



ESHPH

European Society for the History of Photography
Association Européenne pour l'Histoire de la Photographie
Europäische Gesellschaft für die Geschichte der Photographie

Opening Exhibition & Roundtable

The City and the Territory – Imagining Cairo and Egypt **Thursday, 15th March 2018 – 18:00 hrs – Bayt al Sennari**

Exhibition 16th - 25th March (daily from 10:00 – 18:00 hrs). Admission free

Accurate portrayal of reality or colonial exoticism and romanticizing orientalism? - How did European photographers capture Egypt on film in the course of the past two centuries after the invention of photography in 1839? And, what about the other way round: How did and do Egyptian photography artists perceive grand *Umm el Dunya*?

What are the differences between the two cultures, what has changed in the course of time and which are the positions today – these are the topics which the remarkable exhibition ***The City and the Territory – Imagining Cairo and Egypt*** will be exploring. The **opening of the exhibition** will take place on **Thursday, 18th March at 18:00 hrs at Bayt al Sennari in Cairo** and will be inaugurated by H.E. Dr. Mostafa el Fekki, Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

The exhibition is an intercultural co-operation project between the “European Society for the History of Photography” (ESHPH), the Austrian Cultural Forum/Cairo, Embassy of Switzerland in Egypt and the Bayt al Sennari/ Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Concept and Editorship of the exhibition goes back to the Vienna-based “European Society for the History of Photography” (ESHPH) which was founded 40 years ago in 1978. Curators: Uwe Schögl, Executive President ESHPH, Vienna and Harald. R. Stühlinger, Advisory Board ESHPH, Basel. Both, Mr. Schögl and Mr. Stühlinger, will attend the opening on Thursday, 15th March at Bayt al Sennari in Cairo (*address pls. s. further below*).

Apart from intriguing contemporary photographs, the exhibition particularly display a variety of rare historic photographs of the 19th century, starting with Egypt and its territories seen through the colonial lens, succeeded by Egyptian photographers who entered the “photographic scene”. Both, Egyptian and European photographers, captured in the course of the past two centuries formative moments of Egypt`s history on film, such as the grand opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, the construction of the Nile Dam as well as intimate portrayals of Alexandrine families at the seaside.

The exhibition`s title “*The City and the Territory – Imagining Cairo and Egypt*” goes back to the correspondent special issue of the internationally renowned magazine “PhotoResearcher” (Issue No. 28|2017), which will accompany the exhibition at Bayt Al Sennari as catalogue. Researchers as well as artists from numerous nations, such as Austria, Switzerland, Egypt, France, the Netherlands or Germany, have contributed to this special issue of “Photoresearcher”. (*More details regarding the magazine pls. see further below*)

Following the exhibition opening a roundtable will be held at 19:00 hrs in Bayt al-Sennari. There, Uwe Schögl and Harald Stühlinger will discuss together with the Egyptian multidisciplinary artist Heba Farid, founding board member of the Contemporary Image Collective (CIC)

and Egypt`s photography icon par excellence, the photo exhibition and its overarching question: How do Egyptians perceive their country in photography and how do European photographers see Egypt? The discussion will be moderated by the Egyptian historian Ahmad al Bindari..

Biographies

Uwe Schögl: President of the Vienna-based European Society for the History of Photography (ESHPh). Publisher & Editor of the international magazine 'PhotoResearcher'. Curator for Photography at the Austrian National Library (photography and graphic archive department). Lector at the Austrian Danube University Krems (Faculty for Photography). Internationally renowned author of numerous publications regarding the history of photography. Together with Harald Stühlinger, he curated the exhibition *The City and the Territory – Imagining Cairo and Egypt*.

Harald Stühlinger: Professor for the History of Architecture and expert in urban design & photography. Professor at the University of Applied Science and Arts MuttENZ (FHNW) in Switzerland. 2014 – 2017 lecturer at the ETH Zürich. Member of the European Society for the History of Photography (ESHPh). Stühlinger`s research focuses on architectural and urban design history as well as on the history of photography. As independent curator Mr. Stühlinger initiated, curated and co-curated numerous exhibitions at prestigious venues all over Europe, such as at the SchirnhalLe in Frankfurt, ETH in Zurich or the Ringturm and Rathaus in Vienna. Together with Uwe Schögl, he curated the exhibition *The City and the Territory – Imagining Cairo and Egypt*.

Heba Farid: Adjunct Professor of Practice in Photography at the Department of the Arts, American University in Cairo (AUC) and internationally renowned Egyptian multidisciplinary artist. Founding board member of the Contemporary Image Collective (CIC), Project coordinator of The Na`ima al-Misriyya Project (Art/Research). Former project coordinator of the Photographic Memory of Egypt program at CULTNAT (Center for Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage/Bibliotheca Alexandrina).

Ahmed Al-Bindari: Egyptian architectural historian and photographer focused on the city of Cairo. His work also covers the documentation of the architectural heritage of modern Egypt (19th & 20th century) as well as archival research on various aspects relating to culture and social history. Al-Bindari has contributed to many international publications relating to modern architecture in Cairo.

Address Bayt al Sennari:

Haaret Mong/behind El Saniya School

Sayyeda Zaynab Square

Cairo

(parking availabilities in surroundings of Bayt Al Sennari)

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1020 Vienna, Komödiengasse 1/1/17
www.eshph.org

Editors: Harald R. Stühlinger, Basel (guest editor)
Ulla Fischer-Westhauser, Uwe Schögl, Vienna