## **Moon Press**

## Night Terrains

on archives + memory + elders

# Editor's Note:

# Ibrahim Hirsi // WaaberiPhone

WaaberiPhone is an organisation that champions the revival and development of Somali Arts. It has a special focus on oral histories that are easily lost between generations, through collecting poetry, songs, stories and experiences. Many of these oral forms carry indigenous knowledge and ideas that are hugely relevant to our present day. Indeed, poetry was an important tool for Somali intellectuals. From Saahid Qamaans' "Sinaan", a treatise on equality and equity to Axmed Garow Cabdulles' "Deyran iyo Abaabilan" exploring how clannism was a symptom the economic realities of that time, Somali collective intellectual history is held in our poetry.

In poetry, and beyond, there has long been a historical connection between the stars and the idea of change. The movement of the moon and stars in the night sky has been used to explain and predict shifts within people's lives. Whether through astronomical study, astrological readings, storytelling or star gazing people have always looked to the night sky as a guide or explanation for our world and worlds beyond us. Much like the night sky, elders in our communities hold knowledge and wisdom about the world that we need to reckon with.

The idea that the stars, changes in society and elders are connected came from a book I was reading while researching this issue called 'Felegmeer'. The author, Cismaan Abokar, started the book by explaining what 'felegmeer' meant, an uncommon phrase he picked from a Faarax Nuur poem from the early 20th century. Felegmeer brings together two words: Feleg [Constellations/ astrology] + Meer (wander/ movement). In Somali pastoral culture, an art/science called Cilmi-Feleg (a mix of astrology and astronomy) is used by nomads to read the stars as a way of anticipating different seasons and years. This is how they discern if and when to move their animals to different pastures and if there will be a visible shift in the world - whether seasonally, temporally or otherwise. Abokar explained that in the poem, Faarax Nuur, used the phrase to articulate his feelings of frustration, by saying that until there is a "movement of the constellations", changes in the night sky, there will never be real material changes in society. This book used "Felegmeer" to refer to real change, to meanrevolution, a revolution of mindset, a revolution of circumstances, a revolution that will lay the foundations for a better future. The kind of revolution that elder Somali pastoralists believed would be signposted by a movement of the constellations. Felegmeer brings together the connections between the night sky and the importance of preserving the oral knowledge of our elders, as a way to pave a path towards a different future. By examining the skies, and the past, we can begin to see patterns throughout generations which we can, and should, disrupt. This is how I arrived at Night Terrains.

Taking inspiration from the concept of 'felegmeer', Moon Press's second issue is a mediation on the past, our elders, memories and the stars as a way to intervene into dominant narratives about society. From stunning astronomical images from Unistellar that remind us of the breadth and beauty of outer space, to tender intergenerational conversations with community elders, objects in personal family archives, and poetry about lost knowledge, Night Terrains places importance on personal archives, family histories, and cultural documentation that without due preservation and respect, can easily disappear – like the stars do as dawn breaks. In making space for thoughts, art and ideas that may not always make their way into formal archives, this zine is a call for change, an act of resistance and a preservation of histories too easily forgotten, but not always lost.

<u>www.waaberiphone.com</u>









# **Contributors:**

#### Ahmed Adam [Prontolinho] -

Ahmed Adam [Prontolinho] is an International Business student in Nottingham and aspiring writer/artist. Of Sudanese heritage, Ahmed became fluent in Arabic by being born and raised in the UAE. Ahmed has performed at the Birmingham Rep for a crowd of up to 300 people, in addition to winning the young translator award for efforts in helping international students settle in.

#### Mahamoud Ibrahim "Haji"-

Mahamoud Ibrahim Jama' "Haji" is a poet, political commentator and cultural critic. The author of "Calaf iyo Cugasho" or "Destiny and Choice" his work explores nationalism(s), colonialism, modernity and the diaspora situation. He has a BSc in Public Policy and an MSc in Development Studies, both from University of London.

#### Mia Maxwell -

London born and based Mia Maxwell is a fashion stylist, zine maker, and teacher. They founded creative platform and publishers FEM (@femzinelondon / FEM Press), currently teach at Ravensbourne University, and work as a freelance stylist and artist. Their work deals with issues of gender, class, disability and identity and self. They are concerned with carving safe and creative space for marginalisd people, documenting and capturing our own histores and archiving our ideas, and building worlds offline.

