

IN PEACE AND WITH COMPASSION

في السلام والرحمة

ARAVAN

IN PEACE AND WITH COMPASSION

في السلام والرحمة

ARAVAN AN INTERFAITH ARTS INITIATIVE

“Art is the conversation...Art offers an opening for the heart.
True art makes the divine silence in the soul break into applause.
Art is, at least, the knowledge of where we are standing....
In this Wonderland...We are partners straddling the universe.

Hafiz, 14th century Persian poet and mystic

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Art is one step from the visibly known toward the unknown”

Kahlil Gibran

The success of 2013 CARAVAN Festival of the Arts is indebted to many people and entities.

Deepest gratitude goes to:

To **Reda Abdel Rahman**, the co-curator, renowned participating Egyptian artist and sculptor of the donkey used in this CARAVAN initiative. Without him, this project could not have taken place.

To all 45 participating Egyptian and Western artists who invested their exceptional creative gifts and time to produce outstanding art will inspire many for years to come in the 2013 CARAVAN Festival of the Arts.

To the **Embassy of Switzerland in Egypt** who sponsored the 2013 Caravan Festival and Exhibition, and in particular both the Honorable Dominik Furgler, the former Swiss Ambassador to Egypt and now to the United Kingdom, and Laetitia Kirianoff, Second Secretary, Press and Political Affairs.

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To the many individuals, Muslims and Christians, Egyptians and Westerners, who assisted in one way or another to make the 2013 CARAVAN Festival of the Arts so successful and meaningful.

Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler,

Founding Director, CARAVAN

Curator, 2013 CARAVAN Festival of the Arts.



INTRODUCTION

2013 CARAVAN FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

“In Peace and with Compassion—The Way Forward”

Premier Egyptian and Western Artists using the Arts as a bridge across creeds and cultures

As Egypt seeks to find its path into the future, the 2013 CARAVAN Festival of the Arts has the theme “In Peace and with Compassion... The Way Forward”. While the outcry in Egypt from many political and religious groups condemning sectarian tension has been impressive, “creative demonstrations of dialogue” remain critically needed.

CARAVAN, an informal arts initiative, was formed with the belief that the Arts can be one of the most effective mediums of building bridges of understanding, respect and friendship between the Middle East and West, and their creed and cultures. One of the flagship initiatives of CARAVAN is the annual interfaith CARAVAN Festival of the Arts that was founded five years ago in Cairo, Egypt to encourage the Middle East & West, and Muslims & Christians, to journey together through the Arts.

The 2013 weeklong CARAVAN festival, held from May 9-25, attracted visitors from around Egypt and the world and generated attention from the international media and art world. Over 45 premier Egyptian and Western visual artists were invited to participate in this unique public art-oriented exhibition. The exhibition resonates with the words of Banksy, the renowned English streetartist; “I’ve learned from experience that a painting isn’t finished when you put down your brush—that’s when it starts. The public reaction is what supplies meaning and value. Art comes alive in the arguments you have about it.”

The visual art emphasis for CARAVAN 2013 seeks to follow in the footsteps of an approach to public art that has featured painted animals, yet with an added depth in its symbolism, intention and message. It is with this purpose that the donkey was selected. The donkey symbolizes peace in both Christianity and Islam, and is found in both the Bible and

in the Qur’an. Examples in both faith traditions are numerous, such as Jesus and Omar Ibn El Khattab each riding donkeys when they entered Jerusalem. This is why the theme is “In Peace.....”.

The donkey also represents the poor, as it is an animal of burden, and this is especially the case in Egypt. Hence the full theme of the exhibition is “In Peace and with Compassion.” Through this art initiative the artists are making a public statement that the way forward for Egypt among all faiths, and in Egypt’s relationship with the rest of the world, is “in peace and with compassion”.

