

Press release

Museum Folkwang

Cairo. Open City. New testimonies from an ongoing revolution **March 2 – May 5, 2013**

"*Cairo. Open city. New testimonies from an ongoing revolution*" is an experimental, continually regenerative exhibition project. Not only does it afford an insight into the freedom movement currently underway in the Arabian world but also seeks to write a new chapter in the history of images.

There are two different ways in which one can interpret the exhibition *Cairo. Open city*. The first looks to the political and social awakening of a generation that came to light with the onset of mass demonstrations on January 25, 2011 in Cairo's Tahrir Square. This story is predominantly told by Egyptian artists and photographers, activists and curators. The second is linked to the role of images and new digital networks, which in part served to initiate the uprising, documented events and broadcast them to the entire world.

The exhibition explores a wide range of practices within the camera-based media of photography and video, based on photographs taken by photojournalists, recordings made by activists and "citizen journalists" and documents compiled by artists. Photography and its diverse functions also come under the spotlight as a medium that is currently undergoing an important transformation: making opinions heard, influencing the course of events, commemorating victims and bearing testimony to events.

Based on the term's meaning within the military, the title "*Open City*" references the exploitation of images in the battle for sovereignty over the public interpretation of events. At the same time, this meaning should not cause us to lose sight of the fact that it was not social networks or the Internet in general that brought about this revolution but rather the pent-up desperation and courage demonstrated by the people that took to the streets.

This extensive exhibition has been divided up into chapters and stations, curated by a team of renowned personalities from Cairo's art scene, including artists Lara Baladi and Heba Farid, photographers Thomas Hartwell and Tarek Hefny, artist Jasmina Metwaly, filmmaker Philip Rizk and journalists Rowan El Shimi and Alex Nunns.

This is a collaborative project together with the Museum für Photographie Braunschweig.
Funded by the German Federal Cultural Foundation.
The exhibition was realized in collaboration with the Goethe Institute.

The next stop on the exhibition's tour will be Hamburg's Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe.

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Service

Opening Times

Tues – Sun 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Fri 10 a.m. – 10.30 p.m.

Mon closed

Prices

Cairo. Open City and *Blumenfeld Studio* incl. permanent collection

Standard: € 8

Concession: € 5

Information and registration

Visitor Information

T +49 (0)201 8845 444

F +49 (0)201 889145 444

Visitors and postal address

Museumsplatz 1, 45128 Essen

Catalog

A catalog to accompany the exhibition is due to be published in April 2013 by Spector Books, Leipzig.

Panel discussion

As part of the *Cairo. Open City exhibition*, a panel discussion will be held in April 2013 entitled “(De-)stabilization of an entire region? The political view of the changes in the Arabian world.” The event by the Ruhr Science Forum, the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and the Institute for Diaspora and Genocide Research at Ruhr University Bochum has been realized in collaboration with the Centre for Mediterranean Studies at Ruhr University Bochum and Museum Folkwang.

Further information at www.museum-folkwang.de

Images are available for downloading at www.museum-folkwang.de

Opening Hours Tue – Sun 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Fri 10 a.m. – 10.30 p.m., Closed Mondays

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