### Yahye Mohamud -

Yahye Mohamud is a London-based academic interested in Somali culture, history, and arts. Though trained in the sciences, he is now focused primarily on Somali Studies.

#### Ashrah Suudy -

Ashrah Suudy, is a freelance photographer, creative, and student studying Media, Journalism, and Culture at Cardiff University.

#### Jena Samura -

Jena Samura (she/none) is a Black queer Femme. She works as a political educator, writer and journalist. Currently, Jena mainly focuses on love and relationships under capitalism and on the effects of racism on mental health in their work. Aside from that she is interested in yoga as a healing tool and in political theater.

### Sharmaarke Ali Adan -

Sharmaarke Ali Adan was born in 1996 in Gouda, Netherlands, Sharmaarke Ali Adan had passion for photography from a very young age. He pursued formal education, first at the age of 17 at Barking & Dagenham College; where he completed his diploma. He went on to graduate with a degree in Photography at University of East London. During his early days he worked with the likes of Samuel Ross at A-Cold-Wall, shot editorial for Terra Firma Magazine and most recently SS19 Collection for Bianca Saunders that was featured exclusively in the New York Times. Sharmaarke has also shot with Little Dragon & Petite Noir.In 2020 Sharmaarke was also featured at Replica magazine Issue 8 in 2020 and 2021 Sharmaarke Adan has been featured for Twin Magazine issue 24.

### Ibrahim Hirsi -

Ibrahim Hirsi is a student, writer and peer researcher for the Centre for Mental Health. A digital Somali cultural archivist and independent researcher, his writings explore changes in Somali culture from colonialism until now. His work has appeared in PBLJ and he has worked as a consultant on Asmaa Jama's interactive short film "Before We Disappear".









## Campbell king -

Campbell is a musician and writer from the East Midlands. They make work about love, the body and home.

### Hibaq Osman -

Hibaq Osman is a London based Somali artist whose main focus is poetry. Hibaq was first published in 2015 by Out-Spoken Press with her debut pamphlet 'A Silence You Can Carry'. In 2017 and 2019 she released two online pamphlets in PDF form, 'the heart is a smashed bulb' and 'CARVINGS'. Her first full poetry collection 'where the memory was' was published by Jacaranda Books as a part of their #Twentyin2020 initiative. She is a proud member of OCTAVIA POETRY COLLECTIVE. Outside of her writing Hibaq is interested in communal care, sharing funny tweets and working across disciplines.

#### Hamza Ahmed -

Hamza or "rev" works across clothing, photography and design. *"Just tryna make a way wallahi."* 

### Susanna Galbraith -

Susanna Galbraith is from Belfast. Her poems have appeared in Anthropocene, Banshee, Cyphers, The Tangerine, York Literary Review, The Lonely Crowd, The Pickled Body, The Penny Dreadful and others. She won the Red Line Poetry Competition 2021 and is an editor of Abridged. @susannaalice

#### **Unistellar** -

Unistellar is the start-up behind the eVscope 2 and the eVscope eQuinox, the most powerful and simple-to-operate digital telescopes that bring the wonders of the universe to life in seconds \_ even in urban settings. Thanks to a partnership with the SETI Institute, these game-changing consumer telescopes allow users to become citizen scientists and contribute to cutting-edge research on exoplanet transits, asteroid occultations, comets, and much more. The Unistellar eVscope 2 received a CES 2022 Innovation Award in the Digital Imaging category. More than 5,000 digital telescopes are now operating in Europe, Japan, and North America, participating in an unprecedented observing experience. Dr Franck Marchis, senior planetary astronomer at the Carl Sagan Center of the SETI institute and co-founder of Unistellar, is on the board for Tour de Moon.

#### Mahamed Osman -

Mahamed Osman is an International Politics student at Brunel University. Spending his most formative years in Egypt and Kenya he is fascinated in the myriad of ways people adapt and try to survive in hostile situations. He plans to write more about his experiences in both these countries but also Somalia where he recently came back from, his first time visiting.

