Jennifer Zeynab Joukhadar is the author of the novel, *The Map of Salt and Stars* (Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, May 2018), a member of the Radius of Arab American Writers (RAWI), and a member of American Mensa. Joukhadar's work has appeared in *Salon, The Paris Review Daily, The Kenyon Review, The Saturday Evening Post*, and elsewhere, and has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and the *Best of the Net*. *The Map of Salt and Stars*, currently being translated into sixteen languages, was a 2018 Middle East Book Award winner in Youth Literature, a 2018 Goodreads Choice Awards Finalist in Historical Fiction, and received starred reviews from *Kirkus, Booklist*, and others. Joukhadar has been an artist in residence across the world, including at the Montalvo Arts Center in California; the Fes Medina Project in Morocco; and Beit al-Atlas in Beirut, Lebanon. Joukhadar will be an artist in residence at the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, Michigan in 2019.

Discussant, Talibah Khwaja

Talibah Khwaja is a Pakistani-American who was born in Long Island, New York in 1996. She moved to Jordan with her family when she was twelve years old and her experiences with the refugee population there inspired her to return home to continue her education. She is currently a student at BMCC and is majoring in Psychology.