

Masahat for Arab culture in Exile  
مساهمات للثقافة العربية في المنفى

2025

Report

# About Masahat

Since 2015, Masahat has worked to curate and produce knowledge, history, art and culture from the Middle East and North Africa with a focus on the Arab world and its diaspora.

Through its flagship project Masahat Festival for Arab Arts and Culture, and by curating art exhibitions, film screenings, performances, reading circles, concerts, book launches, workshops, culinary experiences, artist talks, and a series of panel discussions among other events, Masahat presents underrepresented artistic expressions connected to the Arab world, its diaspora and multicultural Norway.

In addition to the festival, Masahat collaborates around the year with Oslo's leading festivals, cultural actors and knowledge-disseminating institutions. By working cross-thematically and partnering with a wide range of Norwegian actors, Masahat caters to a broad audience comprising both Norwegians and multi-lingual minorities from the Arab world. Masahat contributes to a more diverse Norwegian public debate and more inclusive artistic and cultural scene.

Masahat for Arab Culture in Exile

Visiting address:

Øvre Slottsgate 3, 0157 Oslo

Post address:

Masahat

c/o Sentralen, PB 183, 0102 Oslo

Org. nr. 915 354 297



[www.masahat.no](http://www.masahat.no)



[masahatno](https://www.instagram.com/masahatno)

# Masahat report 2025

03	—	<a href="#"><u>Introduction</u></a>
07	—	<a href="#"><u>Programs &amp; key numbers</u></a>
08	—	<a href="#"><u>Masahat festival</u></a>
47	—	<a href="#"><u>RAWABET project</u></a>
68	—	<a href="#"><u>Mini Masahat</u></a>
80	—	<a href="#"><u>Protest in Movement</u></a>
88	—	<a href="#"><u>Year-round programming</u></a>
95	—	<a href="#"><u>Masahat global</u></a>
98	—	<a href="#"><u>Communications and media</u></a>
99	—	<a href="#"><u>Masahat organization</u></a>
100	—	<a href="#"><u>Thanks to</u></a>

# Masahat مساحات

## Creating spaces in Norway for arts and culture from the Arab world and its diaspora

In 10 years –since 2015– Masahat has created spaces and meeting places for arts and culture from the Arab world and its diaspora while sparking conversations around justice, solidarity and resistance.

Over the past 10 years, and since the so-called “refugee crisis”, it hasn’t always been easy to present and curate arts as we have witnessed people being massacred and those staying alive grappling to keep their basic rights in the face of unspeakable violence. But we were inspired by the creative expression of peoples facing the most dire situations – the pianists playing under the Yarmouk siege, theater shows performed in bunkers in Aleppo hiding from Assad and Russian jets, the calligrapher painting on mortar shells in Ghouta – among many many others.

Our understanding and appreciation of the arts is one that is rooted in people’s everyday lives, struggles and aspirations. From Palestine to Syria to Yemen and Sudan – we saw over the years how these creative expressions are under threat of systematic erasure, whether by genocidal apartheid machine, foreign jets or government and proxy militias on the ground.

In our collective exile – we face a different kind of challenge, with the rising far-right xenophobic climate that renders our cultures as a foreign threat to European societies.

We respond with creating spaces Masahat – for community, solidarity and art as a means of resistance. This milestone also marked ten years since the so-called “refugee crisis” of 2015—a turning point that has shaped migration policies and public conversations across Europe.

In 2025, Masahat festival asked the question: Who has the right to be a guest?

In a time of growing xenophobia and closed borders, we’re inspired by Holberg Prize winner Achille Mbembe’s idea of hospitality as a right–rooted in the understanding that identity is fluid and ever-changing.

As we all become witnesses to the live streamed genocide in Gaza and the ethnic cleansing of the West Bank, we are confirmed in our belief that the Norwegian public refuses to be complicit in such murderous actions. Today, in Norway, solidarity is strong and the critical mass of people who refuse propaganda and ideological complicity heartens us.

It gives us hope that the public we want to reach through our work in Masahat is indeed committed to truth and morality, to political change and the cause of justice. It is to this public, to you, that we work year round to serve, and it is you that makes the spaces of Masahat safe for people in our community to show up with their vulnerabilities and their grief.

Masahat works to introduce you to the radical artists, thinkers, and activists that have devised tools and knowledge to refuse the mechanisms of brutalization destroying our world, and to strengthen our community and work to reverse the sense of social fragmentation and isolation many of us are experiencing.

Masahat is driven by a strong sense of social responsibility. We do so through arts and culture, where learning, critical thinking, nuance and joy combine and function as catalyzer for change.

In the spirit of openness towards a coalition that transcends identity differences, and maintains at its core, values of equality across social, political, economic, racial and gendered divides, we chose hospitality as the theme for Masahat’s 10 year anniversary.

# Masahat مساحات

Creating spaces in Norway for arts and culture from the Arab world and its diaspora

Hospitality as the Greek original suggests is about how we treat the stranger amongst us. With what spirit of openness and sharing do we welcome the stranger into our midst, and recognize the stranger as one of us.

To do so, we practice what we were taught by Palestinian writers, Isabelle Hammad and Edward Said, and think of our approach to hospitality through recognizing that we are the stranger, and that we have a right and moral obligation to insist on being strangers, safeguarding thus the need for critical distance, and the courage it takes to state what we experience even if it means going against the dominant opinion of the group.

The hospitality that we are concerned with is both international, focusing on Palestine, Sudan and Syria, and local, thinking through the dangers facing our beloved Oslo neighborhood of Grønland that houses the largest concentration of strangers in Norway and that today is facing tremendous challenges in the form of aggressive gentrification and fascist xenophobia.

Throughout the festival, we explored how hospitality can create more open and connected communities—through concerts, performances, talks, stage art, film screenings, reading circles, exhibitions and food.

Outside the festival, we continued our year-round cultural programming in collaboration with our Norwegian partners where we invited you to thought-provoking seminars, film screenings, public performing arts, workshops and discussions.

Finally, we would like to thank you all: our audience who show up to our events. Thank you to our advisory board, board and Chair of the Board Ingeborg Moe for your strategic guidance and support. All our supporters, from the politicians that argue for us to receive funds, to our partners who have been exceptionally generous with us over the years with their support on how to survive cultural work from the margins in Norway.



Rana Issa  
Artistic Director

Zeina Bali  
Managing Director

# Masahat receives Oslo City Artist Award for 2024

The year 2025 started with a call from Oslo Mayor carrying good news: Masahat received the prestigious Oslo City Artist Award for 2024 “*Oslo Bys Kunstnerpris for 2024*”. We were humbled to receive this recognition from the city of Oslo, after 10 years of operation.

In the justification for the award, the City of Oslo highlighted Masahat’s “long-standing work and outstanding contribution to Oslo’s cultural life, through a large number of events featuring renowned international artists, which have provided Oslo’s residents with learning and experiences at a high artistic level.”

**This award gave us the motivation and inspiration to get going in our mission creating spaces for arts and culture from the Arab world and its diaspora where underrepresented artistic and expert voices take central stage.**



Masahat receives the City of Oslo’s Artist Award for 2024. From left: Chair of the Committee for Culture and Education Sunniva Holmås Eidsvoll, Managing Director of Masahat Zeina Bali, Artistic Director of Masahat Rana Issa, and Mayor of Oslo Anne Lindboe. Photo: Sturlason / Oslo Kommune



# Programs and key numbers

In 2025 Masahat had a rich year programming more than 28 events around the year, collaborating with more than 32 partners and reaching more than 5600 people.

Here are some highlights from Masahat programs in 2025:

- **Masahat festival:** in its fifth edition, our five-day flagship annual festival reached a record number of audience.
- **Mini Masahat:** a pilot program of a children festival celebrating Arab heritage that started in 2024 as a one-day festival, has expanded to become a festival and a series of events rotating in different locations, including organizing artists schools visits for the first time in 2025.
- **RAWABET:** as part of the EU-funded project **RAWABET** involving six European partners: Masahat implemented the Masahat festival, strengthened our Nordic and European network, and contributed to an art residency in Malmö
- **Protest in Movement:** a one-day seminar interrogating the relationship between art, politics and the public space in collaboration with KORO and Kunstneres Hus
- **Year-round programming:** we had a rich year programming with other festivals, getting invited to panels and debates across culture and politics.
- **Masahat global;** Masahat was invited to attend festivals, workshops and networking events in the UK, Egypt and Belgium.

**+1100** tickets sold

**184** artists and guest contributors involved throughout the year

**+5690** people attended

**9** international partners

**28** events  
across music, visual and performing arts, literature, culinary experiences, and film

**6** events for children including one-day festival and two school visits

**32** Norwegian partners

17-21 September

2025 Oslo

Masahat مهرجان  
festival مساحات  
for arabisk الثقافة  
kunst og الفنون  
kulture العربية

مساحات  
masahat



Bergesenstiftelsen



Kulturrådet



Oslo

# Masahat مساهات

## A welcoming note from the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board

On behalf of the Board of Masahat we would like to take a few minutes of this community dinner to give thanks to the team behind the Masahat-festival 2025: Zeina and Rana. Selma, Vjolla and Adriana. The team of wonderful volunteers and every single contributor to the festival! Thank you for this community. Because Masahat is more than an organisation or a festival, it is truly a community. A community that offers us hospitality and warmth in times that can feel cold and inhospitable.

As a team, you embody this year's theme; hospitality. Which other festival has its own "community dinner"? None that I know of and I think that this is telling for the kind of festival you have curated.

It is good to receive hospitality. It is also crucial to the human existence to be able to offer hospitality. When we are deprived of the ability to offer hospitality to others, due to a lack of money, poor health or other reasons, we are deprived of parts of our humanity. One of the videos from Gaza that has impacted me the most in recent months, is that of a man with despair and grief in his voice saying how devastated he is that he is no longer able to offer guests a cup of tea or anything else to eat or drink, because everything he owns has been lost in the attacks of the ongoing genocide.

Our gathering here today is one of many ways of resisting the genocide and all other abuse of power and violence in the world. Creating and nourishing community is an important part of resistance. I said something to you last year that I would like to repeat this year, because it is still true: what always amazes me is the ease with which you, Zeina, Rana and the team, do things. You have curated and put on this five-day festival with world-class content + the Mini-Masahat festival this past weekend, and you make it seem so easy! For us, who come as participants and audiences, everything seems to just flow. Seamlessly. But, we do of course understand that there is so much hard work behind the experience that we are getting. Again, we thank you for creating this year's festival and not least for making every single one of us feel that we belong to this community that is Masahat. Thank you!



Chiara Ayad  
Vice Chair of the Board



Ingeborg Moa  
Chair of the Board

# Masahat festival for Arab arts and culture 2025

Masahat festival took place during 17-21 September 2025. Over five days, the festival moved across iconic and intimate stages in Oslo, from concert halls, to community centers, theaters, public libraries, cafes as well as the streets of Oslo, and together with artists, activists, authors and thinkers it explored the question: Who has the right to be a guest?

While marking 10 years of Masahat, the festival in 2025 was also special as it was programmed as part of RAWABET (Arabic for “links”), a larger project supported by Creative Europe. A consortium of six partner organizations, RAWABET targets artists and cultural practitioners who have moved to Europe from the Arab world (from all ethnic minorities) since 2015, and European artists and cultural organization interested in collaborating and engaging with Rawabet’s themes. In parallel to this, Rawabet targets European audiences and newly-arrived Arab and migrant communities that have settled in Europe.