#### Zine Design, front and backcover artwork: Mia Maxwell Moon Press Producer: Anjali Prashar-Savoie Moon Press Creative Director: Asmaa Jama

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# Ahmed Adam [Prontolinho] Rap: Untitled



I sit on the train and stare out the window The fields remind me of simpler times. Sometimes, I wonder, I ponder, on my elders trip through life my elders state of mind. They had it tough segregation, racism, discrimination, they had it rough. Despite that, they gave us everything, advice, on life, they did it with joy and love.

They had it tough, carrying the pain of revolutions, withstood the numerous allusions, of corrupt government figures, lived in a time where any problem was dealt with by the pull of a trigger, our elders.



They weld us into who we are. Tradition and heritage, their knowledge, imperative. They helped us to settle in this western land; they came, without a plan, risked it all for a chance, our elders. Held us, in their embraces, kept on brave faces Despite oppression, obsession Is what they bred in me. Obsession about our history, obsession about our heritage. Feelings of Pride and Joy, joy they never revelled in.

Or experienced to their heart's content, and as they look at the moon, In its scintillating stillness, it's brilliant white, reminding me of time with my grandad, conversations we had on the terrific tiles of our home, when life was just right.

We have to know our past in order to survive and adapt, and as I go through life, and encounter new environments and cultures I'm finding that, you can't just take on and embrace; you have to, go back and retrace your history. Have a firm grasp of your tradition.

Tradition isn't a subject you can read on or and Pride isn't a trait that can be instilled, those are things that are harnessed and built, the way their acquired is by spending time with our elders, taking in origin stories, your ancestors' glory. on those terrific tiles, and despite the fact you weren't there, you have a feeling of connection to their aura, you smile in certainty, and your head would tilt

Now I'm back on the train, my vivid thoughts, rendered. As I enter, I can conclude no one is undervalued and under-appreciated as much as our elders Unistellar is the start-up behind the eVscope2 and the eVscope eQuinox, the most powerful and simple-to-operate digital telescopes that bring the wonders of the universe to life in seconds - even in urban settings. Thanks to a partnership with the SETI Institute, these game-changing consumer telescopes allow users to become citizen scientists and contribute to cutting-edge research on exoplanet transits, asteroid occultations, comets, and much more.

The Unistellar eVscope 2 received a CES 2022 Innovation Award in the Digital Imaging category. More than 5,000 digital telescopes are now operating in Europe, Japan, and North America, participating in an unprecedented observing experience. These stunning images were kindly shared with Moon Press from Unistellar's eVscope.

# Unistellar

























# "Haji"

Haddaan dhaqanka soor iyo Sixin iyo labeen iyo Loo kaydin sooyaal Saldhig weel ah loo tolin Amaan sadarro muuqdiyo Buug sumad leh lagu dhigin Inuu suulo waa'u halis

Taariikhda sooca ah Wixii sula la soo maray Haddaan seeto lagu xidhin Oo aan silsiladiyo Suugaan cuddoon iyo Siinleyda maansada <u>Lagu meerin sees adag</u> Suuldaaro waa'u halis

Afkan sawraceenna ah Sinjigiyo abkeenna ah Sumaddeena khaaska ah Ee sooca badhax la' ah Haddaan sheeko lagu sabin Oon qalinka lagu sugin Suus iyo xar waa'u halis.

If the culture of hospitality Of serving ghee and yoghurt Is not preserved as history Not weaved the base of a basket Not written in glistening verses And books stamped as the exceptional It will be in danger of being wiped out

Those important moments in history That we have passed If not restrained with a camel's tether If not fenced and enclosed with chains of poems And weighty literature and In the alliterative S' of poetry . It is in danger of becoming a milkess camel

This Language that is our ancestor's Our origin and father Our unique symbol Our undiluted distinction If not conveyed within placating folktales And transcribed by the pen It is in danger of weevils And wood-boring worms

# Mahamoud Ibrahim







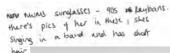


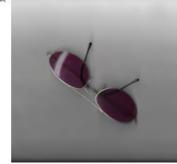




was born

MUMS dress.





iocoorse www.contray.cout. I think her num got this for her for her 18th,



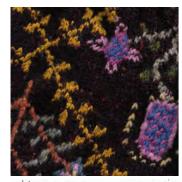
she gave me this he and said - don't norm it's women's.



