

ARABPOP

RIVISTA DI ARTI E LETTERATURE
ARABE CONTEMPORANEE

ARABPOP. Magazine of Contemporary Arab Arts and Literature

Arabpop #8 - Things

May 2025

thing (noun)

(1) An object or entity not precisely designated or capable of being designated. (2) An inanimate object distinguished from a living being. (3) A separate and distinct individual quality, fact, idea, or usually entity.

As broad as it may be, the term "things" can be articulated in very concrete ways: it can include very specific material objects - banal like bottles, cups and cutlery, or of high cultural prestige like monuments, statues, fountains and ruins - but also intangible items like songs, sounds and smells.

Things can take on a meaning that goes beyond their material extension and become carriers of powerful symbolisms (think of the images of the small spoon and the stick, evocative of Palestinian resistance in recent years), they can tell family stories (necklaces, gold, trunks, dowries, houses and inherited treasures) or reveal the colonial repressed that still hovers over entire peoples and places (such as the radioactive artifacts abandoned in the Algerian desert by the French, or the artifacts stolen from former colonies and displayed in Western museums).

Things document dissent (books, magazines, radios, telephones, cameras, photographs), channel it (banners, pamphlets, newspapers) and sometimes silently but iconically assist it (like Omar al-Mukhtar's glasses and the famous shoes that the Iraqi journalist Muntazar al-Zaydi threw at George Bush in 2008). However, things can also become stereotyping symbols and devices for reproducing Orientalist narratives: think of certain objects like carpets, tiles, lamps, clothing items, amulets...

For this issue of Arabpop, we are seeking contributions that tell the story of material and immaterial objects, tracing their genealogies, developments, and re-significations.

In particular, we are looking for:

- short stories, poems, comic stories and extracts from novels originally written in Arabic, English, French, Italian and German, and never published in Italian;
- articles, longforms, short essays and interviews in Italian, Arabic, English, French and German;
- photographs;
- editorial illustrations;
- reviews of Arabic books (essays, novels, poetry, etc.) translated or still unpublished in Italian;
- recipes;
- reviews of films, music albums, exhibitions and other cultural events.

How to submit a proposal for Arabpop/Things

If you wish to collaborate with us, please send your submission and a short bio (max 100 words) to redazione@arabpop.it by **December 15th, 2024**, and comply with the guidelines below. You are welcome to send multiple submissions.

If your proposal is accepted, the editorial team will contact you by June 30th, 2024. The delivery date for finished contributions is **December 22nd, 2024**. The magazine issue will be out in **May 2025**. Selected contributions will be remunerated.

Regarding all submissions:

- Abstracts (max 400 words) or full compositions (as per categories listed above) are acceptable for review
- If an interview, you must specify in the abstract whether you already have prior consent from the interviewee(s) and define the main topics you intend to address in an accompanying abstract
- If photo/photo-reportage/graphic arts - Please send low-resolution image

*We invite you to look at past issues of Arabpop or the table of contents available on our website to see what kind of topics and styles are published.

ARABPOP is an independent cultural magazine focusing on contemporary arts and literature from Arab countries. It publishes original translations of fiction, poetry, and graphic novels, as well as long forms, photo reportages, illustrations, music playlists, and reviews. It is published twice a year by Tamu edizioni.