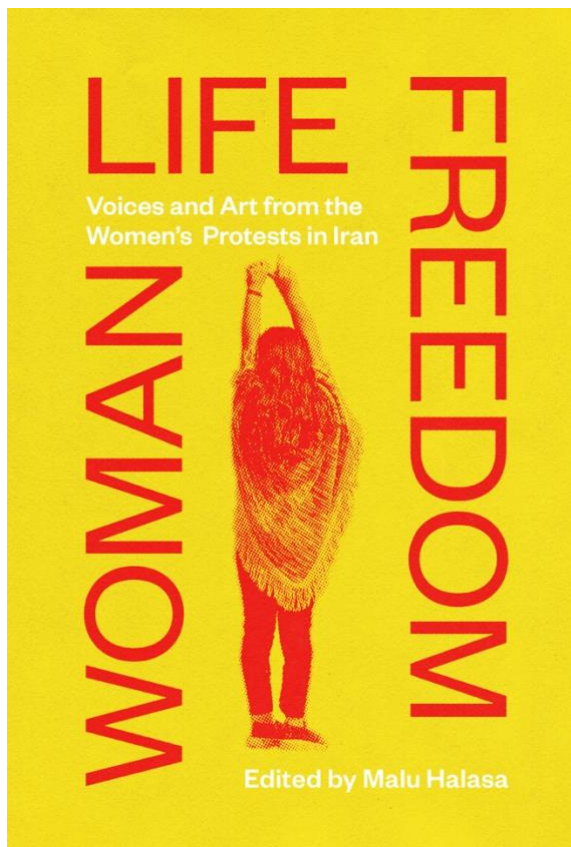


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WOMAN LIFE FREEDOM

Voices and Art from the Women's
Protests in Iran

Edited by
Malu Halasa

12th September

978-0863569722 | Paperback | £14.99

'These writers and artists are real life heroes, writing in real time as history unfolds, letting the rest of us know how audacity is done. We need more of THIS!' **Negin Farsad**

Jina Mahsa Amini's death at the hands of Iran's Morality Police on 16 September 2022 sparked widespread protests across the country. Women took to the streets, uncovering their hair, burning headscarves and chanting 'Woman Life Freedom' – '*Zan Zendegi Azadi*' in Persian and '*Jin Jiyan Azadi*' in Kurdish – in mass demonstrations. An explosion of creative resistance followed as art and photography shared online went viral and people around the world saw what was really going on in Iran.

Woman Life Freedom captures this historic moment in artwork and first-person accounts. This striking collection goes behind the scenes at forbidden fashion shows; records the sound of dissent in Iran where it is illegal for women to sing unaccompanied in public; and walks the streets of Tehran with 'The Smarties' – Gen Z women who colour and show their hair in defiance of the authorities, despite the potentially devastating consequences. Extolling the power of art, writing and body politics – both female and queer – this collection is a universal rallying call and a celebration of the women the regime has tried and failed to silence.

This is what protest looks like.

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PRESS RELEASE

‘The art and writing in this moving collection offer readers a deep impression of the events in Iran and a clear understanding of why women are protesting for freedom and their rights. Perhaps most importantly, the collection will make readers appreciate their freedom, if they have it, realising that freedom, is never a given and must always be protected. I found the book an emotional read not just because the stories are painful or tragic, but because many of us resonate with them. These women are fearless, brave and utterly powerful.’

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe

ABOUT THE EDITOR:

Malu Halasa is the editor of seven anthologies on Middle Eastern art and culture. Her edited volumes include the critically acclaimed *Syria Speaks: Art and Culture from the Frontline* (by Saqi Books) and *The Secret Life of Syrian Lingerie: Intimacy and Design*. Halasa has written for *The Guardian*, *Financial Times* and *Times Literary Supplement*. She was previously an editor at the Prince Claus Fund in Amsterdam, Editor-at-Large for *Portal 9* in Beirut, Lebanon, and a founding editor of *Tank Magazine* in London. She is currently the literary editor at Middle Eastern arts magazine *The Markaz Review*.



Caption: Ghazal Foroutan, *The Persian Rosie*. Print size: 27.94 x 38.1 cm.

Artist's statement: The Persian Rosie poster series is printed on a Risograph printer duplicator using two colours, cyan and magenta. The concept comes from the famous Rosie the Riveter 'We Can Do It' poster, first produced during World War II. Rosie's gesture and posture became a symbol of resistance and empowerment for women over the years, and the poster has been redesigned and adapted multiple times. The Iranian Rosie holds her white scarf in her hand – echoing the white scarf of Vida Movahed, from Revolution Avenue – while showing off a tattoo that says, 'No to Compulsory Hijab!' Wearing masks became a part of our daily lives during Covid. But specifically, for this movement, masks are protecting people's identity – and that's what she is doing here. The slogan on the top says 'Woman Life Freedom', which is what this revolution stands for.

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