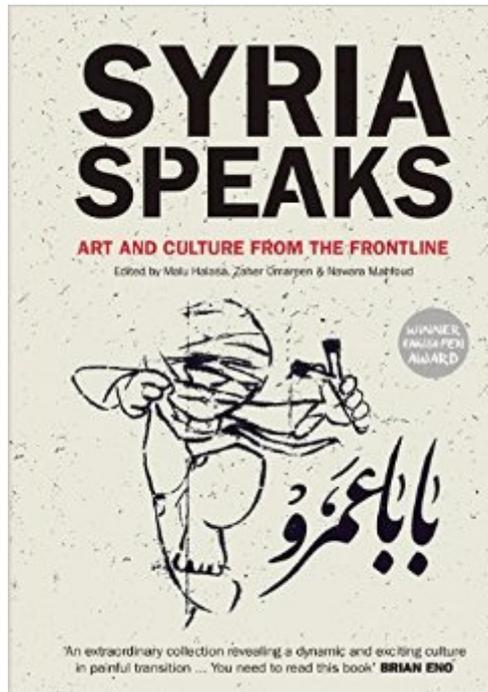


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# Syria Speaks: Art And Culture From The Frontline



## Synopsis

In Syria, culture has become a critical line of defence against tyranny. *Syria Speaks* is a celebration of a people determined to reclaim their dignity, freedom and self-expression. It showcases the work of over fifty artists and writers who are challenging the culture of violence in Syria. Their literature, poems and songs, cartoons, political posters and photographs document and interpret the momentous changes that have shifted the frame of reality so drastically in Syria. Moving and inspiring, *Syria Speaks* is testament to the courage, creativity and imagination of the Syrian people. A unique anthology providing a window into Syrian art and writing since the uprising. Contributors include internationally renowned artists and writers, such as Ali Ferzat, Samar Yazbek, Khaled Khalifa and Robin Yassin-Kassab. The book includes 108 colour illustrations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The good news and the bad news concerning this book both spring from the same unfortunate circumstance: this book is already dated. This is bad news, of course, because the people of Syria, probably many of them contributors to this book, are now living under two dreadful regimes instead of just one. Whatever hope they once had has almost certainly been dashed. In fact, one wonders how many of these contributors are even still alive. I went to look up a YouTube video of one of the videos that was mentioned in this book, and beneath the video (Abu Eskandar) was a link to a Facebook page. But when I clicked on the link all I got was the message, "Sorry, this page isn't available." It immediately called to mind the ending of another contribution in this book, where the

author rings the cellphone of a friend, only to receive the reply from a strange voice: "The owner of this phone is dead. We killed him." Still, for you the reader there is some positive here. This is like a snapshot into one particular moment of time. This is a snapshot into a moment in Syria when the Arab people, like other Arab peoples in Egypt, Libya, etc., actually felt a rising of hope, a feeling that their lives might finally be taking a turn for the better. It is a snapshot into the large majority of the people (I am assuming they are the majority; I am hoping they are the majority) who are not the fanatics, either governmental or fundamentalist, that we are always reading about or watching on the news. These are the people who simply want to go about their lives, be in peace with their neighbors, and not have to fear for their lives every time they step into the street. And that his may be as good a snapshot as we are ever likely to get makes this volume even more compelling.

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