In addition, Masahat festival invited more than 100 artists from the Arab world, its diaspora and Norway featured in concerts, reading circles, keynotes, film screenings, street performances, community dinner, workshops and more, attracting more than 4500 attendees.



# Masahat festival for Arab arts and culture 2025



## **Masahat festival programming included**

- **101 guests** including musicians, visual and performing artists, poets, filmmakers, authors, artisan chefs, researchers, journalists and activists from at least **17** countries including many diasporic artists originally from Arabic-speaking countries such as Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Morocco, Sudan among others
- **21 events in 11 venues** around Oslo including three **concerts** and two **club nights**; two **keynotes**, and one **artist talk**; three **art workshops** and three **reading circles**; two **theater plays** and three **performing arts shows**; one **street masquerade** and **flash-mob performance**; four **film screenings**; one **immersive culinary experience / community dinner**.

# Opening concert: Emel

On its 10th anniversary, Masahat had a memorable opening concert with Emel Mathlouthi.

Since her breakthrough in 2011 with "Kelmti Horra" ("My Word is Free")—an anthem of the Arab Spring—Emel Mathlouthi has been a fearless voice for freedom and artistic innovation.

Her music blends activism and artistry, and her fourth album "MRA" (Arabic for woman) is a bold manifesto for female empowerment. That's why every single collaborator on MRA, from producers, featured artists, musicians, and beyond, is a woman. The result is a multi-genre meld where African trap, batucada, Arabic reggaeton, hip hop, and drum n' bass rub shoulders seamlessly with vibrant melodies and empowering lyrics.

Emel has firmly established herself as an avant-garde presence on the global stage, known for her haunting voice and genre-blending artistry. Amongst her ground-breaking performances is the Nobel Peace Prize Concert at Oslo Spektrum in 2015, dedicating her music to Tunisian and Arab youth.

She has collaborated with Valgeir Sigurdsson (Björk, Sigur Rós), Tricky, Barbara Pravi, Bachar Mar-Khalifé, Vitalic, and most recently Acid Arab on "Lose My Mind". Womad festival review "the Björk-like glamour of the Tunisian-American Emel, and with her one of the weekend's most powerful moments /.../ as her incredible multi-octave voice soars through the space."—The Guardian

Emel performed with her band:

- Caroline Geryl - drums
- Pier Salami - keys







# Breakfast seminar: Collaborating with Gazan Artist today

The second day started with a breakfast seminar at Kunstnernes Hus.

The genocide in Gaza has devastated every aspect of Palestinian life. No one in Gaza is safe, and no one who has witnessed this crime will ever forget it. In the gap between those who witness and those who endure the violence directly, urgent questions arise: How do we speak about Gaza? How do we act in solidarity with its people?

In Norway, Palestinian artists have been especially attentive to these questions—reflecting on how our artistic and cultural expressions often fall short of conveying the Gazan experience of genocide. The panel consisted entirely of artists who have redirected their practice and resources to stand with colleagues and friends in Gaza. Their goal is clear: to ensure that Gazan artists break through the siege and mass killing, and speak in their own voices despite ongoing attempts to silence them.



# Breakfast seminar: Collaborating with Gazan Artist today



**This conversation asked: What does it mean to collaborate with artists in Gaza today? What does it mean to make art during a genocide? And how does the extermination of Palestinians compel us to rethink our artistic tools, languages, and practices?**

## **The Panelists were:**

- **Motaz Al Habbash: A Palestinian artist, producer, and curator residing in Norway.**
- **Carmel Alabbasi: A Palestinian visual artist whose practice spans video, sound, writing, sculpture, and installation**
- **featuring the work of Dahaleez Collective: A research art collective founded in Gaza in 2021 by artists and researchers Khaled Jarada, Rahaf Batniji, Salman Nawati, Majdal Nateel, Carmel Al-Abbasi, Mahmoud Abu Wardeh, and Mahmoud Al-Shaer. Originating with the project Geography of Divine Magic at Beit Al-Ghusein Cultural and Heritage House, the collective examines Palestinians' temporal and spatial realities under siege. Dahaleez develops collaborative and analytical tools to envision liberation and reconstruction of Palestine.**
- **Ayman Azraq: A filmmaker, photographer, and mixed-media artist.**
- **Drew Snyder (Moderator): An art historian and curator based in Oslo.**

# Keynote I: Radical Pedagogy: Lifelong lessons from Palestine by Munir Fasheh

Munir Fasheh, delivered the first Keynote at a packed hall at Litteraturhuset.

Munir is a Palestinian mathematician who chose to leave academia to explore new ways of understanding and practicing learning. Together with others, he founded Tamer Institute for Community Education, an organization that rethinks education as a tool for liberation.

He summarizes his life with two words: occupation and return. Munir was among the first group of refugees in the modern Middle East, when in 1948—as a Palestinian—he and his family lost both their house and their land. Even the mathematics in his home was “occupied,” replaced by the logic of schools and universities, influenced by Western philosophers such as Bertrand Russell.

For Munir, knowledge became a form of “return”—not yet to land and home, but to himself. In the Arabic language, he discovered liberating perspectives, such as muthanna, the dual form that breaks down the binary between “I” and “You.” Another key concept for him is mujaawarah—“to be a neighbor”—a way of learning through stories, relationships, and community rather than through abstract theories.

In his keynote at Masahat Festival 2025, Munir shared his experiences as a teacher and thinker. He inspired us to dismantle structures of knowledge that confine us and show how stories, words, and new ways of relating can open up paths toward liberation.











# Grønlands mairdan



# Grønlands maidan

## Home not for Sale

Grønlands maidan took place on the fourth day of the festival: a full day of rituals, people's march, stories of solidarity and resistance, art workshops, performances and music in the streets of Grønland neighborhood in the heart of Oslo.

Grønland is Oslo's cultural crossroads—a neighborhood where diverse communities and newcomers from Norway and across the world have lived, worked, and thrived for generations.

Today, greedy developers and their political enablers threaten to erase this history, displace communities, and sell our streets to the highest bidder. Our response to this reality took form in Grønlands Maidan: because the soul of a neighborhood lives in its people.

The day was curated by Vjolla Emiri who started us off through a march to protest the gentrification of Grønland, and foster attention to this issue amongst the inhabitants, as a way to protect it from the growing pressure of real estate speculation: higher rents, unstable leases, and gentrification that risks pushing away families, businesses, and organizations that have long been the heart of this neighborhood.

Artist Waldane Walker guided us through a powerful MAS (masquerade), leading a ritual procession to cleanse the neighborhood from greedy developers and city planners who seek to displace us by building homes only for those who can afford them.





# Grønlands maidan

The masquerade took off from *Botsparken* through *Grønlandslairet* and ended up by *Olafiagangen* where we heard speeches by politicians and activists representing *Reduser Husleia*, *Leieboerforeningen* and *Nordic Black Theatre*.

After the speeches, the program continued to include pop-up exhibitions, flashmob performance, art workshops, reading circles and a concert:

- Flashmob, by **Nordic Black Theater**
- The Solidarity Patchwork – Threads of Resistance, by **LAG Norge**
- Veggietales (work in progress), by **Aleksander Varadian**
- Third Space, by **Carmel Alabbasi** and **Dahaleez Collective**
- Kurak Workshop, by **Nurperi**
- Stedsveven, by **Helen Eriksen**, **Samira Jamouchi**, and **Ebba Moi**

Other events during Grønlands Maidan:

- Reading Circle: The War Against Hospitalities with **Ayreen Anastas** and **Rene Gabri**
- Concert with **Ramy Essam**



In collaboration with **Nordic Black Theater**, **Oslo Museum**, **Tenthous**, **Dattera til Hagen**, **Safemuse**, **Latin Amerika Gruppene**, **Kawaakibi Foundation**, **Leieboerforeningen** and **Atelier Kunstnerforbundet**







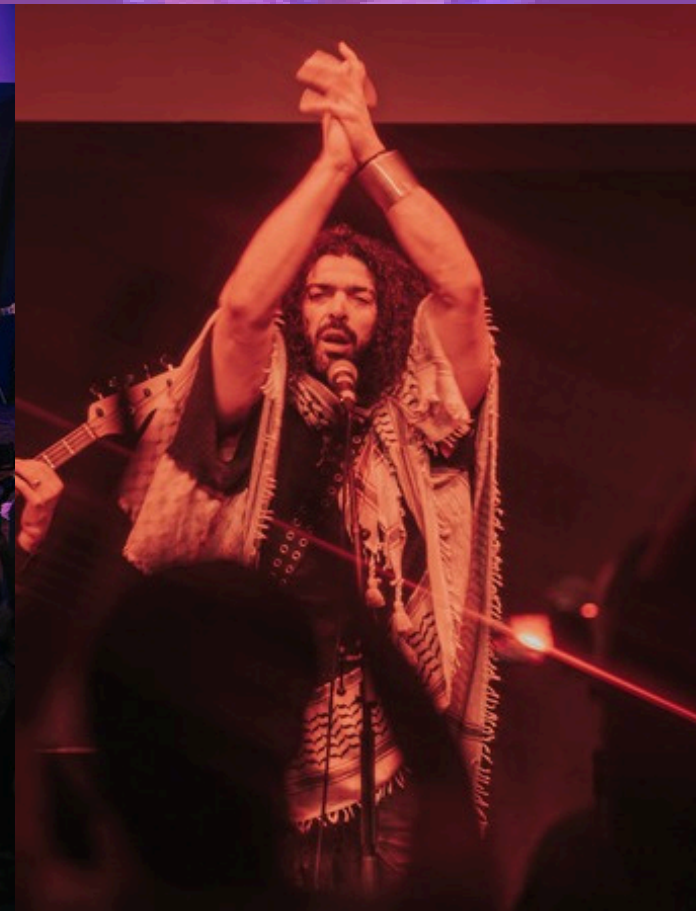




# Concert with Ramy Essam

As part of Grønlands Maidan, Masahat in collaboration with Kawaakibi Foundation presented Ramy Essam in concert at Nordic Black Theatre.

Ramy has brought the sound of freedom and resistance from Tahrir Square to international stages. His music carries the call for justice, dignity and solidarity.



# Keynote II: On Love, On Struggle by Sumayo Jirde Cali

The second keynote of the festival was delivered by Sumayo Jirde Cali

With her keynote *Om kamp, om kjærlighet* (On Struggle, On Love), Sumayo invited us into a powerful reflection on hospitality – as personal experience, political responsibility, and collective practice.

Through the lens of her many lived identities – as a poet, playwright, literary critic, anthropologist, Somali, Black, Muslim woman – she asked: What does it mean to treat hospitality as a radical act? Can it become a foundation for more just, inclusive, and sustainable communities?

Sumayo Jirde Cali has made her mark on Norwegian literature with work that confronts racism, power, and silence. She writes to make visible what is often erased – and to create space for those pushed to the margins.

