Absence
The Manifestations of a Recollected Presence

Poetry reading and conversation in Arabic (selected poems in English translation) with

May Muzaffar

Tuesday, 8 December 2015 at 5 pm in West Hall, Auditorium B

Absence is defined as the loss of a valuable person or place. Loosing both, emptiness prevails. The bitterness of loss was part of my childhood. When young, time is a healing factor as the future is in the making. Today in my seventies, I am facing a series of great losses: homeland, city, relatives, and friends who have either emigrated or died. What is left? As a writer, uprooted and displaced, witnessing the disappearance of beloved persons and places, I have become obsessed with memories, trying to recollect past, present, and future.

Bio: May Muzaffar is an Iraqi poet, art critic, and translator. She studied English literature at Baghdad University. She has published several books in creative writing, short stories and poetry, as well as in art criticism. She has also authored two biographies, on Nasser Al Assad and on her late husband the Iraqi artist Rafa Nasiri, and translated books and articles from English into Arabic. Her most recent book of poetry is entitled Ghiyab (Absence) and was published in Beirut in 2014. Her most recent publication is Modern Art in Iraq: Continuity and Differentiation. She works and resides in Amman.