Each participating artist painted/decorated two fiberglass donkeys (lifesize and 1/4 lifesize) that were sculpted specifically for the CARAVAN exhibition by the noted Egyptian artist Reda Abdel Rahman. All 90 painted fiberglass donkeys were exhibited the opening night (May 9, 2013) at St. John’s ChurchMaadi in southern Cairo, a center for interfaith dialogue for over 80 years. Then the 45 lifesize painted fiberglass donkeys were placed throughout Cairo at strategic public locations for two weeks (hotel lobbies, art galleries, cultural centers, universities, schools, community associations, etc.). Following their two-week public display, 25 of the lifesize donkeys were selected for a traveling interfaith public art exhibition to venues in Europe, and at the end of the tour they will be auctioned off for charities in Egypt.

The 2013 CARAVAN Festival of the Arts was sponsored by the Embassy of Switzerland in Egypt, and supported by the British Council, and focused not just on visual art, but also literature, film and music, as bridges for interreligious and intercultural dialogue. 20% of all art sales goes to Egyptian charities assisting the poor regardless of creed.

Rev. Canon Paul Gordon CHANDLER,
Founder

Ⓞ CARAVAN



INTERVIEW

This interview with renowned Egyptian artist Dr. Reda Abdel Rahman took place at his Cairo studio which is located on an island in the Nile. Reda Abdel Rahman, in addition to being a participating artist, was a cocurator of the 2013 CARAVAN and the sculptor of the donkey that was used.

PAUL-GORDON: Reda, you are the sculptor of this donkey. So you actually sculpted it here on Dahab island [in the middle of the Nile surrounded by Cairo] and there was something special about it. Why did you sculpt it the way you did?

REDA: When we spoke about the idea together my first impression was that I felt a special connection between me and the donkey, and between all the Egyptian people and the donkey. In my heart I most am interested in the Egyptian people. I have seen many ancient drawings of donkey ... such as even some small drawings in pottery from the Pharaonic era.

It struck me that the donkey has not changed in history, as its image has been the same for 7000 years until now; the horse's image has changed, the lion changed, every animal that has lived in Egypt has changed, but not the donkey. Similarly, I feel this is the way it has been with the Egyptian people: for they are still very poor and have difficult lives. Today, Egyptians tend to think (but not me) the donkey is very stubborn and stupid; for example when Egyptians want to insult someone that "say you are a donkey".

I was born in the Ismailia area, in a small village, and the donkey is very important in the village. Therefore I felt a sense of harmony with the donkey right from the beginning when sculpting it.

PAUL-GORDON: Why do you think CARAVAN is unique and why is it important to you?

REDA: I have been part of Caravan exhibitions since the first one five years ago. I feel a sense of personal attachment to it. Every year I look forward to it and I think ahead about my creative role in it. CARAVAN is unique in so many ways. Most importantly it brings together great

artists for a meaningful purpose, building bridges between religions and peoples. This year's public art project with painted donkeys is very new in Egypt and has never been done before.

Artists tend to think differently about donkeys than most Egyptian people. For example Ayman El Semary, one of our participating artists this year, lives in a village and has his studio there, and so he is very close to nature's elements. I have myself moved my studio to this island and had it constructed like a simple village house; I like this simpler lifestyle and it helps my creativity.

Through CARAVAN I feel we can do something good for Egypt. In CARAVAN none of the artists are thinking about money or status, but about doing something good for the people who live in this country, so that all will have a better future. Also, with CARAVAN we have artistic freedom to do what we want; there is no restrictions like we sometimes have from the government.

PAUL-GORDON: Please tell me what you are thinking about doing with your painted donkeys.

REDA: For the small donkey I want to paint the Egyptian landscape around me of the local and simple good life. For the big one, I want to address one of the critical problems in Egypt now. During the time since our recent revolution, we had been given two choices for our leadership: the Army and the Muslim Brotherhood. I feel that they actually are working together to control Egypt and I believe this is very bad for Egypt's future. This discourages me very much. So half of my large donkey will be highlighting the army and the other half the Muslim Brotherhood. Actually, by "army" I am referring not just to the "army" but to all those people who have a "policing" mindset and approach to managing Egypt. These kinds of people do not think with their heads but with the gun. Concerning the Muslim Brotherhood, I believe they are thinking not with their heads, but from their groins, and this is evident in the way they view women. In my personal view, they are not about freedom.