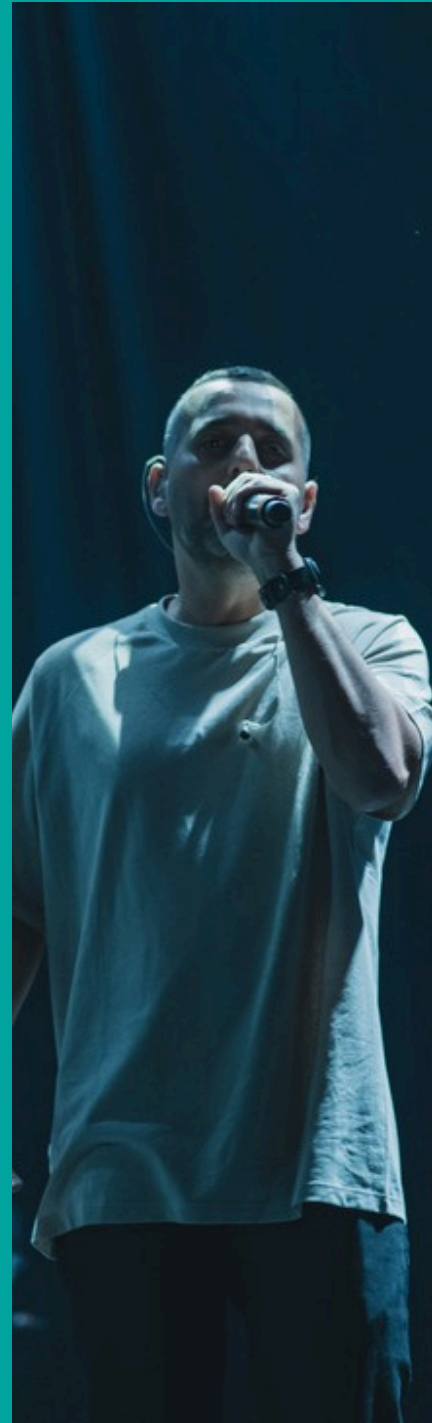
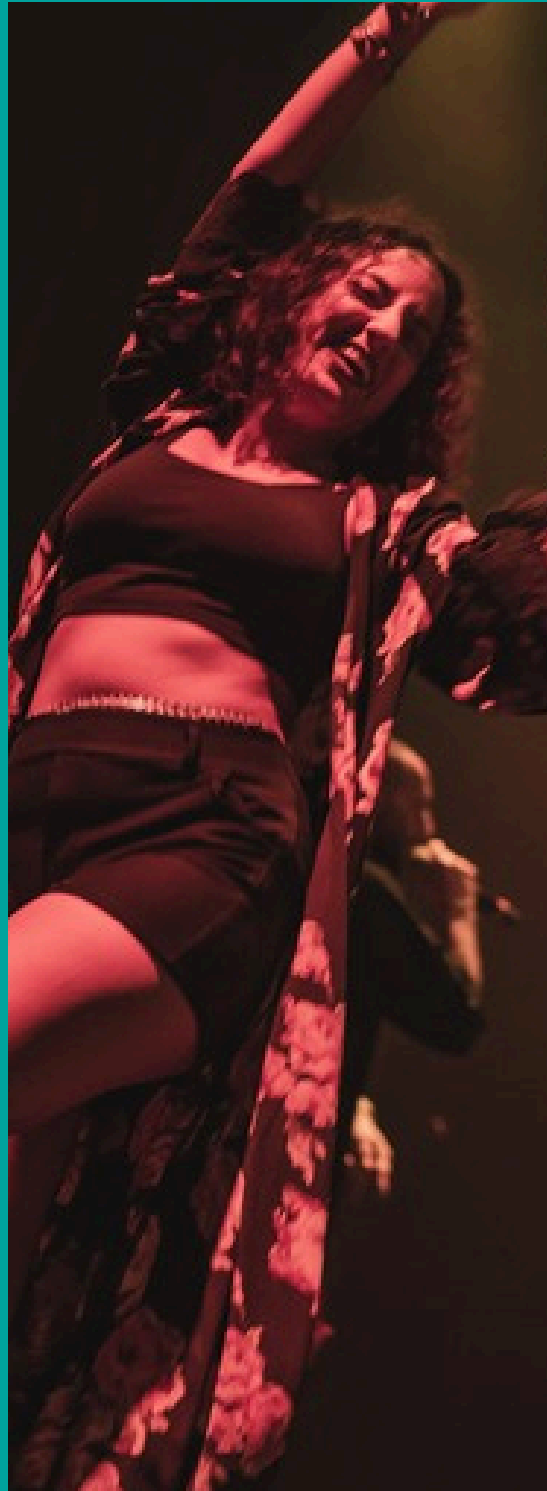
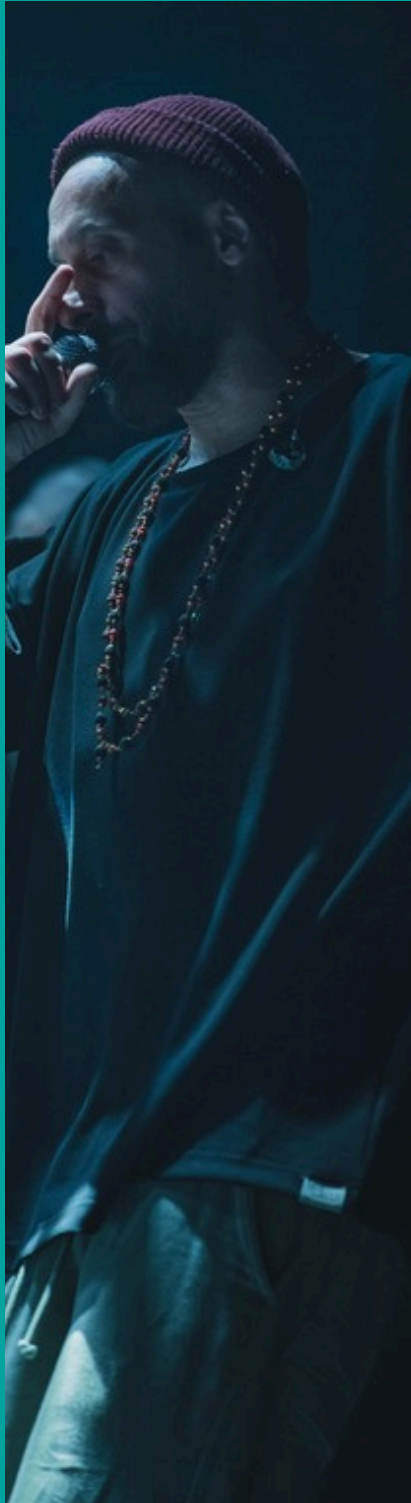
Critic Oda Faremo Lindholm (VG) describes her voice as “painful and beautiful about what is brutally ugly.” In *Morgenbladet*, Tonje Vold hears echoes of Angela Davis and bell hooks – Black feminist thinkers who urged women to love and save themselves first.

Sumayo Jirde Cali (b. 1997) is a Norwegian-Somali poet, writer, and cultural critic. She debuted with *Kvinner som hater menn* in 2017, followed by *Melanin hvitere enn blekemiddel*, *Ikkje ver redd såne som meg*, and *Når jeg ser havet, slokner lyset*.





# Closing night with DAM and Hiba Salameh



The closing evening was presented at Riksscenen. Together, we presented Palestinian Night – an evening of engagement, resistance, and cultural solidarity.

Headlining the night: DAM – the first Palestinian hip hop collective, and among the very first to rap in Arabic. Formed in the late 1990s by Tamer Nafar, Suhell Nafar, and Mahmood Jrere, DAM began shaping a language of resistance through hip hop. In 2015, Maysa Daw officially joined the group, and together they released their first single, Who You Are.

Rooted in the town of Lydd, their music gave voice to Palestinian experiences at a time when few others were doing so. Their breakthrough came with *Min Irhabi?* (Who's the terrorist?), downloaded over one million times in 2001, making them a cultural and musical reference point for a generation navigating violence, displacement, and questions of identity.

“The most entertaining, original and socially-engaged music to come out of the Middle East.”

– Martin Vennard, BBC World Service

Their latest album, *Ben Haana Wa Maana*, marks a new phase – more introspective, direct, and personal. A body of work that moves between protest and reflection, between grief and a radical insistence on self-worth. “You can dance to the drums of revolution,” they say.

Closing the night is Hiba Salameh – a music producer, filmmaker, and DJ from Haifa, named by Mixmag as “one of the Palestinian DJs you need to know.” Touring globally with her eclectic, genre-defying sets, she fuses the rich heritage of Arabic music with electronic sounds and rhythms from around the world – creating immersive, sensual experiences that connect past and present.







# Reading Circle with Samar Yazbek

On the last day of Masahat Festival, we gathered in an intimate space to reflect, read, and share thoughts.

This year we are honored to host the renowned Syrian author Samar Yazbek, in dialogue with Rana Issa, for a conversation on language and solidarity in brutal times.

Yazbek's literary voice has received international acclaim and numerous prizes. With two short story collections, seven novels, and four works of nonfiction—translated into more than twenty languages—her writing has become central to the global understanding of Syria, war, and exile.

In her forthcoming book *Memory of Loss*, Yazbek gathers testimonies from survivors of the genocide in Gaza. Initially hesitant to approach those who had lost everything—unsure if speaking of their grief could matter—she was struck by the persistence of Gazans to tell their stories. Despite despair, they insisted on being heard. Their generosity with words and time left Yazbek with the feeling of being an eternal guest, hoping that in return she can offer a timeless recognition of their courage and dignity.

Through these haunting narratives, Yazbek raised questions that guided our circle:

- How can we narrate horrors that seem beyond words? When does silence better reflect helplessness?
- In a world where human suffering is reduced to consumable fragments, can storytelling resist erasure—not to explain or justify, but to insist on recognition of unspeakable pain?

How can writing preserve truth, memorialize unjust ice, and extend solidarity to people subjected to brutality in Gaza, Sudan, and beyond?







# Masahat Screens

We ended the festival at VEGA Scene, in collaboration with **Oslo Documentary Cinema**, with an inspiring program that moves from film and dialogue to an evening of food, music, and celebration of Sudanese culture.

## **PART I: Masahat Screens**

### Program

- In Fields of Words (2022, 70 mins)
- The Other Side of Beauty (2024, 11 mins)
- Gaza Artists (2024, 16 mins)

Following the screenings, there was a discussion with Syrian author **Samar Yazbek**.

## **Part II: Sudanese Evening: Food, Music & Stories**

After films and discussion, the festival ended with a Sudanese Evening at VEGA, including a tasting menu of iconic Sudanese dishes by chef Mohammed Mustafa, and a solo concert by young Sudanese-Norwegian talent Yasir Moa, a songwriter and storyteller blending classical tunes with rhythmic, danceable sounds.

### About the films

- In Fields of Words (2022, 70 mins) | Lebanon | dir. Rania Stephan  
Shot between 2013 and 2019, a filmic dialogue between Syrian writer-in-exile Samar Yazbek and Lebanese filmmaker Rania Stephan, asking what role cinema and literature can play in the face of war, death, and violence.

- The Other Side of Beauty (2024, 11 mins) | Morocco, Sudan | dir. Sami Saif Sirelkhatim  
The story of a Sudanese photographer who finds beauty in his homeland's stars and landscapes, while also facing the violence of war and genocide in Darfur. His images reveal truth to the world, but at great personal cost—through imprisonment, torture, and repression.

- Gaza Artists (2024, 16 mins) – | Palestine | dir. Mustafa al-Nabih  
A short documentary offering a window into the lives of Palestinian artists in the Gaza Strip, amid ongoing displacement and the difficult conditions they endure. We follow their daily lives, struggles, and the impact of continuous displacement on their creativity and personal lives, through genuine human moments.



