

## Mirene Arsanios

# *Notes on Mother Tongues: Colonialism, class, and giving what you don't have*

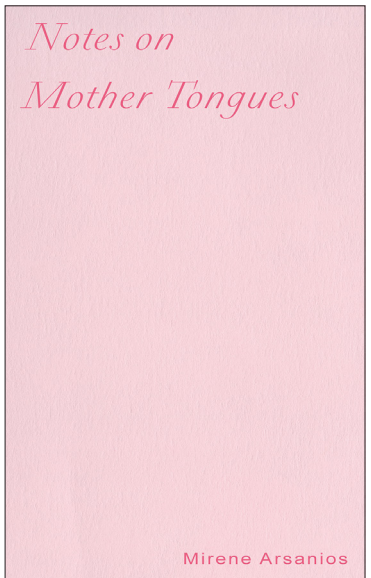
Lebanese writer and editor Mirene Arsanios meditates on the relationships between mother tongues, motherhood, and colonialism. In this pamphlet, she investigates the historical and personal circumstances that led to the loss of her “native” language. Written as a fictional essay, *Notes on Mother Tongues* explores language as a field shaped by diasporic histories, class relations, and broken familial legacies. It strives to imagine mother tongues and motherhood beyond the labor of reproduction—languages that exist in troubled ecosystems where lack does not preclude repair.

// Arsanios sings knowledge into life out of languagelessness [...] Her praxis here embraces the “speculative,” the improvisatory, and the ghostly, ultimately bringing us closer to language’s truths.

—JOHN KEENE

// With all the luxurious love of the poets I take part in the sentences that Mirene Arsanios writes.

—CHRISTOPHER REY PÉREZ



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**Mirene Arsanios** is the author of the short story collection, *The City Outside the Sentence* (Ashkal Alwan). She has contributed essays and short stories to *e-flux journal*, *Vida*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *The Rumpus*, and *Guernica*, among others. She teaches at Pratt Institute and holds an MFA in Writing from the Milton Avery Graduate School for the Arts at Bard College. Her book *The Autobiography of a Language* is forthcoming from Futurepoem.

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