ICON OF HUMANITY

by Mohamed Kamal

Certainly God endowed man with an exalted status among His creatures, and gave him the task of subduing the animals and being His emissary on earth. However, God also set apart some of these lowlier creatures and honored them in His holy books, giving them both divine and utilitarian attributes. This brings us to the donkey, that icon of humanity that has established itself in the consciousness of countless civilizations. The donkey finds its first recorded mention in the story of a frustrated peasant, found in the seventeenth chapter of the section on ancient Egyptian literature, in the Encyclopedia of the World, written by Saleem Hassan. The events of the story take place during the reign of King Khete, a king over the city of Ahnas, around 3000 B.C. A peasant living in Natrun Valley, travelled periodically from his village to sell his produce, transported on his donkey. One day, an official named Nakht stole the peasant's donkey. The peasant complained to the official's boss, Renzy, who gathered the distinguished elders together for a hearing. When the peasant did not feel that his matter was being adequately communicated, he proceeded to dazzle Renzy and the others with an eloquent exposition of his complaints. Renzy took the peasant for an audience with the king, who ordered the peasant to repeat his astonishing presentation. This oratorical gem's inspiration was a donkey, no less.

Babylonian legends mention the goddess Lamashtu, the daughter of the sky god Anu, who was often depicted as part lioness and part donkey. ucius Apuleius, a Roman author of African origin, wrote the classic tale

“The Golden Ass”. The Romans held the donkey in high esteem, and often gave it as a sacrifice to the gods. Thus the donkey came to be associated with Saturn, the Roman god of agriculture, and also with Dionysus, the Greek god of wine. In Assyrian mythology, the goddess of death appears kneeling on a donkey crossing a river through Hell as a sacrifice to the gods.

The donkey also has its place in the three monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We see it in the story of Aziz that appears in the Sura of the Cow in the Quran. Aziz, a righteous Jew who had memorized the Torah, died for over a hundred years. He was brought back to life, only to find that his food had remained untouched and unchanged, but his donkey had died and all that was left were his bones. After the man came back to life, God returned the donkey to his former state and this miraculous story of divine intervention remained a beacon for generations. In Christianity, the donkey appears in the journey of the Holy Family Mary, Jesus and Joseph—an iconic image that adorns churches all over the world. These stories have infused the humble donkey with exceptional holiness for both Muslims and Christians.

Within the psychological framework of dream analysis, the famous psychotherapist Carl Jung believed that the donkey appearing in one's dream was a sign of death if it coincided with a celebratory season. Archaeological discoveries estimate the donkey to have been in existence for about twelve thousand years, originally descending

from a type of horse that first emerged in the area of Somalia. Somali donkeys are considered to be among the best breed of donkey. This type reproduces throughout the year after a gestational period of eleven months. The donkey then reaches full maturity at four years. Donkeys are both domesticated and wild, and vary in their breeds. Some in the medical community believe that the donkey's skin has aphrodisiac qualities. Several charities exist to care for and preserve the donkey.

The donkey has occupied a prominent position in the arts, surpassing that of other animals.

We see the donkey appear in one of Ahmad Shawky's poems: A donkey fell from the ship in darkness, and his comrades wept for his loss and prayed for mercy. When dawn broke, a wave approached the ship. The wave said “Take this donkey as he came to me unharmed. I could not swallow him because he could be not digested.”

The donkey appears in the book “Platero and I” by the great Spanish poet and author, Juan Ramon Jimenez. The donkey also appears in the collection of philosophical essays by the Egyptian author Tawfiq alHakim, “My Donkey Told me,” in which he narrates the story of his friendship with his donkey, and how that donkey surpasses humans in friendship and companionship and ease of interaction.

The donkey appears in the both Egyptian and international film, where we can't forget the great song “What's up, my donkey” in the film “Amal” (1952) for which Ma'moun Shenawy wrote the words, and Mahmoud

Sherif composed the music. The film was created by Henry Barakat, written by Youssef Issa, and shot by Mustafa Hassan. The donkey has provided rich inspiration for Egyptian artists, among them the pioneer photographer Mahmoud Said in his famous work “Women of the City”. Other photographers were also moved by the images of the donkey in rural settings, such as Badawi Saafan and Mustafa Butt. Egyptian sculptors such as Idris Farajallah, Adam Hanein, and Mohamed Rizk became famous for their brilliant donkey creations and statues. The list of Arab and international artists who have found inspiration in the donkey is long.