17-21 September

2025 Oslo

Masahat مهرجان  
festival مساحات  
for arabisk الثقافة  
kunst og الفنون  
العربية kultur

المساحات  
masahat



RW BET



Bergensregionen

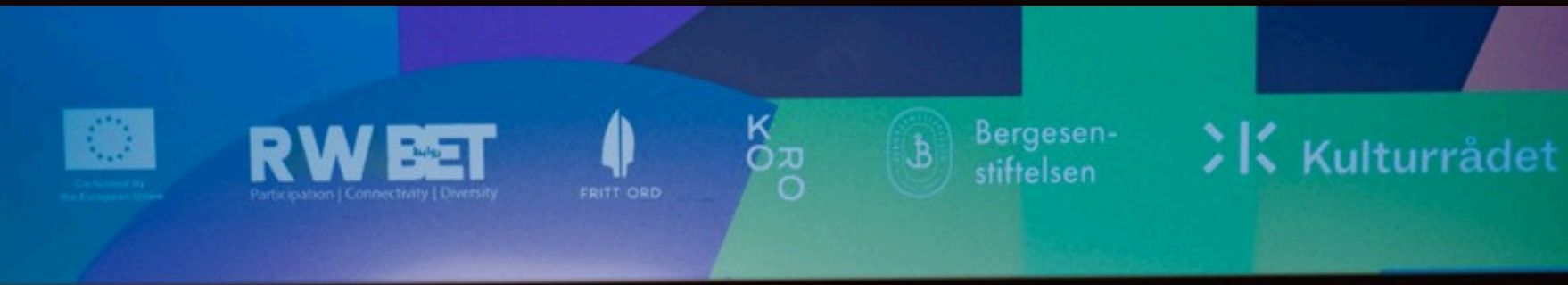
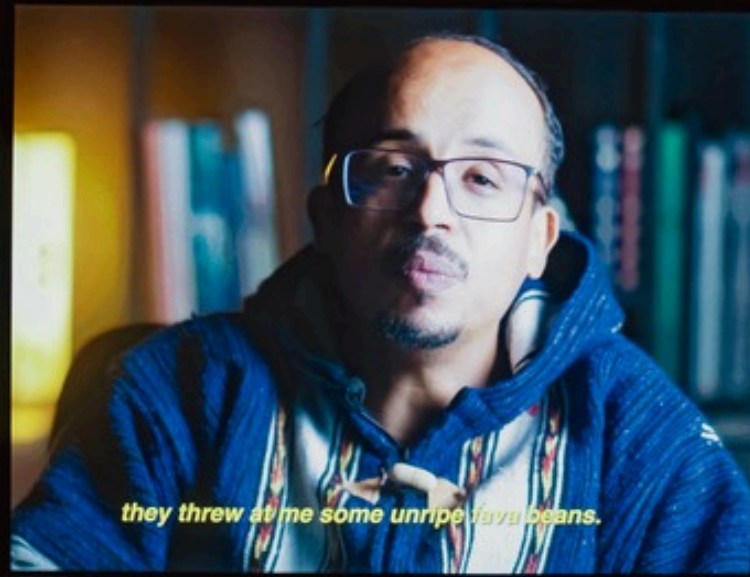


Kulturrådet



Oslo





# Sudanese Evening

After a day of films and discussions, we closed Masahat Festival with a Sudanese Evening at VEGA. The program pays tribute to the rich and diverse Sudanese culture, with a tasting menu of iconic Sudanese dishes curated by chef Mohammed Mustafa, followed by a solo concert with young Sudanese-Norwegian talent Yasir Moa.

This special evening is curated in collaboration with Khalid Albaih and Naoures Rouissi.







# RAWABET

## Masahat festival as part of the RAWABET festivals

During 2024-2026, Masahat has had the great opportunity to be part of the EU-supported project RAWABET (“links” in Arabic). The project, which is a consortium of six partner organizations targets artists and cultural practitioners who have moved to Europe from the Arab world (from all ethnic minorities) since 2015, and European artists and cultural organization interested in collaborating and engaging with Rawabet’s themes.

In parallel to this, Rawabet targets European audiences and newly-arrived Arab and migrant communities that have settled in Europe.

RAWABET has different components including artistic residencies, production grants, festivals and a publication.

Masahat’s participation in RAWABET is mainly through a tandom component with the Malmö-based organization Transversal, while also encompassing Masahat festival as one stop of the four RAWABET festivals taking place in Norway, Italy, Germany, Belgium between 2024-2026.

### Project partners:

- Ettijahat – Independent Culture, Brussels, Belgium / Beirut, Lebanon
- GEZMATAZ, Genoa, Italy
- Transversal Project (TPAB), Malmo, Sweden
- VOCE National Center for Musical Creation, Corsica / France
- coculture, Berlin, Germany
- Masahat for Arab Culture in Exile, Oslo, Norway



# RAWABET

## Masahat x Transversal tandem: art residency

Early in 2025, Masahat and Transversal announced a call for applications for an artistic residency in performing arts with the aim of selecting 15 artists:

- five based in Norway,
- five based in Sweden
- and five coming from the rest of Europe

During June 2025, 17 artists from Arab origins came from across Europe for a 10-day artist residency in Malmö.

The residency centered on migration, performance, and the power of cultural connection.

Four of the artists who participated in the artistic residency in Malmö in June (Ahmed Tobasi, Frida Marida, ghenwa (noiré), Thurayya Alkury), were invited to perform at Masahat festival.



**RAWABET** روابط  
Participation | Connectivity | Diversity



Co-funded by  
the European Union

# Masahat community dinner

## RAWABET Artists-in-residence at Masahat Festival

Masahat's beloved community dinner was hosted at Kunsternes Hus, featuring a five-course menu crafted by RAWABET artist-in-residence, the Palestinian chef and artist Thurayya Alkury (Hummus Sapiens, Ostara) in collaboration with chef and food writer Henrik Henriksen (MUNCH Museum Restaurants, Ben Reddik).

*Gjestebud for gjestfriheten* (Feast for Hospitality) brought together culinary traditions from the Arab world and Norway, inviting us to reflect on what hospitality means today—what it is to host, and to be hosted—in a world where borders, histories, and identities remain deeply entangled.



**THURAYYA ALKURY**

# Masahat community dinner

## RAWABET Artists-in-residence at Masahat Festival

The dishes and the stories were made to inspire hope, resilience, and belief in our shared capacity to carry one another through difficult times. The menu drew inspiration from the writings of Munir Fasheh, Masahat's keynote guest, particularly his reflections on turab (soil) as a metaphor for connection and belonging.

Some dishes were served on ceramic platters designed by Halvor Skiftun Digernes and food writer Andreas Liebe Delsett, originally created for a commemorative meal honoring a persecuted Afghan writer in Bodø. The Masahat dinner menu for 2025 will be branded on the back of the second plate in the collection. The evening also featured a performance by another RAWABET artist-in-residence Ghenwa Noiré.

As Masahat celebrated its 10-year anniversary, this edition of Gjestebud for gjestfriheten closed a decade with a gesture of care and continuity: a taste of Arab hospitality and Norwegian traditions, interwoven with flavors from diaspora cultures—shared in the company of artists, activists, and community builders who create spaces of solidarity in our city.













# Masahat community dinner

RAWABET Artists-in-residence at Masahat Festival



**GHENWA NOIRÉ**

The community dinner also featured RAWABET artist-in-residence Ghenwa (noiré).

Ghenwa is a musician and a cross-disciplinary performer, who played their improvised soundscape bringing in a unique mix of electro-bouzouqi set-up and vocals into the evening's shared stories and meals







# And Here I Am

## RAWABET Artists-in-residence at Masahat Festival

Ahmed Tobasi, the third RAWABET artist-in-residence performed a sold-out theater show *And Here I Am* at Nordic Black Theater.