Mums belt



Grandmais bog.



1 have loads of these she's a cluss mitter.



Grandmay shoes. she were these to a wedding.



I Lost this on a night out in Newross once. Igot it back a yer or noo later

grandma lived in streatham. she recide raised grandhan grand granma in Battersea. They both left London eventually. Inever linew them to The three. Kent and Ipsmich they ended up.

Nanny Mae, she had one eye and tits down to her hips. That what rum tells me. I don't remember her, got her bankets all over the mose the Paris (The dog) Supposetty toke

**Mia Maxwell** 

MUMS dress - Must be 90 y, Maybe 0013.

she made this for a wedding she hand to go to. She left the herr. The other day when she was round for my 24th bithdow, she saw it in my shdio. she touched the hern and said she did that on pumpose cas she liked the way the febric went.

Granma's tie a gorgeous, glamansay horron. a true style icon

## things in my studio. from four generations of women in my family. mum, grandma, granma, great nan, great grandma.

# Who **Remembers?**

I have family who remember The memory of the halcyon days Of pale blue beaches, of Bar Fiat and Nationalé Disco nights at Al-Aruba, swigging tall glasses of Coca Cola The sizzling sounds of jazz, melting away the airless summer nights But they also remember Still bodies on Lido, and blood in the streets A blown-out Al-Aruba, fun turned to fleeing The other cacophony of gunfire, shelling and wailing

They don't want to remember

So who remembers?

I have a younger self that remembers The memory of a lost Somalia Lost to time, and to memory itself Zigzags, my posse, slipping through tight, mazy alleys Playing and playing, no start, middle, or ending The faces are hard to see, yet happy smiles are splashed on But I can't quite figure out If this was my Somalia, or some other place A beautiful Somalia lost, or just a child's dream

If it was so beautiful, why did we flee too?

I can't remember

So who remembers?

I have a friend who remembers The memory of other memories Who helps us all remember The beach as pale again, Al-Aruba filled in with revellers The disco's music ringing loud, the sound of '76 remastered My posse may be lost, but I re-feel the squeeze in the alley We are also helped to forget

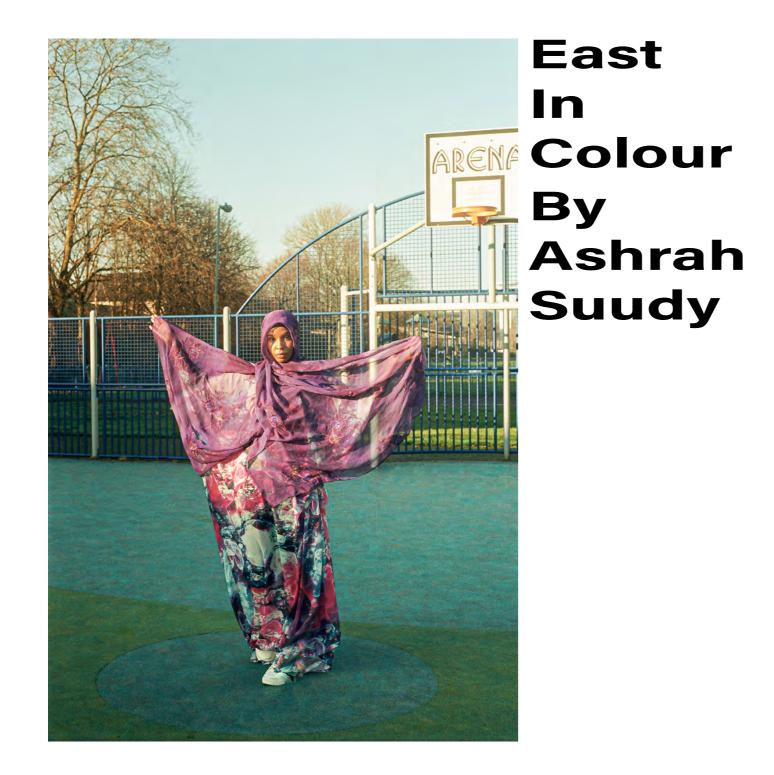
The stillness, the blood, the blowing out, the fleeing, the munitions, the wailing

