



## Press Release

### **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-open end**, Performances and concerts at Kunstraum Kreuzberg/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 completed 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 Elkoussy (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), Christoph Oertli (Basel/Brussels), Hany Rashed (Cairo), 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, Dresdnerstr. 8, 10997 Berlin (gegenüber /in front of Möbel Olfe); Micamoca, Lindower Str. 22, 13347 Berlin, 29/08–12/10/2008

## **Programme of Events Including**

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

## **Exhibition Venue**

Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien  
Mariannenplatz 2, 10997 Berlin  
0049 (0)30 90298-1455  
U1/U8 Kottbusser Tor

Opening hours  
Daily: 12:00 – 19:00  
Thursdays: 12:00 – 22:00  
Guided tours on request

[info@cairoscape.org](mailto:info@cairoscape.org)  
[www.cairoscape.org](http://www.cairoscape.org)  
[www.kunstraumkreuzberg.de](http://www.kunstraumkreuzberg.de)

## **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  
**Project team Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien:** Jenny Cash, Viola Eyb, Marleen Kuschke,  
Daniel Makonnen, Bastian Vogel  
**Interns:** Federica Di Venuta  
**Design:** eps51.com  
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**Partners**

Art Swap Europe, Berlin; Berlin Tapete, Berlin; Eiszeit Kino, Berlin; Egyptian Film Center, Cairo; Freunde der Arabischen Kinemathek, Berlin; Koschwitz Plakat, 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

**Press Contact**

Projektbüro Cairoscope  
Schwedenstr. 16, 13357 Berlin  
0049 (0)30 46069107 / 0049 (0)177 3738683  
presse@cairoscape.org