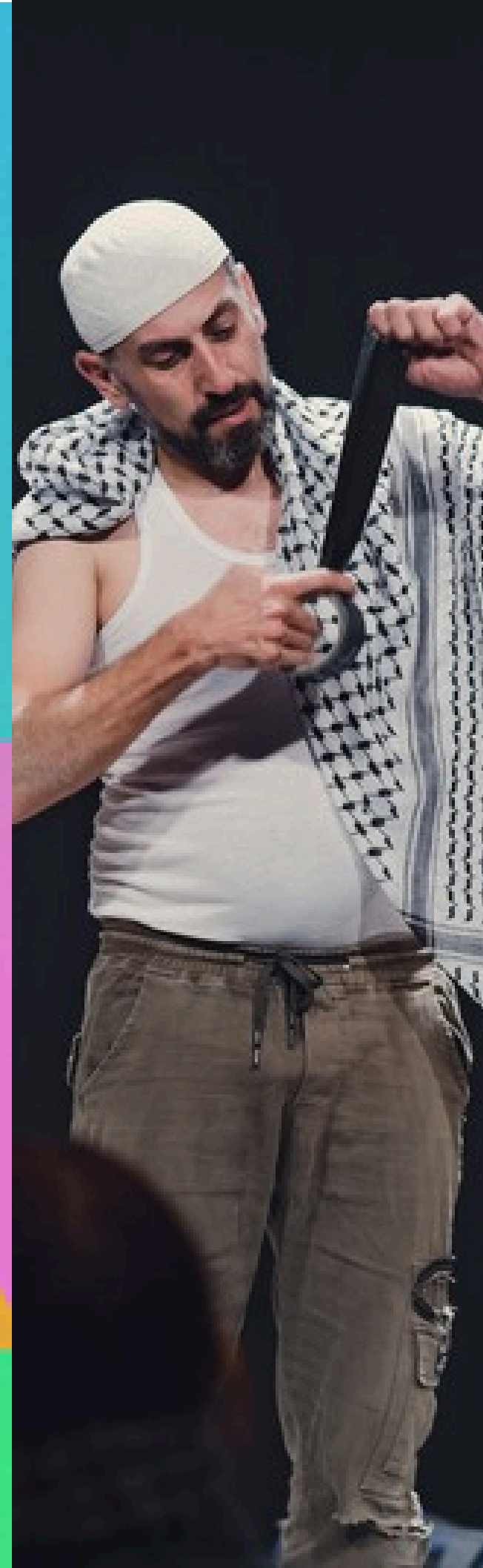
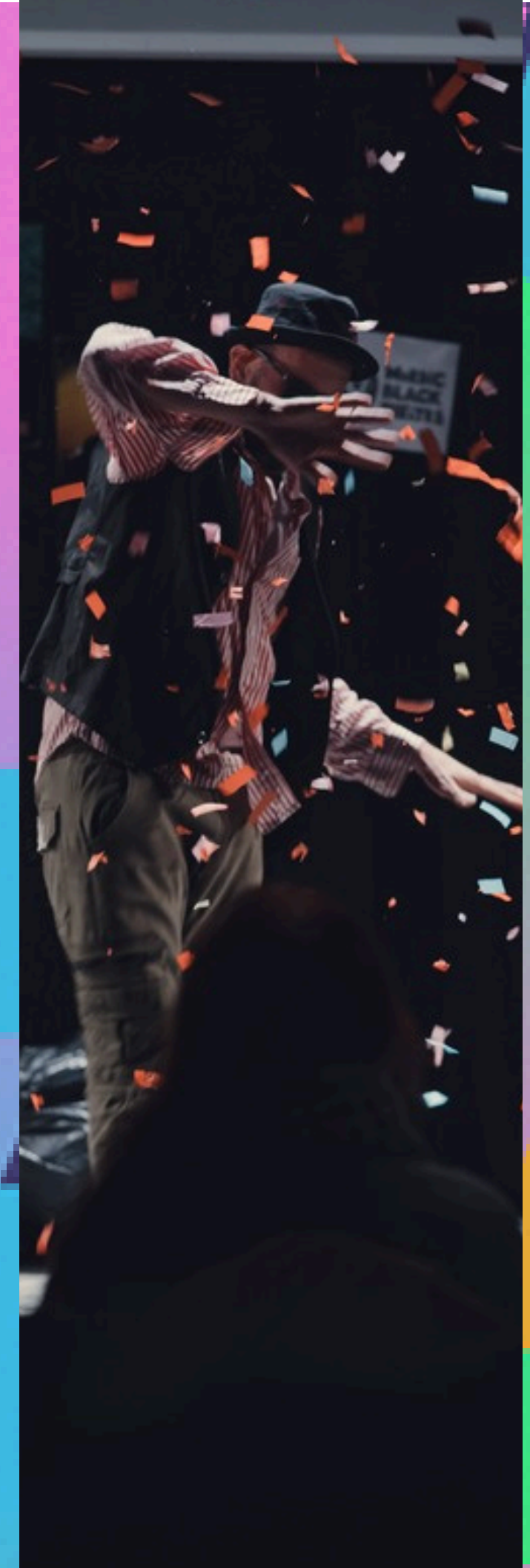
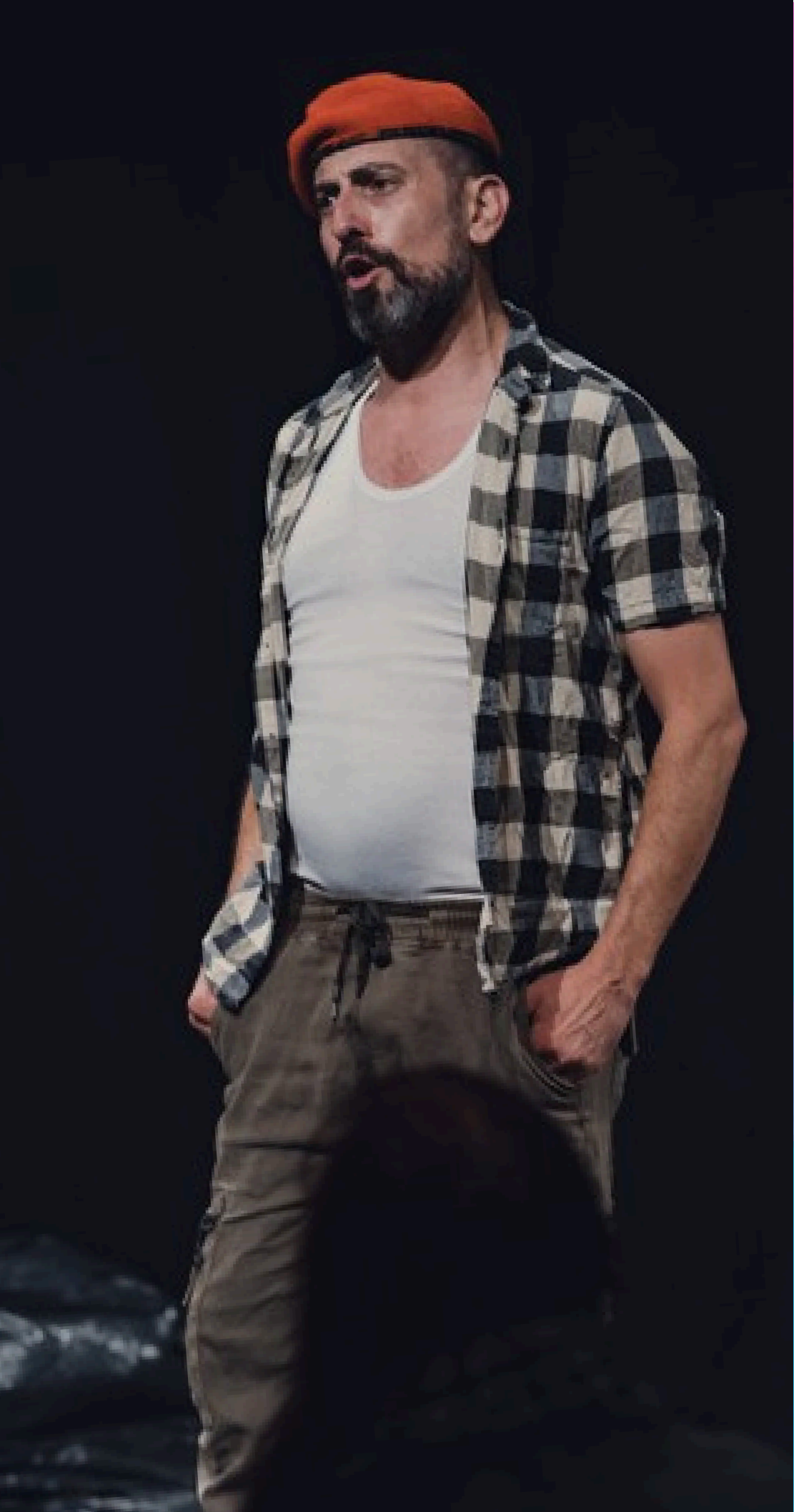
A bittersweet, dark, political comedy based on one man's true story and his odyssey in search of identity. *And Here I Am* is a powerful coming-of-age story based on the life—and performed by—Palestinian artist Ahmed Tobasi.

We follow his extraordinary journey: from the battle-scarred alleys of Jenin Refugee Camp, to the confines of an Israeli prison. From armed resistance to the transformative force of theatre. From exile in Norway back to his homeland—where the struggle is far from over.

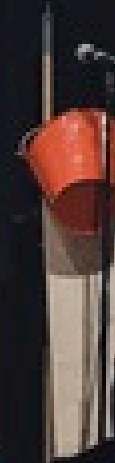
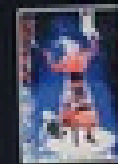
*And Here I Am* is written by Hassan Abdulrazzak, based on the life of and performed by Ahmed Tobasi. The production is directed by Zoe Lafferty, with set design by Sarah Beaton, lighting design by Andy Purve and Jess Bernberg, and sound design by Max Pappenheim. Lanre Malaolu is the movement director, while Samra Bulbol serves as technical director.

The Arabic translation is by Eyas Younis, and vocal coaching by Amiee Leonard. The play was originally produced by Developing Artists, and is currently produced by Artists On The Frontline.





We rush into the hospital and descend the stairs  
two at a time. We get to the morgue and right  
there on the stretcher is Ashraf.



# The Frida Marida Show

## RAWABET Artists-in-residence at Masahat Festival

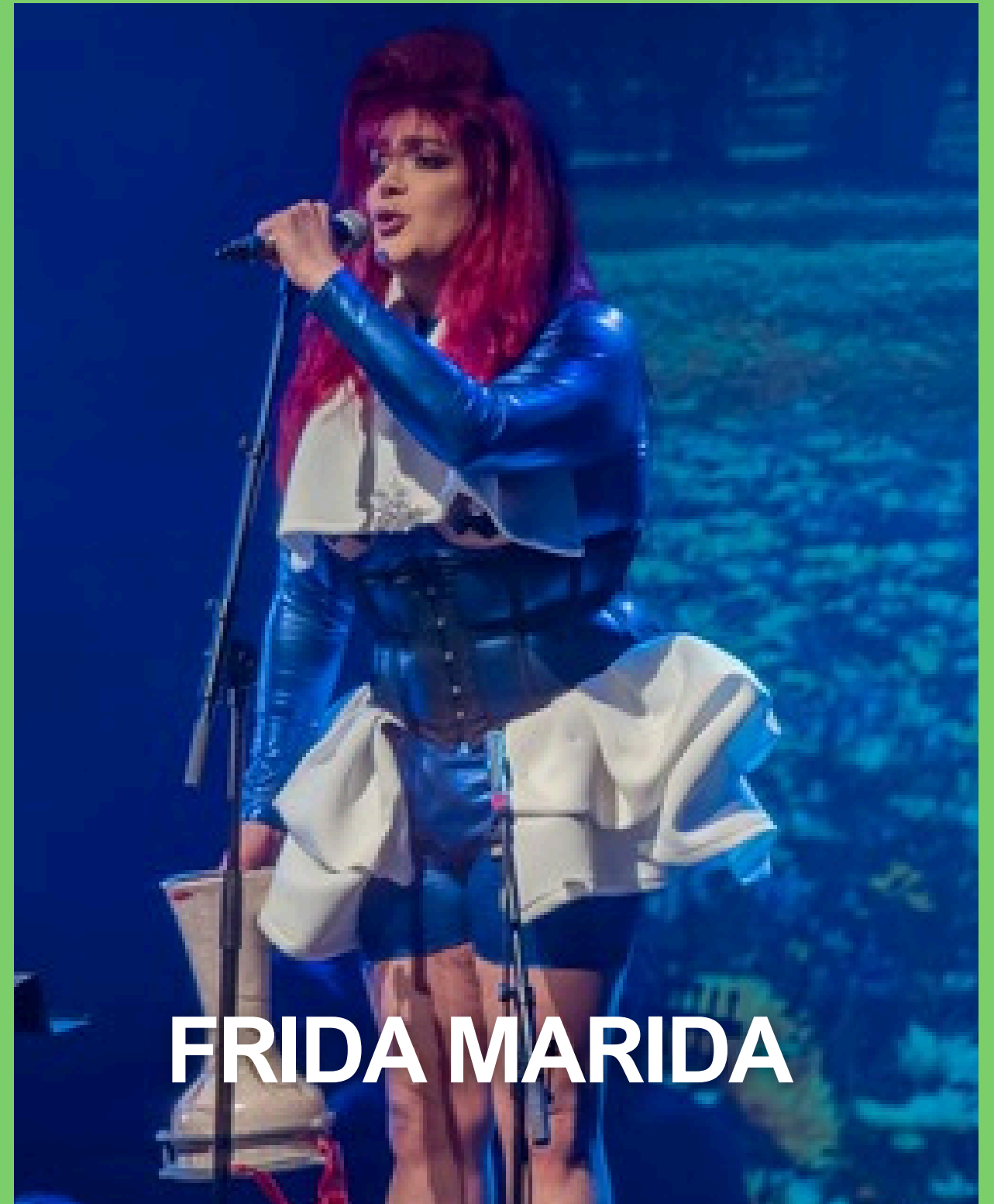
Masahat festival, in collaboration with [Ultima](#), [Det Norske Teatret](#), Karmaklubb and Only Slime, proudly presented The Frida Marida Show: a Night of Fantasy, Music & Radical Hospitality