Because the archive remembers

# Yahye Mohamud







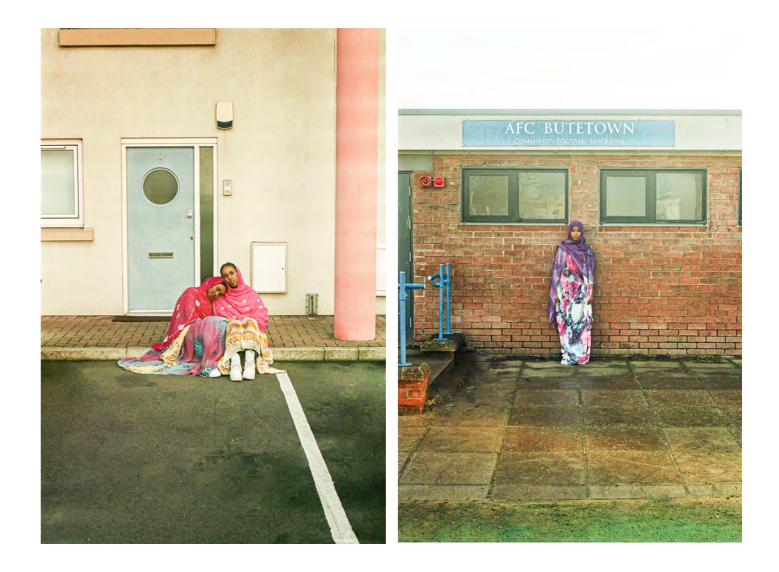


My personal work such as 'East in Colour' or projects I choose to be involved in is driven around creating art where my community can see themselves reflected in them. As well as building a space in which the authentic creative expressions of my community are completely built on.

'East In Colour' is a photographic series which focusses on the Somali garment the 'Dirac' which is a long, loose-fitting dress that is worn on special occasions such as Weddings and Eid. The Dirac is widely recognised for its assortment of colours and patterns and contributes to the colourful celebration of my Somali heritage. The juxtaposition of the colourful garments against the grey skies of Butetown, Cathays, and Grangetown visualises how my Somali culture plays a powerful role in my identity, whilst being born and raised in Cardiff. Wales. The initiative in creating this series was through how misrepresented, overlooked, or completely absent my community was painted in the media. Routinely, Black and Muslim communities are seen through a narrow lens, whereas, In 'East in Colour' it was simply a celebration of my roots and images which Black Muslim girls and women were able to see themselves reflected in.







# We Collide

# Jena Samura

We Collide I wanna know I wanna know what is hidden what is hidden behind layers of blur what is hidden beneath the soil the soil that we planted on we planted our seeds to bury their deeds over and over again to resist domination I wanna reveal I wanna reveal the modes the modes of operation of segregation of deprivation our tool: imitation used as a means to survival

I wanna diq I wanna dig deeper deeper into our past a past that holds our future digging deeper examining every sheet every sheet that leads to understanding to understanding our histories our histories that hold our futures l wanna know I wanna know what was lost what was lost lost in translation making it hard to keep up with the conversation lost not only by muting our voice but by muting our soul the soul that they tried to control I wanna uncover I wanna uncover where the potential lies where the potential lies for liberation to converge from separation to heal from violation where the potential lies for validation for affection for joy so that instead of we collide we can reunite





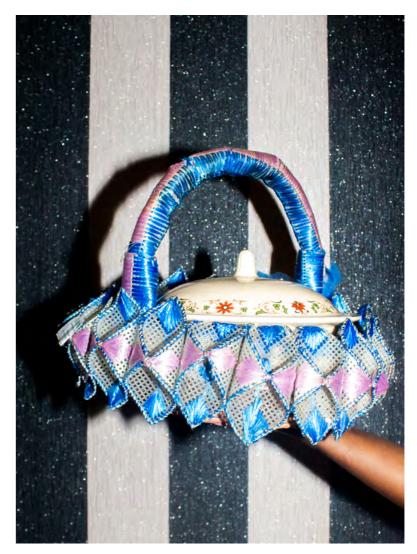






## See My Dunya





Captured guerrilla style by London photographer, the See My Dunya imagery juxtaposes the everyday and mundane man \_ a standing on his doorstep, young boys playing football after attending mosque, a shopkeeper tending to her goods with \_ fashion-referencing portraits hyper-stylised the of community's young creatives. In doing so, it questions the viewer's perception of Somalis, and invites Somalis to see how the next generation are drawing from their heritage.



