## Tsippi Fleischer MODERNA op. 70 (2010)

The poetess **Iman Mersal** was born in 1966 in the Northern Delta. She settled in Cairo upon graduating from university, and for some time she was an editor in the left-wing literary journal Adab wa-Naqd (Literature and Criticism). So far she has published four poetry books which were accepted very well in Egypt.

Her style is far-removed in its form and content from the traditional Arabic poetry, dealing with modern intellectual topics and exploring broad emotional spaces.

Excerpts used in this musical work by composer Tsippi Fleischer MODERNA are derived from her latest book "Alternative Geography"; its poems raise issues related to her interplay of diaspora and motherland.

## I Soul

They expend a quarter of their incomes to make sure they are staying in a place that may be defined by its distance from childhood.

## II City

Nobody walks in the street because cars enter and exit by remote control.

## III Sex

With ceasars and teeth and finger-nails a woman chases the smell of a missing body chewing and swallowing it.

Sung in Arabic and Hebrew.

Translations into Hebrew and English: Sasson Somekh

The Lybian translator Khaled Mattawa published a large collection of Iman Mersal's poetry translated into English, including "Alternative Geography" - entitled "These Are Not Oranges, My Love" (The Sheep Meadow press, NY 2008).