All of this confirms that the donkey is truly an icon of humanity. I think that the donkey has a special beauty, both internal and external: It has two large, beautiful eyes that carry within them goodness and gentleness; it has two large ears that show its noble ability to listen to both animal and humans; it has four proportionate limbs and a gently curving belly; its tail hangs down as a mark of its decency and humility; it has a unique ability to convey both its joy and sorrow.

As we consider the donkey, we can see that it is one of the most dazzling creatures to have stirred many innovators with its humility, patience, compassion, and generosity—this inspiring keeper of human secrets, an immortal icon of humanity.

Mohamed Kamal is an Egyptian art critic and journalist



Adel Nassief

Born on Oct. 20, 1962 Adel graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Alexandria Imaging Division 1985 with high honors. He undertook specialized studies in Coptic Art and Icons at the Institute of Coptic Studies, Cairo. Throughout his career he has specialized in Coptic art, icons and murals.

He has had numerous solo exhibitions throughout Egypt and his art has been acquired by museums, businesses and churches in both Egypt and in numerous countries around the world. Adel's work can be seen in Coptic churches in the Netherlands, Sweden, France, Greece and America.

Artist's statement (large donkey)

We have found ancient drawings of the donkey, this Egyptian animal, on Pharaonic temples. Donkeys were used in building the Egyptian civilization and still in use for the Egyptian peasant today, known for its tolerance and patience.

I felt as I was representing it that I would present the Pharaonic history and the basic Pharaonic elements. You see the Lotus mixed with different degrees of blue color, which symbolizes the color of the great Nile River. It is full of different kinds of fish, flowers and birds, a symbol of good and of the Egyptian land.



Small Donkey

The main characteristics of the donkey are patience and tolerance so this is the reason I chose the mosaic art as my medium, to illustrate these characteristics.

Artist's statement (small donkey)

Egypt is a holy land. The prophet Moses was raised on its land and exposed to all the Egyptian wisdom of a pharaonic palace. Ibrahim the father of prophets visited it, and the prophet Joseph was in command of Egypt during difficult years and because of his wisdom Egypt survived.

Egypt was mentioned in both the Bible and the Quran and the most important visit was the Holy family's visit to Egypt, which blessed it. They used the donkey as the transportation for their trip because it is known for its patience and tolerance. Christ chose to ride on it to enter to Jerusalem and it was chosen as a symbol of humbleness.... Isn't that animal honored, contrary to what we might think about it?

I have expressed the welcome of people waiting for the savior... As a symbol of the expectation of the Egyptian people for a way out, to restore Egypt's value and glory...

And we are waiting for the blessing as it is promised in the Bible.... "Blessed be Egypt my people"



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Adel Tharwat

Adel was born in Cairo in 1966. He obtained a BA, MA and PhD in Art Education from Helwan University and since 2011 has been a Professor of Painting and Drawing at the University. He is a member of the Syndicate of Egyptian Plastic Artists and the Cairo Atelier for artists and writers.

NATIONAL Exhibitions (Egypt):

2007 The exhibition of (what's happening now) fine art sector – Egypt

2007 The national art exhibition fine art sector – ministry of culture

2005 The national art exhibition fine art sector – ministry of culture

2003 The national art exhibition fine art sector – ministry of culture

2001 The national art exhibition fine art sector – ministry of culture

Artist's statement: "The journey of peace with humanity"

The donkey has a symbolic and historical heritage in Egypt. My approach was based on the historical significance of the donkey

in human civilization, such as its unique role in the Holy Family trip (Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ) that was an historic event that carried a message of peace and love to humanity. It was a role the donkey was given above all animals because of its distinctive characteristics.