## Sharmaarke Ali Adan

# **On Children** Stories, **Clan and Nation Building**

For Yaxye

The plectrum hits the kaban and out comes the ghosts Dust turns red like prophecy, vibrates on string, livens the rockish air

"We once had an everything that was a nothing, but now we just have nothing", that's the vertebrae of our lullabies

memories drag us, drunkenly, to the precipice

Yaxyoow, begin with how we were so vacant we tried to eat

that constellation, become bloated on satellites and grass yet were left with nothing in our hands but a stony tail

I think of Hypocrisy and her softenness, the lengths she went to defend family How vindictive! there wasn't a single lineage left unsullied

They hung him in the night sky, left him naked with a sword in his hand that is a punishment that deters, sing to us softly of punishments that deter

Tomorrow, whilst thunder, lighting and whips culminate into an avenging fate we will sit discussing nation building and its resounding soundtrack, far away from the waves

And what about the man who beat his mother, Yaxye, sina to

them about how he was castrated, branded how they turned transgressor into goat and clay

Every man is his sultan, yet there are only a handful of warlords?

We are away from the competitions for the moon so at least let there be a tangible change

Recite to them, brother, about the Lion who knew his strength, and the subjects who had to choose between wasting away and being beaten to death

we split ourselves till there was nothing but gristle my poor she camel, she is nothing but gristle

Let us compose, about how we live off of renouncing how we

have packed up Samaale, are travelling to renounce the renouncers.

# **Ibrahim Hirsi**







# Steel Boys

When you hear the noise of the Corby Town boys We'll be coming down the road

We are the Steelmen The super steelmen We're only happy When skies are grey We're always stealing Or else we're dealing We're guna take your hubcaps away

I'm made of steel I breathe it in And sip it down Steel is a beginning An ending, a town Steel is a house A park A home Steel is knowing that you ain't alone

Steel is food on plates And warm in bellies And water in tanks And leccy and teles

It's black hills And white vans Steel is every time i fall down And don't shatter Steel is when you drown it don't matter

My grampa told me that the Steelman statue in the town centre was him I remember feeling like it was me too It's everyone who made the steel And it's all the things the steel made

My other grampa got sacked from the works for drinking I remember feeling like that was me too It's me when i'm sinking it's getting drunk to stop me thinking

They are me and I am them Not born boy but born steelmen

I remember my Granny saying she'd fuck anyone up for her kids I remember every single kind thing my mum did I remember every funny thing my uncle said I remember football with dad I remember nan's shed

I remember all the shit they went through

Scotch pie, Irn Bru, come on Corby give us two

# **Campbell King**











Seated with knees on chins we collectively count the memories on the creases of fingers, keeping to odd numbers / the end of prayer

Everybody's story begins with ayeeyo reciting into our ears the first sound we heard, the first concept of home soft oil to ease our entry

Remembrance is a blood vessel cut open splattering on daily life, we will forget all we knew just to be forced to reconcile

We were bad kids once <u>pulled by earlobe, tree bark to the knuckle</u> nights we snuck out and the darkness we let in

Hear her voice still: "let my babies run" "let them know the world" "nafta ha ku xiigin"

This is what we found when she was gone: a life of touching, the power of palms, spirits shifting to make room

So we, in groups of threes sing every guote of hers as if to remember together, is to remember better

First and Last **Calls to** Salah

# Hibaq Osman















# Ţ $\mathbf{\Pi}$

# P

Heard about the guy who fell off a skyscraper? On his way down past each floor, he kept saying to reassure good. How you fall doesn't matter. It's how you land! himself: So far so good... so far so good... so far so



 between two stars a caterpillar eats time
like an apple.