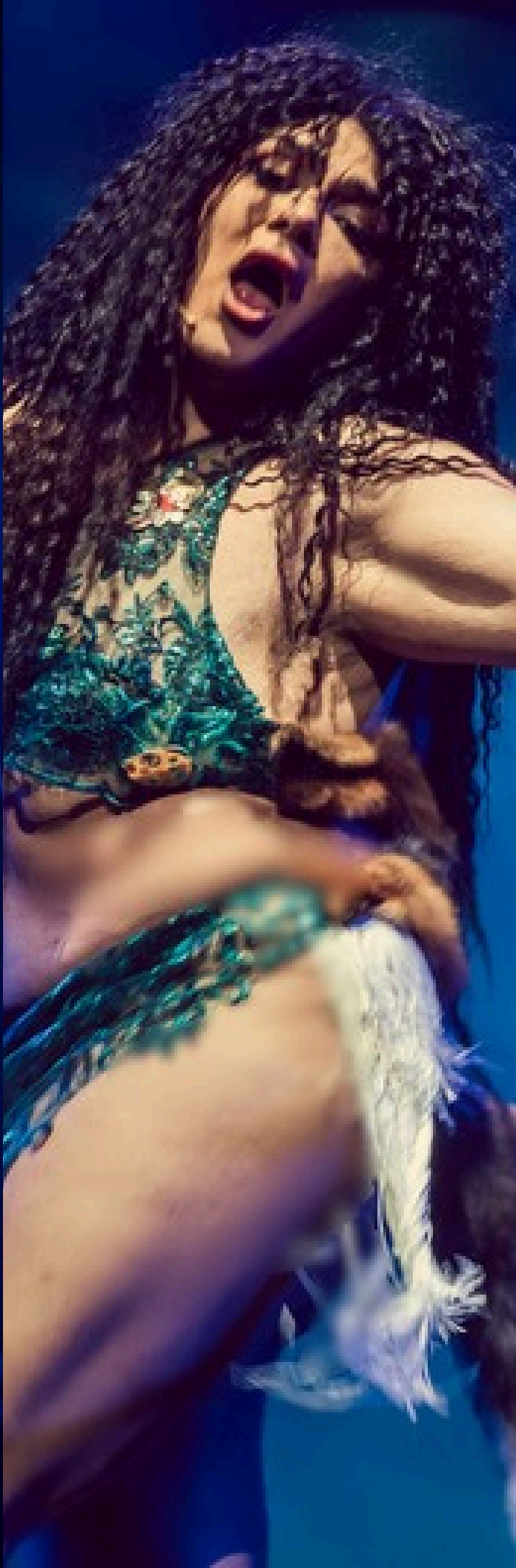
During her RAWABET residency in Malmö, Frida transformed a car steering wheel into a drum, tracing her personal journey – from a young man in Lebanon dreaming of music, to a woman, singer, and songwriter in Oslo. Life's unexpected turns echo in rhythm and sound.

The evening opened with Dragon Blood by Only Slime, unfolding inside an immersive dinner-style installation: chandeliers, tables instead of rows, and performers moving among the audience. Everyone became part of the artwork. Guests were encouraged to wear imaginative, fantasy-inspired costumes.

Frida took the stage with five musicians, two dancers, and a set of out-of-the-box concepts. She embraced Masahat's 2025 theme of hospitality by singing in eight languages – inviting audiences into a shared cultural space across borders.

The night culminated with the launch of Frida Marida's groundbreaking music video Fri Da Nipple – where six electronic boob-triggers become live instruments. Sound, body, and technology merge in a drag performance that redefines both music and art.









# Memorable moments from the festival



# Masahat festival for Arab arts and culture 2025 in numbers

**17**

events were organized

*across music, visual and performing arts, literature, culinary experiences, and film*

**11**

venues across Oslo

**+4500**

audience members attended Masahat festival events

**+935**

tickets were sold

**112**

guests were hosted and took part in the festival

*including musicians, filmmakers, artists, writers, scholars and journalists*

**20**

partners

**31**

volunteers

13. september 2025

Tøyen

# Mini Masahat

MUSIKK · DANS · KUNSTVERKSTED · MAT

One week prior to Masahat festival, Mini Masahat was held for the second time in 2025 at Tøyen Torg, Tøyen Deichman and Deichman Biblo Tøyen. Mini Masahat is a free children's festival that celebrates Arab art and culture, with the aim of fostering pride around having a cross-cultural identity.

This year's special guest was Shaden Qous, a member of El-Funoun Dance Troupe who came from Jerusalem. On Thursday and Friday prior to Mini Masahat, and in collaboration with Scenekunstbruket and Showbox festival, Shaden teamed up with the Norwegian dancer Alma Bø and visited Tøyen and Vålerenga schools and gave Dabkeh sessions to five classes.

Mini Masahat received great engagement with more than 400 visitors. Throughout the day, the audience experienced, among other things, a dabke workshop, bilingual storytelling in Arabic and Norwegian, a drumming workshop, Hummus in colors food workshop, a mosaic workshop, interactive poster making among other activities.

Mini Masahat is supported by Sparebankstiftelsen DNB, and took place in partnership with Deichman Tøyen and Biblo, and in collaboration with Interkulturelt museum, Scenekunstbruket, and Showboxfestival.



13. september 2025

# Mini Masahat

## Program



Tøyen

MUSIKK · DANS · KUNSTVERKSTED · MAT

### DEICHMAN TØYEN

#### HOVEDSCENEN

- MOSAIKKVERKSTED
- ANSIKTSMALING
- KALLIGRAFI
- BREV TIL PALESTINA
- TROMMEKURS

#### AMFI

- BOKSTAVLEK
- FORTELLERSTUND

### TØYEN TORG

- SNEKKERVERKSTED
- PLAKATVERKSTED
- DANSEFORESTILLING

### DEICHMAN BIBLO TØYEN

(10-15 ÅR)

- MATKURS: HUMMUS I ALLE FARGER
- DABKEKURS





Photo: Elisa Bates



Photo: Elisa Bates





Photo: Elisa Bates





Alle barn i Palestina har rett til å uttrykke sine meninger og ha innflytelse i saker som angår dem

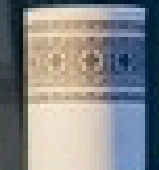
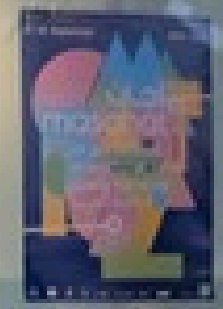
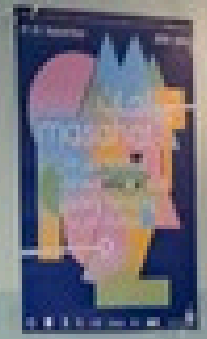




Photo: Elisa Bates





BIBLI

DEUTSCHMAN

DEUTSCHMAN

# Masahat festival team

In 2025, Masahat still faced the challenge of unpredictable, short-term project funding with the limitation of having only one core funding grant from the Oslo Municipality. This leads to short-term, part-time hiring procedures that make it difficult to establish sustainable organizational structure and working routines. Nonetheless, Masahat was able to have a robust festival team relying mostly on project funding, the largest contribution coming from the EU Creative Europe grant, while other sources included Oslo Municipality, Fritt Ord foundation, Arts Council Norway and Sparebankstiftelsen DNB.

The festival team started working at different intervals, the earliest were the festival producer working between April-September 2025 starting with 20% capacity and increasing to 100%. The communications advisor joined in June in 60-100% capacity. While the volunteers coordinator joined in August, managing a group of 31 volunteers.

## Masahat staff

Artistic Director: Rana Issa  
Managing Director: Zeina Bali



## Festival team

Communications Advisor: Adriana Calderón  
Volunteers Coordinator: Nader Turkmani  
Producer: Vjolla Emiri  
Mini Masahat coordinator: Selma Benmalek

Festival Design: Kristin Bø  
Festival photographer: Elisa Bates

# Protest in Movement

## Discursive program in collaboration with KORO - Public Art Norway

On March 19, 2025, Masahat and KORO (Art in Public Space) invited participants to an artistic day seminar at The Artists' House on the theme of protest. The program featured both Norwegian and international artists, all of whom are engaged in building solidarity in various ways. Many of them have connections to Palestine and Lebanon.

Many of them have connections to Palestine and Lebanon. We wanted to explore how art has engaged itself in resistance struggles, especially around the occupation of Palestine, but also elsewhere. Protest is more than just a theme. For us, art itself is a form of resistance against various structures of oppression.

The seminar consisted of panel discussions, a series of short films, and an artistic evening program. Among the participants is the award-winning Palestinian visual artist Jumana Manna, who is currently building a major work in the new Government Quarter. Her short film commemorating Refaat al-Areer was included in the film program.



# Keynote with Helga Tawil-Souri



Helga said that the keynote speech she delivered was inspired by the title of the conference, Protest in Movement, which she wanted to think through using the concept of *masahat* to explore space and movement as a starting point for reflecting on the role of both art and politics in today's world. Helga argued for a "declaration of outwardness" as a responsible stance that engages with society. In this way, she took us through art, culture, and media production today in a context characterized by genocide and war. She invited us not to give up, and to look at Palestinian fragmentation through exploring opportunity and not only loss.

Protest i bevegelse

Kunst





## Artist talk in panel : Jumana Manna, Helle Siljeholm & Mira Adoumier moderated by Sarah Lookofsky

How is artistic freedom defined in practice in relation to art and institutions, and can artists feel safe when criticizing power structures and art institutions?

Artists are experiencing a higher degree of censorship in our time. Art is considered dangerous by powerful institutions, and artists are being cancelled and contracts are being annulled. How do artists view their relationship with institutions and the public attacks on artists occurring in many places? Should art hold on to its function in social critique? How can artistic expression be shaped in the face of the social challenges regarding democracy and the precarious working conditions typical for artists and cultural workers?



