



PRESS INFORMATION



ENTER THE NEW ROUND OF HALAQAT

GOETHE-INSTITUT AND BOZAR ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE RE-LAUNCH OF HALAQAT

Halaqat, the project fostering cultural exchange between European and Arab countries, is coming back to Brussels. In its new phase, it will provide space for cultural actors from both regions to artistically reflect on topics of care. The launch will feature a film series by Arab filmmakers and an evening with Prix Goncourt winner Leïla Slimani at Bozar.

22 to 28 January 2025

Bozar – Centre for Fine Arts Brussels, Rue Ravensteinstraat 23, 1000 Brussels

Find the full programme here: [Halaqat: "Echoes of Equality"](#)

*Brussels, 9 January 2025. Halaqat, borrowing its name from the Arabic term for ‘multiple links and circles’, enters a new phase. Since its launch in 2021, the project has contributed to strengthening cultural relations between European and Arab countries, building on the many connections shared by the two regions. Now returning for a second phase, Halaqat will focus on topics of *care*, exploring them through a gender lens.*

‘Care’ is a versatile term, describing a particular attention or concern for someone or something. It can also convey the idea of caring, worrying, or looking after, reflecting a sense of responsibility or vigilance towards a situation or object. *Halaqat* will engage artists and practitioners in a conversation about care from a gender perspective: How can different notions of care be addressed? How do dominant narratives influence which bodies are cared about (and which not) and how can these narratives be challenged? How can we strengthen practices of care in the cultural scene and in society at large?

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Halaqat returns to Brussels

From 22 to 28 January 2025, Bozar will warmly welcome audiences for the first activities of the new *Halaqat* phase. The film series *Echoes of Equality* will explore gender relations in Arab countries and communities in Europe, as well as their representation in contemporary Arab cinema and literature. Taking place in [Bozar's new cinema hall *The 23*](#), the programme is part of Bozar's recurring format *Our Burning World*, which highlights films and discussions that explore crucial contemporary societal issues, particularly in the fields of politics, ecology, and society. In the presence of filmmakers **Leïla Albayati** and **Myriam El Haj**, the series will examine the transmission of values, obligations, and heritage, revealing a range of realities from the Maghreb to Iraq, via Egypt and Palestine.

On 28 January, French-Moroccan author and Prix Goncourt winner **Leïla Slimani** will present her new novel *J'emporterai le feu*, the concluding part of her trilogy *Le Pays des Autres*. Set in the 1980s, the book revolves around the memories of Mia, a young novelist living in Paris, as she reflects on her family's history. The intergenerational story spans her family's journey from Morocco's decolonization to the 1980s, exploring themes of freedom, exile, and the struggle between tradition and identity. In conversation with journalist **Safia Kessas**, Slimani will discuss her work and the complex relationships between women, family and society.

"Ces histoires de racines, ce n'est rien d'autre qu'une manière de te clouer au sol, alors peu important le passé, la maison, les objets, les souvenirs. Allume un grand incendie et emporte le feu." (J'emporterai le feu - Date of publication: 23 January 2025)

A new chapter - building on the lessons from the first round

The first phase of *Halaqat* engaged over 100 artists, partners, and experts from Europe and Arab countries, reaching more than 60,000 visitors through public discussions, concerts, performances, and exhibitions. The activities started out in Brussels and later expanded to Rabat (with the festival Visa for Music), Cairo (with Cairotronica) and Amman (with the Amman Jazz Festival and IDEA - International Dance Encounter Amman). We invite you to discover the aftermovie here: [This was Halaqat](#).

The networks, knowledge and "[Lessons for the Future](#)" gathered in the first phase informed the design of the new iteration. With specific support for cultural scenes in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco, next to activities in Belgium, the second phase of *Halaqat* expands its geographical scope and takes a cross- and intra-regional approach, fostering South-South exchange. It will also explore concepts of locality and the importance of bringing forward the role of art in local communities.

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The project will offer a variety of opportunities to cultural actors in the participating countries. Addressing artists, curators, collectives, festivals, organisations and more, it aims to strengthen artistic voices through grants, residencies, workshops and mentorship programmes. The first open call will be published in early 2025.

All information: www.goethe.de/belgium/halaqat

If you are interested in attending an event or would like to speak to one of the participants, please contact:

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PROGRAMME

22 January	19:00	<i>D'Abdul à Leila</i> - Leila Albayati in the presence of the filmmaker
23 January	12:00	<i>Who Do I Belong To</i> - Meryam Joobeur
	19:00	<i>Mond</i> - Kudwin Ayub
24 January	19:00	<i>Inshallah a Boy</i> - Amjad Al Rasheed
	21:00	<i>Who Do I Belong To</i> - Meryam Joobeur
25 January	14:00	<i>Inshallah a Boy</i> - Amjad Al Rasheed
	19:00	<i>Diaries from Lebanon</i> - Myriam El Hajj in the presence of the filmmaker
26 January	14:00	<i>D'Abdul à Leila</i> - Leila Albayati
	19:00	<i>Diaries from Lebanon</i> - Myriam El Hajj in the presence of the filmmaker
28 January	20:00	Meet the Writer: Leïla Slimani

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Further screenings of *Mond*, *Inshallah a Boy*, and *Diaries from Lebanon* are foreseen until 2 February 2025. For the full schedule, please refer to: <https://www.bozar.be/en/calendar/our-burning-world-echoes-equality>

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Halaqat

Halaqat, launched in 2021, fosters cultural exchange between Europe and the Arab region. Initially co-financed by the European Union (under the designation: EU-LAS CULTURE), Goethe-Institut and Bozar, it was implemented by the Goethe-Institut in collaboration with Bozar until 2023, continuing with its own funds thereafter. The new iteration of Halaqat (2024-2027) is funded by the European Union (DG NEAR). Launched on 1 September 2024, it will run for 32 months until spring 2027, with activities in Belgium, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco.

The Goethe-Institut Brussels

The Goethe-Institut is the globally active cultural institution of the Federal Republic of Germany. The office in Brussels contributes to strengthening the European integration process and conveys Europe's cultural diversity at a political and strategic level. Its cultural, educational and information programmes in Belgium promote exchange and cultural engagement, as well as interest in the German language, Belgium's third national language.

Bozar

Bozar is a welcoming and vibrant arts house. Located in the heart of Brussels, it serves as a platform for artists and thinkers from Belgium and across the globe. Nestled within Victor Horta's iconic 1920s art deco masterpiece, Bozar aspires to be a living entity, fostering the free exchange of visual arts, music, film, performances, and ideas. It stands as a dynamic hub, celebrating and nurturing the living arts.



Bozar



Funded by
the European Union