

## Storytellers, Editors, and Archivists in Modern Arabic Narrative

COLT 0812J | Prof. Emily Drumsta | Spring 2017 | MWF 11-11:50



Dia Azzawi, "Adonis LX" (1990)

In this course, we will examine the various frame narrators who populate twentieth-century Arabic fiction, from itinerant storytellers and fastidious government clerks to reclusive sociologists and “illiterate” mothers. We’ll explore how these frame narrators call attention to the processes of writing and narration themselves, thereby inviting the reader to question the selections, exclusions, and suppressions that go into the making of any narrative—historical, political, or otherwise. Our focus throughout will be on the problem of representing subjectivity in narrative form, particularly when that subjectivity has been fragmented by the experiences of colonialism, war, exile, and state oppression. Texts will include: Naguib Mahfouz, *Midaq Alley*, Sonallah Ibrahim, *Zaat*, Ghassan Kanafani, *Umm Saad*, Tawfiq al-Hakim, *Maze of Justice*, Yusuf al-Qa’id, *War in the Land of Egypt*, Elias Khoury, *The Journey of Little Gandhi*, Hanan al-Shaykh, *The Locust and the Bird: My Mother’s Story*, Mohammed Berrada, *The Game of Forgetting*. Students with at least three years of Arabic language study are invited to read and discuss selections from these texts in the original Arabic.