



**H.E. Jeroen Roodenburg**  
Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Morocco

As the Dutch Ambassador in Morocco, I am delighted to witness the participation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, represented by the Netherlands Institute in Morocco (NIMAR) in this highly anticipated event that reflects the enduring relevance of books in a digitalized world. This year's edition is special as it coincides with Rabat's designation as the Capital of African and Islamic Culture. It is a unique opportunity to celebrate the richness and diversity that Morocco enjoys thanks to its African, Amazigh, Judaic and Arab-Muslim cultures, which have enabled Moroccan literature to become part of the global literary landscape. A number of Moroccan-Dutch authors will be contributing their unique voices and perspectives to the literary discussions and talks. These writers, hailing from diverse backgrounds, have made significant contributions to Dutch literature, enriching our cultural tapestry with their stories and experiences. I am also pleased to see the inclusion of events that celebrate Imazighen culture and traditions. These initiatives provide a platform for intellectual discourse, the exchange of ideas and the exploration of new perspectives, which can only strengthen the ties that unite our countries.



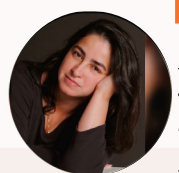
**Dr. Léon Buskens**  
Director of the Netherlands Institute in Morocco (NIMAR)

The International Book and Publishing Fair holds great significance for us, as it takes place in a city that embodies the rich heritage and vibrant traditions of both Africa and the Islamic world. Rabat, with its historical landmarks and diverse cultural tapestry, serves as a fitting backdrop for a celebration of literature, knowledge, and cultural exchange. Throughout the years, NIMAR has strived to build strong bonds between the Netherlands and Morocco, nurturing a mutual appreciation for each other's cultures, arts, and literature. Our lectures, conferences, and workshops aim at sharing the knowledge and expertise between Moroccan and Dutch scholars and researchers. This year, we are proud to present a curated selection of academic research on Dutch Knowledge on the Arab and Islamic world and a diverse selection of Dutch-Moroccan literature, that showcases the contributions of the Moroccan diaspora in the Netherlands. Let's meet next to the orange bicycle at the NIMAR booth.



**Abdelkader Benali**

Abdelkader Benali, a Dutch-Moroccan author, gained recognition with his debut novel "Bruijloft aan zee" ("Wedding by the Sea") in 1996, winning the Geertjan Lubberhuizen Prize. His second novel, "De langverwachte" ("The Long-Awaited", 2002), received the prestigious Libris Literature Prize. In 2005, he co-authored "Marokko door Nederlandse ogen 1605-2005" torian Herman Obdeijn.



**Hassnae Bouazza**

Hassnae Bouazza is a journalist, writer, translator, and filmmaker. She studied English Language and Literature at Utrecht University. Bouazza is a food critic for the Dutch newspaper NRC and authored the cookbook "Spicy Chef" with Michelin-starred chef Soenil Bahadoer. Her latest book, "Een Koffer Vol Citroenen," is a moving tribute to her late mother.



**Siham Amghar**

Siham Amghar is a Dutch-Moroccan writer and actor. She writes poems and short poetic stories within themes such as womanhood, intergenerational relationships and her Moroccan/Amazigh roots. In 2014 she won the El Hizra Literature Prize. Her latest publication, "as I drift away", is an artbooklet with stories of love and longing, intimacy and passion. It consists of 15 poems and 5 beautiful artworks.



**Eric Broug**

Eric Broug is an educator and artist who has followed his passion for Islamic geometric design for over 25 years. He holds a Master's degree in the History of Islamic art and architecture from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. His previous titles for Thames & Hudson include Islamic Geometric Patterns (2008), Islamic Geometric Design (2013) and Islamic Design Workbook (2016).



**Dina Bousbaa**

Dina is a spoken word artist, photographer, social activist and future doctor. In her multidimensional work, Dina sheds light on Dutch-Moroccan history by telling visual and verbal stories that hit close to home. She applies her Islamic beliefs to create awareness, establish social justice and amplify the importance of community.



**Pr. Ieme van der Poel**

Ieme van der Poel is Professor emeritus of French Literature at the University of Amsterdam. From 2010 - 2012 she served as the Director of the College of Humanities and was Director of the Research Master in Literary Studies from 2004 - 2010. Her main fields of interest are Colonial and Postcolonial Literatures in French, including (Post) Colonial History, especially the Maghreb, Postcolonial Theory, and French Intellectual History.



**Dr. Janna Houwen**

Janna Houwen is an assistant professor at Leiden University, specializing in Film and Literary Studies. With a Ph.D. from the same university, her expertise lies in (new) media theory, film and video, cultural theory, and comparative literature. Janna has published on various topics such as intermediality, intercultural video art, cinema and the refugee crisis, surveillance, and the machinic.



**Pr. Abdelmajid Kaddouri**

Professor of history at Mohamed V University in Rabat. Specialist in Moroccan-European relations and the history of mentalities.



**Fouad Bechar**

Fouad was born in 1984 in Damascus, Syria. As a young boy, he fled to the Netherlands. Atta de Tolk is a word artist and speaker who transforms themes into living works of art. As a motivational speaker, he is confrontational, realistic, and relatable, drawing from his own experiences to connect with audiences.



