

Lariope

Diya Abdo

There is something deeply calming about raking the lariope
plunging thin metallic tines, shivering, into its very heart
(lariope can take it)
and combing outwards
towards you
dozens of husky oak-willow leaves
so slim and so yielding.

Diya Abdo is a first-generation Palestinian raised in Jordan. An associate professor of English at Guilford College in NC, she focuses on Arab women writers and Arab and Islamic Feminisms. Her non-fiction addresses gender, political identity, and vocation. Her fiction is forthcoming in *J Journal*. “Lariope” is her first published poem.