I am artistically celebrating the donkey's unique history using technical formulations that rely on texts inspired by ancient Egyptian beliefs, from the dawn of human consciousness, that are linked to peace and morals adopted by Egyptians from early times until today. The text is:

I did not pollute the Nile water

I did not kill any body

I did not steal any thing

I did not cut the tree

I did not take bread from the mouths of children

I did not prevent water from its source

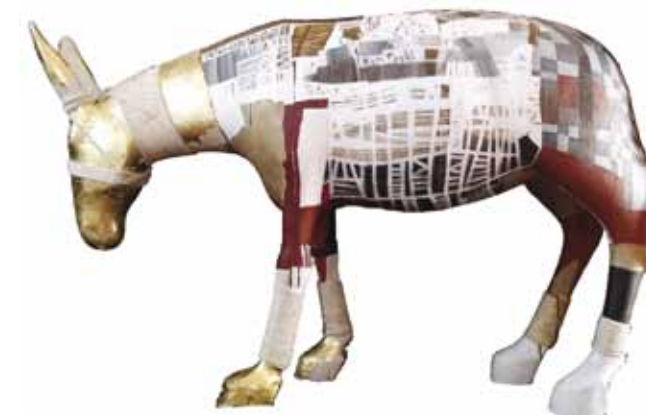
I was not evil



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Ahmed El Kut

D.O.B. 1991 from El Bahira

Student at Faculty of Arts Education, Helwan University

Participated in many group exhibitions such as the 22nd Youth Salon for 2012 and the 23rd Youth Salon

The "revolution exhibition" at the Arts Palace at the Opera House

Awarded the Painting Reward of the 22nd Youth Salon

Awarded the Martyr Zyad Hamid reward (photography) of the 23rd Youth Salon

Artist's statement

The economic situation in Egypt is getting worse while the standard of living is getting higher.

I see the donkey as wanting to help Egyptians with its efforts to help provide sustainable livelihoods during this economic crisis.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Ahmed Kassim

Ahmed Kassim (born 1984) is a young contemporary artist that has shown great talent and creativity in creating a world entirely his own. Kassim adds a subtle sense of humor to his subjects mixed with his intricately woven webs of details featuring the chaotic world around. Kassim's ability as an artist can be seen in his talent for defying large canvases by effective controlling of this such sizeable spaces, creating a multitude of sarcastic details from a unique and unusual perspective. Kassim's work reveals itself through his own beliefs and understanding of the world around him, thus resulting in a convincing conceptual work.

Exhibitions:

2006 The 46th Vanguards Exhibition, Fine Arts lovers Association, Cairo.

2007 The 18th Youth Salon, place of Arts Opera House, Cairo.

2008/2007 The premiers graduated exhibition Faculty of fine arts – Helwan University Zamalek Cairo.

2007, 2009 Group exhibition in Khan El Magbraby Gallery in Zamalek - Cairo.

2009 The 20th Youth Salon, place of Arts Opera House, Cairo.

2009 Group Exhibition in Easel and Camera Gallery in Maadi.

2009 Group Exhibition in Fine Art College in Luxor.

2010 21 Youth Salon place of Arts Opera House Cairo.

Solo Exhibition:

2011 Safar Khan Art Gallery Cairo, Egypt.

Artist's statement

Donkeys constitute a major part of the total animal population in Egypt; they are used for everyday tasks, including carrying both goods and people. Donkeys are easily noticeable in Egypt; whether in a poor lane or on a speedy ring road. In my work I showed the city on the donkey surface in a way to assure the visible relation between the city and this animal, which memorize every inch of it. Donkeys are an integral part of the lives of people in different parts of Egypt. In my project the big size donkey was split into two sides; the first side was the painting of the city, which shows the fact that donkeys are on all the streets of Egypt. The second part was the donkey's sarcasm of what he sees in this city.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Alaa Awad

Born in Luxor, Alaa Awad lives and works between Cairo and Luxor. He graduated from Luxor Faculty of Fine Arts in 2004 and currently teaches in its department of mural painting.

Awad, 31, took a break from teaching and went to Tahrir Square to take part in the January 25, 2011 Revolution. Soon, he started painting murals across the Square - neo-pharaonic, bold, vibrant, defiant murals that aim at shaking the grounds and reminding protesters of their heritage and glorious past.

"I have always been impressed with pharaonic art. All my murals are inspired by ancient Egyptian art, albeit with a modified and more contemporaneous feel."

Awad's art is not just aimed at refuting the arguments of the extremists who wish to repress all forms of artistic expression. Rather it is a proud attempt to call attention to Egypt's true identity.