# Susanna Galbraith

it is only hunger, impatient for what comes after hunger, for what hunger is hiding. it would eat the moon for history, iron hint bitten to chalky honesty, to months, days, seconds, dust, light.

desire's wet bonecrack snaps and cools the quiet. evening's spun your mother up in gold. she is asleep and slowly falling. a glass-half-full tipped between her fingers doesn't quite spill what it holds.

held in borrowed light, a shoulder, elbow, thigh are still the attics of body where grief's bone-conjunctions are carried full-term, the hinge of heartbeat, as mussel-socket mothering pearl, creaking in the vacuum.

you will forget yourself by eyelid, but you will wakeup backpacking the puddled black ballooning behind your skull. you'll never see it, but you know the eyes are in the shadows as loss glows a white fever. your mother's moon head slots into the forgotten, too like a coin slipped from your fingertips down the throat of a drain. chewing is always a dark act hope crushed damp in a pocket, lost shells blindly fumbled

again, and then again. you will forget yourself, blink, you're colder than you remember, a name written where your neck branches the marble of your mind that you can't read - you feel it. the sound of a clock

somewhere behind you a city's sky mauve as organs – so chewable. the moon is buried in your jaw long before you are born beneath the wounded ritual of flesh its first bite will rise through, all the first quarter of your life

a startled baby tooth nipped into night is not hunger but a symptom of hunger. the moon is a photograph, is only where the light spilled, stopped like snow. a page flakes from the bureau, taps the floor, an emptied rustle, chrysalis Growing up I was fascinated by my mother's stories of her childhood, the stories she joufully told of

her hometown, neighbours, friends and loved ones. These words that my mother assembled in her

stories aren't rehearsed or read from a script , its taken from Mogadishu's bright dawn skies , its

colourful courtyards buzzling with sounds of dough being kneaded rhythmically and the

grandmothers calling their children to eat . My mother left the city of Mogadishu regretfully,

tormented and distressed by the feeling that she was saying goodbye to her loved ones forever.

most importantly her grandparents with whom she had found wisdom, courage and comfort. It was

the stories of her grandparents , and her nostalgia of Mogadishu that would chide her from falling

into despair and relive the happiness of her youth and assuaging the anxieties and sorrow caused by

leaving her loved ones .

I have always wondered if I would be able to forge links with the same people she loved and

cherished, the city which birthed her imaginations and the elderly whose wisdom and love she

sought and their comfort and calmness she craved.

Here I was 19 years later in the streets of Mogadishu, treading into my mother's childhood, walking

through her neighbourhood .I found myself sat in my grandparents courtyard , listening intently to

every word my grandmother uttered . My grandparents presence offered a sense of calmness, their

delicate touch made me feel welcomed and loved , throughout the night they sang my mothers

praises under great clouds of incense. They laughed , smiled and even through recalling turbulent

times a grim smile could be found on my grandmothers face, she recited poetry with love that

propels one to reflect.

I listened as she recalled my mothers first steps , the days she spent with her at the market . I listened as they recalled the day she left the city and her elders behind. My grandmother's stories, like my mother's, forces you to contemplate on your life. I realised my mother and grandparents shared the same commiserations but they chose to remember and cherish the memories that would relieve their sorrows. It's hard to replicate feelings I've experienced in Mogadishu, the city and my grandparents are a gift that invites reciprocal love. I await the return to Mogadishu , to my grandparents courtyard , to the bright dawn skies , to rekindle feelings I've desperately tried to replicate

# Mahamed Osman

















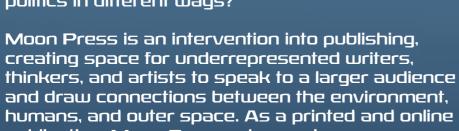
Moon Press calls us to reimagine our relationship to the moon. How does imagining the Moon as a new world give us space to consider culture, the environment, publishing, art, community, and politics in different ways?











publication, Moon Press releases issues every month in line with each full moon.

## JOIN US

We are looking for artists, writers, and guest editors for paid opportunities to make Moon Press content.

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