**Dr. Kenza Sefrioui**

Kenza Sefrioui is a cultural journalist, literary critic and editor. She wrote the literary column for Le Journal hebdomadaire from 2005 to 2010 and contributes to TelQuel, Diptyk and www.economia.ma. She wrote her doctoral thesis in comparative literature at the Université Paris IV-Sorbonne on the review Souffles (1966-1973), espoirs de révolution culturelle au Maroc (Éditions du Sirocco, Grand Atlas prize 2013).



**Dr. Angus Mol**

Angus Mol is a University Lecturer at the Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society. Angus combines the study of history using a digital approach with the study of how today's digital cultures are entwined with history. In particular, he looks at how contemporary play functions as a mirror of the past as well as how games can be used to democratize access to the past.



**Dr. Oubihi Mohammed**

Lecturer in contemporary history, Mohammed 5 University, Rabat



**Mohamed Mahdi**

Mohamed Mahdi is the director of El Hizra, a Dutch non-profit foundation in Amsterdam since 1987. El Hizra advocates the Arab cultural heritage of migrants in the Netherlands and supports talented bicultural writers. He is also the initiator of the upcoming 1st Arabic art museum in Amsterdam, opening in 2025.



**Soukaina Habiballah**

Soukaina Habiballah has four poetry collections, one novel and one short stories collection. Habiballah has received many awards including, the Buland Al Haidari Prize for Arabic poetry, The "Floating Voices" award of poetry in Italy, among others. She performed her Poetic play "Doo YA Momo Do" at the official program of Avignon Festival 2022 with the Shairat Project which she co-directs.



**Prof. dr. Sybille Lammes**

Sybille Lammes is full professor New Media and Digital Culture at Leiden University. She has been a visiting Senior Research Fellow at The University of Manchester, and has worked as a researcher at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies at the University of Warwick, as well as the media-studies departments of Utrecht University and the University of Amsterdam.



**Pr. Khalid Ouassou**

Dr. Ouassou is a professor at Hassan II University in Casablanca, specializes in contemporary and modern history. He has published books on migration and Moroccan-French relations and is currently researching historical knowledge and reconciliation, as well as Amazigh protest in Morocco.



**Nadia Zerouali**

Nadia is a cookbook writer, TV chef and co-owner of the Couscousbar and of the Arab Mediterranean product line in the supermarket Nadia & Merijn's SOUQ. As a food entrepreneur, she shares the story of food, culture and identity in many different ways.



**Chafina Bendahman**

Chafina Bendahman is a publisher and producer. In 2014, she founded ROSE stories, a storytelling company focused on inclusive stories. ROSE stories is a partner in 'Every Story Matters' and has produced notable works like "Bedtime stories for rebelle girls," "Milk & Dates" theatrical performance, and the film "Meskina."



**Prof. dr. Maarten Kossmann**

Maarten Kossmann is a Professor of Berber Studies at the Leiden University Centre for Linguistics. He is considered one of the few specialists globally in this field, and he has published several books in English, French and Dutch on the linguistic and literary aspects of Imazighen culture.



**Pr. Wafaa Masmoudi**

Professor of Modern History at Mohamed V University. She authored "Maria Ter meetelen, a Dutch captive in Morocco between tradition and modernity", University Presse, Amsterdam, 2006



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# PROGRAM

**1<sup>st</sup> THURSDAY**

## OFFICIAL INAUGURATION

**3<sup>rd</sup> SATURDAY**

**3PM**

Islamic Geometric  
Patterns workshop  
**NIMAR STAND**



**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY**

**3PM**

The Tale of Dutch-Moroccan  
Murat Reis with Abdelkader  
Benali  
**SIEL - Salle Professionnelle**



**4PM**

Social Diplomacy:  
the role of writers  
as social and cultural  
ambassadors  
**SIEL - Salle Professionnelle**

**5<sup>th</sup> MONDAY**

**6PM**

Past at Play  
**NIMAR institute**

**6<sup>th</sup> TUESDAY**

**11AM**

Islamic Geometric  
Patterns workshop  
**NIMAR STAND**



**3PM**

New literary voices  
of the Moroccan  
Diaspora”  
**SIEL - Salle Professionnelle**



**8PM**

Movie Premiere:  
Yasmine’s Wedding  
**Cinema Renaissance**



**8<sup>th</sup> THURSDAY**

**12PM**

Food identity:  
the Moroccan  
diaspora in NL  
**Residence - The Netherlands**

**4:30 PM**

The journey of a writer  
Mano Bouzamour and  
Soukaina Habiballah  
**NIMAR institute**

**6PM**

Translations of Tarifyt  
poetry in Dutch and  
German  
**IRCAM**



**9<sup>th</sup> FRIDAY**

**5PM**

Johan de Baker: Slaves, Arms, and Holy War  
Moroccan policy vis-à-vis the Dutch Republic during  
the establishment of the ‘Alawī dynasty (1660-1727)  
**NIMAR institute**

**10<sup>th</sup> SATURDAY**

**8PM**

“As I drift away”- poetry recital  
with Siham Amghar  
**Villa Des Arts**

AS I DRIFT  
AWAY

**11<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY**

**11PM**

Volubilis Game  
workshop  
**NIMAR STAND**



For More Information please contact [nimar@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:nimar@hum.leidenuniv.nl)