Artist's statement

The donkey highlights the story of Egyptian artisans who worked on the tombs in the Valley of the Kings for the pharaohs in the ancient village of Deir el-Medina, on Luxor's west bank and who established the foundation for Egyptian contemporary art.

This work illustrates images found on ostracon, pottery shards, unearthed during excavation.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Ashraf Reda

Professor of Interior Design at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Cairo and CEO of A.R. Group for Advertising and Publishing; he graduated from Fine Arts, Cairo in 1982 and was mentored by the renowned artist Salah Abd El Karim. His art portfolio is widely diverse and includes: interior design, graphics, advertising and branding.

Recently, he has held several senior governmental and diplomatic posts, including: Cultural Counselor – Egyptian Embassy in Italy, Director – Egyptian Academy of Fine Arts in Rome, Deputy Minister of Culture – Director of Fine Arts Sector, Egypt. Moreover, he is the chairman of ARAC Foundation for Arts and Culture.

Reda holds over 40 creative and design awards from international institutions, including: the American University in Cairo, International Advertising Association, as well as the Centennial of Fine Arts' Committee in 2008. A few years ago, he created his own art direction – Egyptian Abstract – using his unique elements in lifestyle application.

Artist's statement

The Donkey is very popular in Egypt, and is part of the day-to-day lives of many Egyptians in rural areas. The Donkey is also a prominent figure of the Egyptian culture, and even its arts. It was mentioned in numerous movies, songs and poetry as well, such as one of Ahmed Shawky's

poems. Moreover, many masterpieces of fine arts, such as famous Egyptian paintings and sculptures, portray Donkeys. Novelists were fond of Donkeys as well, with the great example of Tawfik Al Hakim's novel; "حمار الحكيم" (Homar Al Hakim). The Donkey was also mentioned in the Holy Quran, as well as the Bible, in which a Donkey was part of the journey of the Holy Family. Hence, the Donkey is a symbol that is closely tied to Egypt's arts and history, and is –in fact– a common factor bridging between Muslims and Christians.

In my artwork, I reflected my new art direction, "Egyptian Abstract", onto the Donkey, using icons from the cosmopolitan culture of Egypt, which inherits a lot from the Pharaonic, GreekRoman, Coptic, Islamic, Meditarrenean, African and Arabian cultures altogether.

Using Arabic calligraphy in an abstract composition, the words "سلام" (peace) and "رحمة" (compassion) appear on the Lifesize statue in colors inspired by Egypt. On the smaller statue, the design concept remains unchanged, and the calligraphy reads:

(Never with exaltation shall we speak, so long as the strong overpower the weak). The statue reflects abstract design elements inspired by Nubian and Bedouin art. The choice of the black color was made to match the weakness of the Donkey. Nevertheless, we must always hope for a bright forward; in peace and with compassion...



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Ayman El Semary

Ayman was born in 1965 in Kafr Shokr. He was awarded a Master's degree in painting (1995 Helwan University) about the reformulation of art works in modern painting as a reference of artistic creation. Ayman then went on to attain a PhD in art education (2001) about the primary dimensions in postmodernism arts from the painting department of Helwan University. He is a Faculty of Art member in the Cairo & Alexandria Atelier for Artists and Writers and is also a member of the Plastic Arts Syndicate.

Individual Exhibitions:

2007 Sequoia with Town House Art Gallery, Zamalek

2007 Ebdaa Art Gallery - Mohandseen.

2006 Gezira Art Center, Zamalek

2004 Egypt/Swiss theme with artist (Romano Delakezia) Mashrabia Gallery

2003 Ekhnaton 1 Gallery, Center of Arts, Zamalek

2002 Kamal Khalifa Gallery, Gezira Art Center

2001 Cairo Atelier, installation

2000, 1997 Ekhnaton 3 Gallery, Center of Arts, Zamalek

1999 The Greek Cultural Corporation Gallery, Alexandria

1995 Cairo atelier

1995, 1986 Sports club gallery, Kafr Shokr

Artist's statement

In my work I have tried to give all the appreciation that this animal deserves. The almighty God mentioned it 4 times in the Quran, and I chose this color-coded language to reflect my surrounding atmosphere and its surrounding as well, this pet animal which is indispensable for the peasant. And the source for this visual language is nature: trees, palm trees, plants, countryside houses, pigeons towers, birds, agriculture equipment, musical instruments, people and engravings on walls. All this was distributed on the donkey's body in spaces of dark colors in contrast with light ones. I used the color gold on the donkey's head to highlight its intelligence, as the donkey has a unique mind that enables him to create cognitive maps, which help it to know the roads and places easily. The donkey is a patient animal and has a great capability to endure.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Ayman Lotfy