# Art and Public Space

Khalid al-Baih, Rana Issa &  
Ayman Azrak

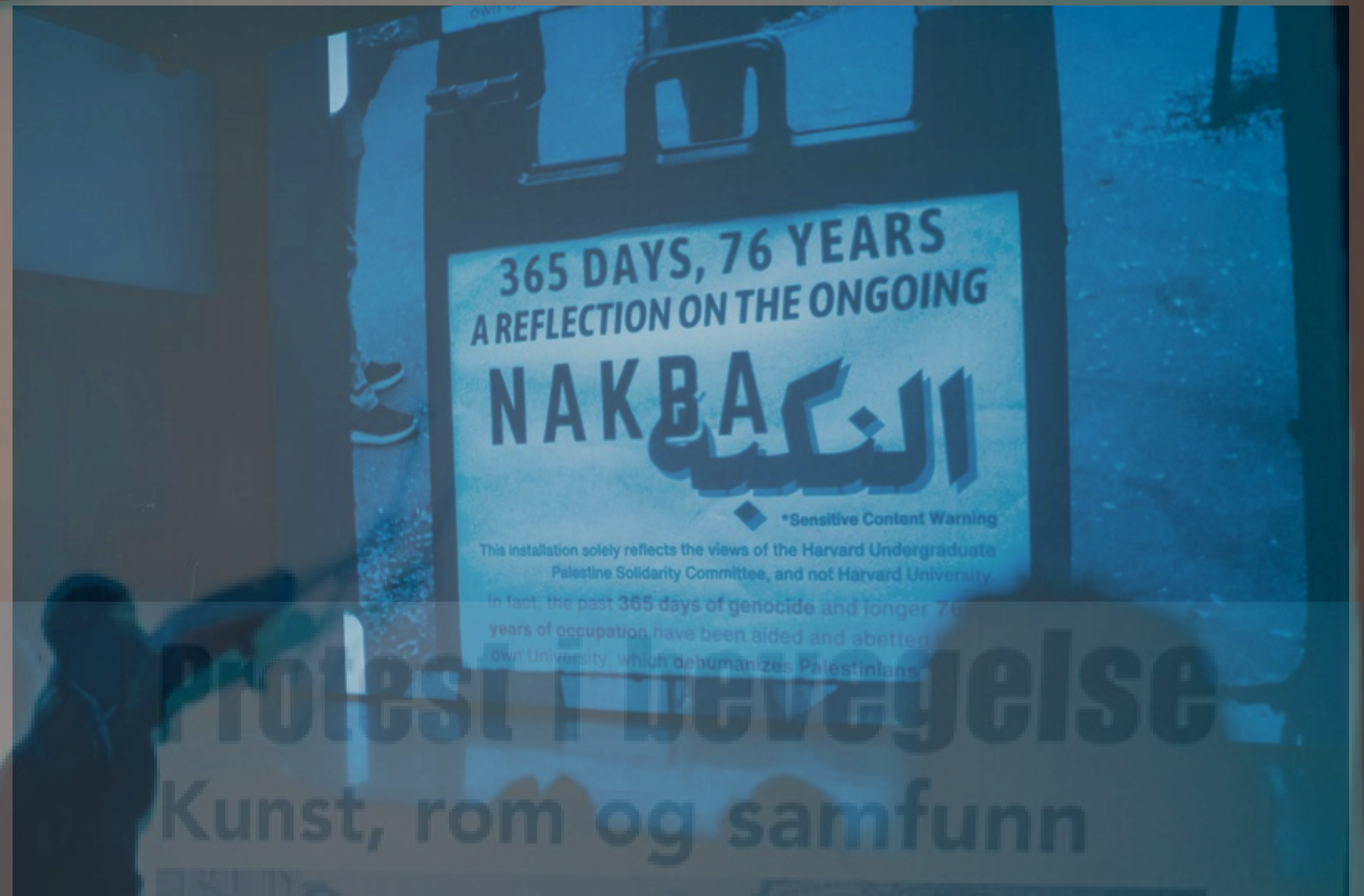
Moderated by Nikhil Vettukattil

How can art challenge consciousness about space? And what constitutes public space? Who remains unseen in public space, and in what ways can art create a defense for an open, equal, and sustainable society? How does art challenge dominance, scratch the eye, and create a space for action for another political imagination and possibility?



Outside, in the restaurant at Kunstnernes Hus, Khalid exhibited some of his political art.





**Art and Social Movements**  
**Dora Garcia, Noor Abed, Sami Khatib**  
**Moderated by Bojana Cvejic**

Throughout history, art has held a significant place in social movements. In many liberation movements, and in the protests around the world over the past few decades, artists have worked closely with activists to communicate political opinions. In this conversation, we will examine the long-term trajectories of art in protest from an art-historical perspective.

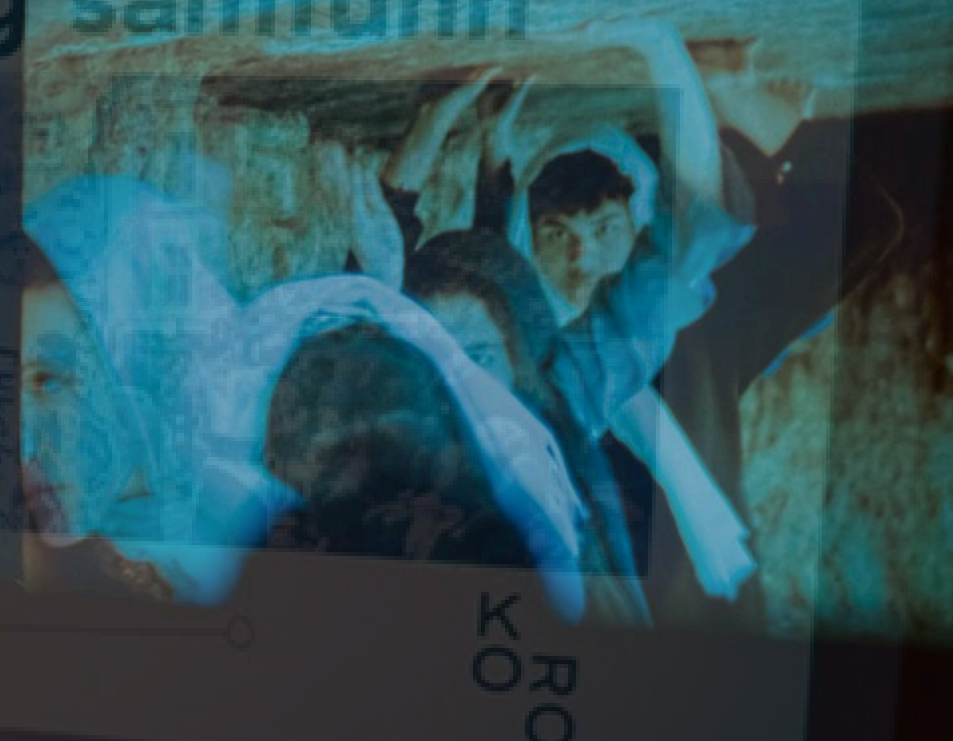
## Short film program



In a world increasingly characterized by conflict, inequality, and environmental crises, protest has become a vital form of expression and resistance. This short film program explores protest both as a catalyst and a medium for art, presenting works that confront systemic violence—against people, land, and ecosystems—while acknowledging the power of collective action and individual courage. The selected films delve into the complexity of protest, weaving together the political and the personal, the collective and the intimate. They challenge hegemonic structures, amplify suppressed voices, and articulate the values and causes that artists and societies fight for. By combining sharp critique with emotional depth, these films invite viewers to reflect on their own roles within power structures and to imagine new possibilities for solidarity and change. The program includes two short films produced by Masahat, which explore the very concept of protest and highlight the multifaceted nature of resistance. These works do not merely document dissent; they embody it, offering nuanced perspectives on the struggles and hopes of communities often excluded from dominant narratives.

# Protest i bevegelse

## Kunst, rom og samfunn



- Angle of Incidence, Mira Adoumier, 2024, Norway, English, 4 min.
- Algorithms of Suffocation, Islam Shabana, 2024, Egypt, English and Arabic, 7.31 min
- Reading Light in Gaza, Jumana Manna, 2024, Palestine, English, 3 min.
- You May Own the Lanterns but We Have the Light, Episode one: Home Alone, Haig Aivazian, Lebanon, Arabic with English subtitles, 12 min.
- You May Own the Lanterns but We Have the Light, Episode two: Eyeshadow Dark as Night, Haig Aivazian, Lebanon, Arabic with English subtitles, 10.30 min.
- A Night We Held Between, Noor Abed, Palestine, Arabic with English Subtitles, 30 mins.



## Listening-performance

Nothing Will Remain Other than the Thorn  
Lodged in the Throat of this World

with Noor Abed og Haig Aivazan





## Side Program: Publication

Palestinian Hospitality: Under Oppressive Clouds  
Produced by Masahat in collaboration with KORO  
(2024)

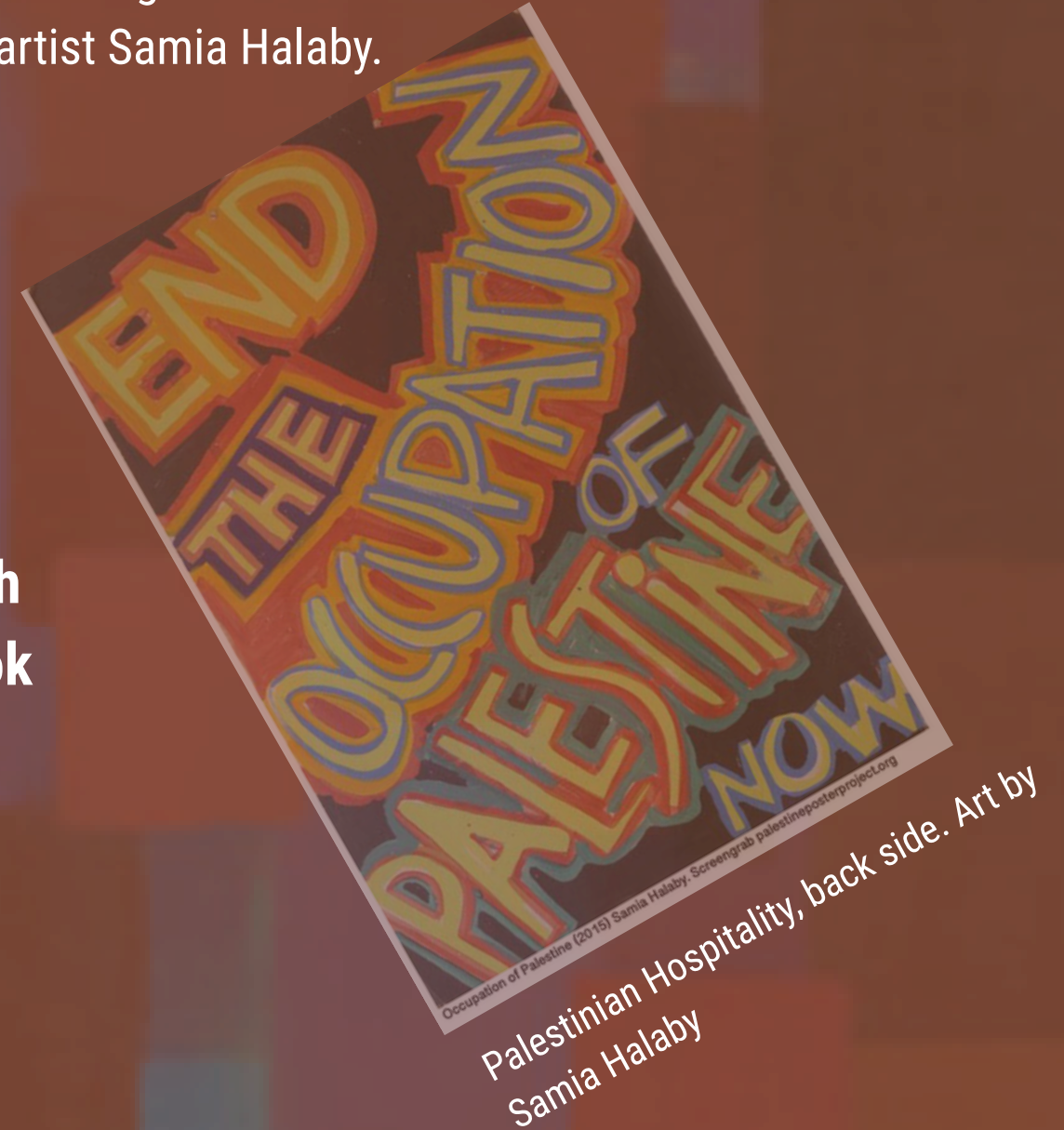
Zine: by Helle Siljeholm & Ingri Fiksdal

An alternative tour of the National Museum,  
listening to an interview with the Palestinian  
artist Samia Halaby.



Side Program: Food with  
recipes from Gaza's cook  
Mahmoud al-Madhoun.

Cook Jassem al-Hindi



Palestinian Hospitality, back side. Art by  
Samia Halaby

# Masahat year-round programming **Understanding and debating the new Syria**

In light of the fall of the Assad regime in late 2024, ending 54 years of the Assad bloody dynasty rule, discussing Syria has become prominent again in the Norwegian debate, in an attempt to understand the new dynamics and the rapidly changing situation on the ground. Masahat Managing Director, Zeina Bali, having returned to Syria in December 2024 after 12 years of exile, has, as a result, been invited to several events at universities, public libraries and civil society organizations to debate and understand Syria.



