



PRESSRELEASE

Cairoscape

Images, Imagination and Imaginary of a Contemporary Mega City

A project curated by Marina Sorbello and Antje Weitzel

30/08– 12/10/2008 Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Berlin, and other venues

Opening Weekend:

29/08/2008, 19:00, Opening, Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien

30/08/2008, 19:30-02:00 Performances and concerts at Studio 1 of Künstlerhaus

Bethanien and Westgermany

Cairoscape – Images, Imagination and Imaginary of a Contemporary Mega City introduces the dynamic situation of contemporary art and culture in Egypt to the Berlin public.

Taking the Arab-African megalopolis of Cairo as a starting point, *Cairoscape* proposes a different way of looking at the modern city and at the phenomenon of contemporary urbanization. In the project Cairo is held up as an emblematic place, catalyst and generator of new narrative series that ultimately transcend local context: Cairo as translocal place, simultaneously recipient and origin of a set of cultural influences and ideas floating in the region, and privileged observation point that as such may disclose unexpected yet familiar scenarios.

Cairoscape features artists and practitioners who in their work reflect a certain contemporary and existential urban condition connected to the city of Cairo, its suggestive power and urban imaginary. Works by artists both from Egypt and artists who have recently done residencies in Egypt are included, allowing differing views of Cairo to be juxtaposed. At the same time, *Cairoscape* examines the possibilities, the potentialities and the paradoxes of Cairo as a site of artistic production today.

Programme of Events

The exhibition is accompanied by a dense programme of events on the opening weekend and throughout the duration of the exhibition. Every Thursday the Kunstraum Kreuzberg Bethanien will host lectures, screenings and discussions starting at 19:00. The film programme at Kino Eiszeit (on the weekends 12-14 September and 10-12 October 2008) shows excerpts of Egyptian contemporary cinematic production, showcasing market oriented as well as experimental and independent films. The programme of events also includes an exhibition at uqbar projectspace (Hassan Khan, *Lust*), a film screening at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, a literature evening at the Literaturwerkstatt Berlin, and the workshop and exhibition Kairo Souvenir Shop in cooperation with Fichtelgebirge Primary School, Berlin (opening: 3/09, 12:30, Raum der Patenschaften des Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien).



Artists

Doa Aly (Cairo), Gilles Aubry (Berlin), Nermine El Ansari (Cairo), Sherif El Azma (Cairo), Hala El Koussy (Cairo/Amsterdam), Rana El Nemr (Cairo), Shady El Noshokaty (Cairo), Maia Gusberti (Vienna/Bern), Khaled Hafez (Cairo), Hermann Huber (Vienna), Iman Issa (Cairo/New York), Ahmed Khaled (Cairo), Susanne Kriemann (Rotterdam/Berlin), Maha Maamoun (Cairo), Hani Rashed (Cairo), Christoph Oertli (Basel/Brussels), Katarina Šević (Budapest), Randa Shaath (Cairo)

Off Site Projects

Hassan Khan (Cairo), Lust, solo exhibition at uqbar projectspace, Berlin, 26/08 – 18/10/2008, Opening 26/08/2008, 19:00. Opening Hours Fr.-Sa. 14:00-19:00 and by appointment: <http://projectspace.uqbar-ev.de>
eps51 (Berlin) & Ganzeer (Cairo), Poster projects in public space, venues see: www.cairoscope.org

Programme of Events Including

Mona Abaza (Cairo), Nora Younis (Cairo) Tamim Al Barghouti (Cairo) Claudia Basrawi (Berlin), Haytham El Wardany (Berlin/Cairo), Tamer Ezzat (Cairo), Khaled El Hagar (Cairo), Nadja Kamel (Cairo), Edit Molnar (Cairo), Mahmoud Refat/100copies (Cairo), Samuli Schielke (Leiden/Joensuu), Steffen Strohmenger (Cairo/Berlin)

Exhibition Venue

Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien
Mariannenplatz 2, 10997 Berlin
0049 (0)30 90298-1455 / www.kunstraumkreuzberg.de
U1/U8 Kottbusser Tor
Opening hours: Daily: 12:00 – 19:00 / Thursdays: 12:00 – 22:00. Guided tours on request
info@cairoscope.org / www.cairoscope.org

Organization

Concept: Marina Sorbello
Curators: Marina Sorbello, Antje Weitzel
Scientific consultant: Sonja Hegasy (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin)
Film programme: Hakim El Hachoumi, (Freunde der Arabische Kinemathek, Berlin)
International relationships and exhibition circulation: Rita Selvaggio
Workshop Fichtelgebirge School: Mona Jas, Kurt Menard
Design: eps51.com
Website: Julius Albers
Publisher: argobooks, Berlin





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Partners:

Art Swap Europe, Berlin; Berlin Tapete, Berlin; Eiszeit Kino, Berlin; Freunde der Arabischen Kinemathek, Berlin; Koschwitz Plakat, Berlin; Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin; Literaturwerkstatt Berlin; Micamoca, Berlin; NGBK, Berlin; uqbar projectspace, Berlin; Westgermany, Berlin

Media Partners:

Babelmed, Roma; Die Tageszeitung, Berlin; Le Monde Diplomatique; Qantara, Bonn; Umelec, Praha/London/Berlin

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