



# translation PROJECT

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LITERARY ORGANIZATION

PRODUCTION COMPANY

THINK TANK

| Bringing contemporary Iranian literature to the world in multiple languages and media |

| [www.thetranslationproject.org](http://www.thetranslationproject.org) |

"I found the marriage of visual, musical and poetic imagery in Niloufar Talebi's work, to be touching, effective and an ideal way to discover and appreciate contemporary Iranian poetry."

| Michael Tilson Thomas / Music Director, San Francisco Symphony |

... it takes its own path but leaves my footprints in its tracks ...

| A.H. Afrasiabi, poet |

### What Exactly Is the Translation Project?

Today, when Persian literature is mentioned in the US, the first name that comes to mind is Rumi. However, Iran has a long and varied history in the literary and poetic arts that stretches to the current day. It is the mission of the **Translation Project** to shed light on the contemporary Iranian literature that sits untapped, awaiting a global audience.

Founded in 2003, the **Translation Project** is a 501 (C) 3 nonprofit organization with one mission: to bring contemporary Iranian literature to a worldwide audience in multiple languages and media.

The **Translation Project** is a literary organization, production company and think tank with cutting-edge projects in book form, live performance and film.

#### Publications

Anthologies • Poetry International • Harvard Divinity Bulletin • Two Lines • Circumference • Rattapallax • Evansville Review • Zoland Poetry • Anthology of Contemporary Iranian Poetry Around the World • Midnight Approaches DVD

#### Appearances

New York Public Library • National Arts Club • ALTA • SUNY • Litquake • Brattleboro Literary Festival • Asia Society • Dolby Laboratories • LA Film Society • UC Irvine • University of Iowa • PEN World Voices Festival • St. Marks Poetry Project • ODC • Intersection for the Arts • SF Public Library • Theater Artaud

#### Press

KRON 4 News • Alternet • Press Republican • VOA • SF Weekly • 7 X 7 • BBC • Shargh



Calligraphy by Youbert Lazar

صد، صدا، تنها صد  
صدای خواهش شفاف آب بجاری شدن  
صدای ریزش نور ستاره بر جدار مادگی خاک  
صدای انعتا و نطفه بی معنی  
و بطن دشمن مشترک عشق  
صد، صدا، تنها صد است که می ماند

*It is only the voice that remains*

### Contemporary Iranian Literature as Part of the Modern Conversation

Is it true that Rumi is one of the most translated poets in the world? If so, it is because his work transcends national and ethnic borders and manages to include all and exclude none. In an era where literature and poetry are seeping back into pop culture—spoken word and poetry slams are popular enough to warrant their own shows on HBO—we see that the written and spoken word is still capable of attracting a sizeable audience. And why is this? Perhaps it is because literature and poetry are engaged in a conversation that translates individual human experiences into universal ones.

The **Translation Project**, as a literary organization, production company and think tank, wants to ensure that contemporary Iranian literature is part of this modern conversation and accessible to a wide audience.

#### | LITERARY ORGANIZATION |

Books, Conferences and Literary festivals

Translators walk a fine line between preserving the innovation of the original text while communicating words and ideas that are fresh and resonant in the target language. The Translation Project works between these two points of negotiation and presents the results via books, conferences and festivals. This being our core activity, we expand the notion of translation by presenting multimedia art projects based on this literature.

#### | PRODUCTION COMPANY |

Collaborations in Theater, Film and Multimedia

Theater, live collaborative performances, DVDs of short films such as *Midnight Approaches*, and multimedia presentations are created and/or produced by the Translation Project. As part of our mission to introduce Iranian arts and culture, we also instigate collaborations between new generations of Iranian artists and established artists with global reputations.

#### | THINK TANK |

Asking Authors, Artists, Scholars and Entrepreneurs to speculate

The Translation Project invites artists, social entrepreneurs and others invested with the responsibility of speculation to address the big questions: What is the global future of Iranian arts and letters in the 21st century? How can new technologies help this literature reach a much larger audience? How do we ensure sustainability?

**What's in Our Future** – An International Institute of Iranian Letters for the preservation and promotion of Iranian literature, which has been subject to censorship inside Iran, as well as to lack of a systematic approach to worldwide translations. Committees will select literary texts of consequence and commission translations into major world languages including Mandarin, Russian, Arabic, French, and English.

“An accomplished translator, Niloufar Talebi is presenting our rich Iranian tradition to the world ...”

| **Shahrnush Parsipur / Author of *Tooba and the Meaning of Night* and *Women Without Men* |**

### Board of Directors

Bruce Bahmani  
Bita Daryabari  
Fariba Rezvani  
Niloufar Talebi

### Founder, Artistic Director

Award-winning translator, **Niloufar Talebi** was born in London to Iranian parents. She received a BA in Comparative Literature from UC Irvine, and an MFA in Writing and Literature from



Bennington College. She studied theater and has produced and performed nationally. Her translations have been anthologized and published in numerous literary journals. She is the recipient of translation prizes from the International Center for Writing and Translation (2004), the American Literary Translators

Association (2005), the PEN/New York State Council on the Arts (2006) and the Willis Barnstone Translation Prize (2006). She is the editor and translator of an *Anthology of Contemporary Iranian Poetry Around the World* (North Atlantic Books, 2008).

### Collaborators

**Beyond Persia**  
**InVision Production**  
**Dalkey Archive Press**  
**Holmes Ives**, Producer/Composer  
**Royal Hartigan**, Percussionist  
**David Molina**, Composer  
**Sahba Motallebi**, Musician/Composer  
**Bobak Salehi**, Musician/Composer  
**Larissa Verduzen**, Modern Dancer  
**Aliah Najmabadi**, Dance Artist  
**Sharlyn Sawyer**, Choreographer  
**Martin Espada**, Poet, Translator, Actor  
**Alex Ketley and the Foundry Project**  
**Ostaad Mohamad Nejad**, Nejad World Music Center  
**Nikolai Ostergaard**, Filmmaker, winner of Danish Academy Award  
**Ian Ding**, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Principal Percussionist

### Sponsors

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