

LOVE LETTERS TO THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE ME: QUEER MIGRATIONS IN *THE THIRTY NAMES OF NIGHT*

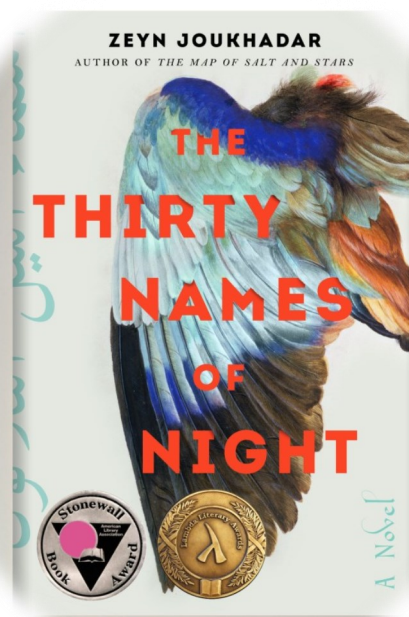
ZEYN JOUKHADAR

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

4:30pm-5:30pm -Talk / 5:30-6:30 - Reception

Reese Room, Smith House

In *The Thirty Names of Night*, Nadir, a Syrian American trans New Yorker, searches for the connection between his late ornithologist mother and the mysteriously vanished bird artist Laila Z, who both encountered the same rare bird before their deaths. Following his mother's ghost, Nadir uncovers the silences kept in the name of survival by his own community and learns that Laila Z's secrets are intimately tied to his family's—and his own—in ways he never could have expected. In this talk, Zeyn Joukhadar will discuss the process of researching and imagining the queer histories in which Nadir finds precedent for his own life, the search for the sacred in artmaking and embodiment, and the novel's many birds.



Zeyn Joukhadar is an award winning Syrian American writer. His 2018 debut novel *the Map of Salt and Stars* won the 2018 Middle East Book Award, was shortlisted for the Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize, and was translated into twenty languages. His second novel *The Thirty Names of Night* was published in 2020 and won the Lambda Literary and Stonewall Book Award. Joukhadar has been twice nominated for the Pushcart Prize and has received fellowships and residencies from the Montalvo Arts Center Lucas Artists Program, the Arab American National Museum, the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the Camargo Foundation, the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, and the Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI).

Sponsors: Arabic Section, Language & Culture Studies; Women, Gender, and Sexuality; Humanities Gateway; International Studies; Trinity Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies; Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion; and the Dean of Faculties Office