# Masahat year-round programming

## Understanding and debating the new Syria

Syria seminar at Stortinget  
January 2025

The Socialist Left Party (SV) organized a parliamentary seminar on the rapidly evolving situation in Syria following the fall of Assad, bringing together Brynjar Lia, Zeina Bali, and Gudrun Bertinussen - with online participatoin by Zeina while she was still in Syria.



International breakfast: Peace in Syria?  
January 2025

FN-sambandet and Deichman Tøyen organized a breakfast seminar on the evolving situation in Syria following the fall of the Assad regime, featured a panel discussion with Syria experts Hilde Henriksen Waage, Zeina Bali, and Andam Aziz.



# Masahat year-round programming

## Understanding and debating the new Syria

### Syria: what now?

February 2025

Masahat organized a community discussion held at Anarres Bokkafé in Oslo bringing together members of the Syrian diaspora to reflect on the new Syria post-Assad and its social, political, and economic aftermath. Moderated by Zeina Bali and Alaa Sami.



### The New Syria

April 2025

The University of Oslo organized a discussion as part of its “Midøsten 2025” series examining Syria’s uncertain future, including prospects for stability, democracy, and regional influence, featuring experts Brynjar Lia, Einar Wigen, and Zeina Bali, and moderated by journalist Kadafi Zaman.



Foto: UiO

# Masahat year-round programming

## Beyond Spectacle: Art in a Time of Genocide

**February 2025**

Masahat, in collaboration with KHiO (Oslo National Academy of the Arts) organized an artist talk with the Palestinian artist Carmel Alabbasi and filmmaker Mohamed Jabaly at KHiO, moderated by Zeina Bali for a critical discussion on the role of art-making in times of genocide and political crisis.

The discussion explored the ethical and political responsibilities of artists and cultural institutions in responding to the ongoing genocide in Palestine. Through reflections on grief, resistance, solidarity, and cultural production, the conversation challenged the aestheticisation of suffering and emphasized the importance of art practices grounded in material solidarity and collective struggle.

The event also highlighted the participating artists' ongoing academic and creative work, including graduation exhibitions presented at the academy.



# Masahat year-round programming

## Masahat at HUMAN International Documentary Film Festival

**March 2025**

As part of HUMAN IDFF 2025, Masahat organized a film screening and panel discussion exploring the political and historical transformations of the Levant over the past five decades. Through a curated short film program and a conversation featuring Nadim Khoury, Rana Issa, and Zeina Bali, the event examined the cycles of war, militarization, displacement, and resistance that have shaped the region, and the possibilities for imagining a more just regional future.



## Masahat at Arab Film Days

**April 2025**

Following the screening of the documentary *My Memory Is Full of Ghosts*, a panel discussion explored the future of Syria in the aftermath of the fall of the Assad regime. Organized in collaboration between Tankesmien Agenda and Arabiske Filmdager. The panel featured Managing Director Zeina Bali, journalist Pernille Solheim and Andam Aziz, and was moderated by Sylo Taraku.

# Masahat year-round programming

## Masahat collaboration with Oslo Documentary Cinema

### Gaza Sound Man

September 2025

Masahat collaborated with Oslo Documentary Cinema in screening of the documentary *Gaza Sound Man* (2025, 43 mins) with an introduction by historian and author Marte Heian-Engdal, offering audiences insight into life in Gaza through the sound recordings of Palestinian sound engineer Mohamed Yaghi. Through intimate audio landscapes captured before and after 7 October 2023, the film provided a powerful testimony to the everyday realities, trauma, and resilience of people living under ongoing war and destruction in Gaza.



### Genocide and Big Tech

October 2025

In collaboration with Fritt Ord and Oslo Dokumentarkino, Masahat co-organized a lecture and panel discussion on the role of Big Tech in the ongoing genocide in Gaza. Featuring digital rights advocate Nadim Nashif alongside Maja van der Velden and journalist Kyrre Lien, the event addressed censorship of Palestinian voices, AI militarization, financial exclusion, and the struggle over digital narratives.



# Masahat year-round programming

## Masahat at Kulturytring 2025

June 2025

### Can Oil Companies Steer Norwegian Cultural Life?

Rana Issa, Masahat Artistic Director, participated in a debate organized by Balansekunst on the influence of corporate sponsorship and market-driven funding in the cultural sector. The panel featured Tage Pettersen, Dan Bjørke, and Joakim Aadland, moderated by Hannah Wozene Kvam. The discussion addressed questions of artistic freedom, diversity, accessibility, and power within cultural policy.



### From Minority to Mainstream

Zeina Bali, Managing Director of Masahat, participated in a panel discussion organized by Melahuset on how culture can function as a meeting place and a form of knowledge production. The conversation, alongside Ashley Shiri, and Mine Nilay Yalcin, moderated by Tonje Lacher highlighted the role of immigrant-led cultural institutions in expanding representation, strengthening access, and amplifying diverse artistic voices within the cultural sector.



# Masahat global

Masahat was invited to take part in festivals, workshops and talks in the UK, Belgium and Egypt

## Shubbak festival, London

June 2025

Zeina Bali, Masahat Managing Director, represented Masahat at a festival network meeting in London that took place on the sidelines of Shubbak, Europe's largest festival for Arab contemporary arts and culture. The meeting brought together a delegation of global festival makers and cultural workers, discussed the opportunity to establish a network of festivals devoted to nurturing Arab and SWANA creative production.



SHUBBAK شباك FESTIVAL مهرجان 2025

SHUBBAK  
مهرجان شباك  
FESTIVAL  
2025

23 MAY — 15 JUNE

SHUBBAK شباك FESTIVAL مهرجان 2025



# Masahat global

## PALESTINE NOW – Cultural Work for Liberation in the Hour of Genocide, Brussels

October 2025

Rana Issa, Masahat Artistic Director, represented Masahat at a two-day art and culture symposium on cultural work and Palestine. It was held in Brussels at Kaaithheater



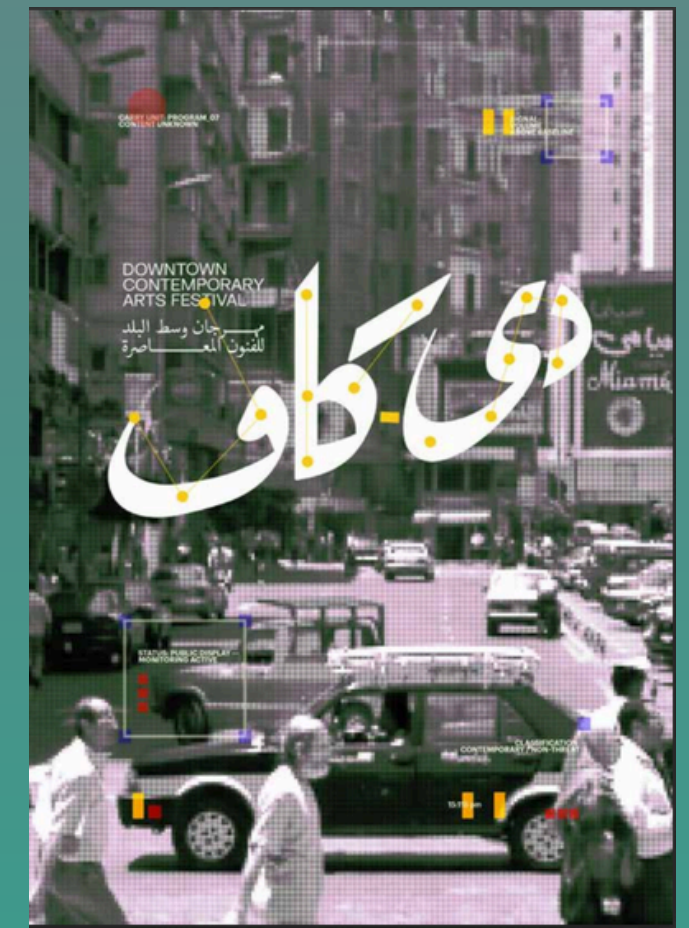
# Masahat global

## D-CAF (Downtown Contemporary Arts Festival), Cairo

**October 2025**

Zeina Bali, Masahat Managing Director, was invited as an international delegate to participate in the 9th edition of Arab Arts Focus (AAF) as part of the Downtown Contemporary Arts Festival (D-CAF) in Cairo. The AAF was presented in collaboration with the British Council's IN BETWEEN platform, which aims to reimagine festival-making in the Arab region by nurturing collaboration and resilience.

The week-long visit to D-CAF was a great opportunity to network with other festivals, meet talented emerging and established Arab artists, and attend all 18 performances and industry sessions by artists from Palestine, Lebanon, Morocco, Algeria, Syria, Tunisia and Egypt.



# Communications and media

Most of the media exposures that Masahat received was related to the festival. All public communication and dissemination about Masahat festival and other events included description text in Arabic, Norwegian and English. The information was shared on Masahat's website, social media and newsletter in all three languages, as well as our partners' own channels. In addition to the digital space, Masahat posters and brochures were hanged and distributed all around Oslo city.

Communications remain a challenge for Masahat due to our limited resources, and little interest we receive from Norwegian media. Masahat festival attracted Norwegian coverage including an artist interview, review of the opening concert and other essays in the newspaper *Klassekampen*, and online magazine *tbatba*.



# Masahat Organization

Masahat is a non-profit organization registered as an association (forening) in Norway, and relies exclusively on public and private funding to operate.

As of today, Masahat has only 1.5 permanent positions divided by the Managing and Artistic Directors thanks to the core funding (Driftstilskudd til kunst- og kulturinstitusjoner) by Oslo Municipality and the organizations funding by Norway Arts Council (Tverrfaglig kulturvirksomhet). In order to cover the other positions including the festival team, Masahat relies mostly on extensive fundraising and short-term project financing which leaves the organization in a vulnerable position and significantly hinders its ability to grow and have long-term plans.

Only during the months preceding the festival, Masahat has a festival team that joins on short-term and temporary capacity, while the rest of the year Masahat is solely dependent on the work of the two directors who, in addition to planning and implementing programs, have the responsibility of cultivating partnerships, strengthening Masahat's positioning and visibility in the public debate, while sourcing funding from public institutions and private foundations in Norway, while extensively conducting political meetings that can support Masahat applications—frequently pulling in board and advisory board members for advice and consultations.



## **Executive Board**

**Ingeborg Moa (Chair of the Board), Chiara Ayad, Murhaf Fares, Selma Benmalek, Jan Lothe Eriksen**

## **Advisory Board**

**Andreas Delsett, Helle Siljeholm, Christian Ruge, Mark Taylor, Laila Hourani**

# Thanks to Masahat donors



Co-funded by  
the European Union



FRITT ORD



**Bergesen-  
stiftelsen**



Oslo



# Masahat partners 2025

Anarres Bokkafé  
Arabiske filmdager  
Baba Bar  
Cosmopolite  
Dattera Til Hagen  
Deichman Biblo Tøyen  
Deichman Tøyen  
Det Norske Teatret  
HUMAN International Documentary Film Festival  
Interkulturelt Museum  
Kawaakibi Foundation  
Kunstnerforbundet Atelier  
Kunstnernes Hus  
Latin-Amerikagruppene i Norge (LAG)  
Litteraturhuset  
Melahuset  
Mirage film festival  
Nordic Black Theater  
Oslo Dokumentarkino  
Oslo Museum / Interkulturelt Museum  
Riksscenen  
Safemuse  
Samspill International Music Network  
Scenekunstbruket  
Showbox festival  
Tenthaus  
Ultima festival  
Vega Scene