Foundation



 The Violet Jabara Charitable Trust



Centre Arabe de Recherches
& d'Études Politiques de Paris



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