About the cover art  Waiting Is Forbidden (2006–08) is a small, wall-based sculpture made in Cairo. “Mona Hatoum borrowed the form of an existing sign that warns against loitering and translated the Arabic into English in a literal manner. The resulting phrase—‘waiting is forbidden’—is both humorous and nonsensical. She used a traditional sign maker to create the work in the exact same way as a traditional Cairo street sign, which often has the name of the street written in two languages. The work is typical of Hatoum’s ability to subvert objects, phrases, and signs from our daily life into works that have a double entendre and a surrealist touch.” (Description by Alex Bradley, in the exhibition catalog for Mona Hatoum: Turbulence, at Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, in Doha, Qatar.)

Hatoum was born into a Palestinian family in Beirut and has lived and worked in London since 1975. Her sculpture, video, drawings, and installations have been widely exhibited throughout the world. Since 1994, there have been more than twenty solo museum and institutional exhibitions of her work, the largest and most comprehensive of which was a survey initiated by the Hamburger Kunsthalle that also traveled to Stockholm and Sydney. Hatoum divides her time between Berlin and London. For more information on the artist, please visit the website of Alexander and Bonin, New York, at www.alexanderandbonin.com/artist/mona-hatoum.


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