Born in Cairo in 1968, Ayman is a photographer (AMIPP - RDPSA).

In 1998, he launched his journey to the world of photography with the aim of enhancing his work as an Art Director. Since then, Ayman has been absorbed by his work as a photographer, developing his skills in the field of Art Photography.

Ayman has a strong interest in human emotions and expressions and aims to bring out this aspect in his work.

In 2006 Ayman transformed his photography work into Fine Art Photography to produce his masterpieces. He has participated in international exhibitions and won many international Awards.

Artist's statement (large donkey) "Caring and Carrying"

The donkey ...The caring animal

The artist tried to reflect in his artwork how important a donkey is to our human existence. With all the care put into doing heavy-duty labor the donkey still carries his owner with care, never complaining or asking for a promotion.

The donkey reflects peace and passion, energy and loyalty.

Artist's statement (small donkey) "I Love School"

A School to be...

When you watch the donkey while he is doing his Job, how much he knows how well he knows his way and understands all his missions, working in silence, spending hours in heavy duty missions. You don't doubt it a second that he got all that information from the school that he was going to while he was young.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Carelle Homsy

Carelle Homsy graduated from the Faculty of Arts Education in 1991. She is a member of the Plastic Art Syndicate and of the Atelier Group.

Exhibitions:

Cairo Atelier on 1992.

Youth Saloon 1992.

Group Exhibition – French Cultural Center 1993.

ElSawy Culture wheel on 2007.

Spring Exhibition ElSawy Culture wheel on 2007.

31st Festival of Fine Arts 2008

Greek Cultural Center on 2008.

Workshop in Siwa 2009.

Spring Exhibition ElSawy Culture wheel on 2009.

Exhibition of Woman Creativity – Portrait Atelier 2009.

32nd Festival of Fine Arts 2009.

2nd Luxor International Painting Symposium 2009.

33rd Festival of Fine Arts 2010.

Exhibition of Egyptian Fine Artists in Vienna – Austria 2010.

Caravan Festival of the Arts 2011.

Exhibition at Eugenides Foundation Athens Greece October 2011.

34th Festival of Fine Arts 2012.

Caravan Festival of the Arts 2012.

Exhibition of the revolution – Hanager Art center – 2013

Exhibition of the international women's day – Hanager Art Center –2013.

Exhibition at L'Atelier D'Alexandrie – 2013.

Caravan Festival of the Arts 2013.

Statement:

"For the love of my dear country"



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Emad Ibrahim

Born in Cairo, 1969.

Graduated from the Institute of Art Education, Helwan University in 1991.

Stage set execution for the "Thousand and One Nights Operette" - Gomhouriah Theater.

Designed and executed a mural at the Four Season's Hotel in Sharm El Sheikh

Designed and executed a mural at the Four Season's Hotel in Suez.

Exhibitions:

1991 Gallery Faculty of Art Education

1996 2003 Akhenaton Gallery in Zamalek Arts Center

1996 1997 Cairo Atelier

2000 Hall Salameh

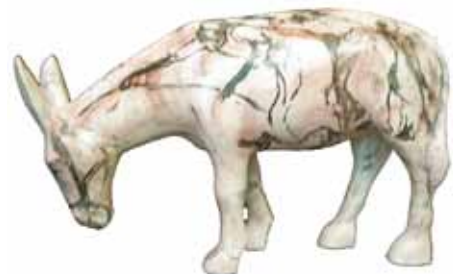
2001 Hall Salameh

2002 Picasso Gallery

2003 Hall creativity

2008 Covenants Gallery Saudi Arabia

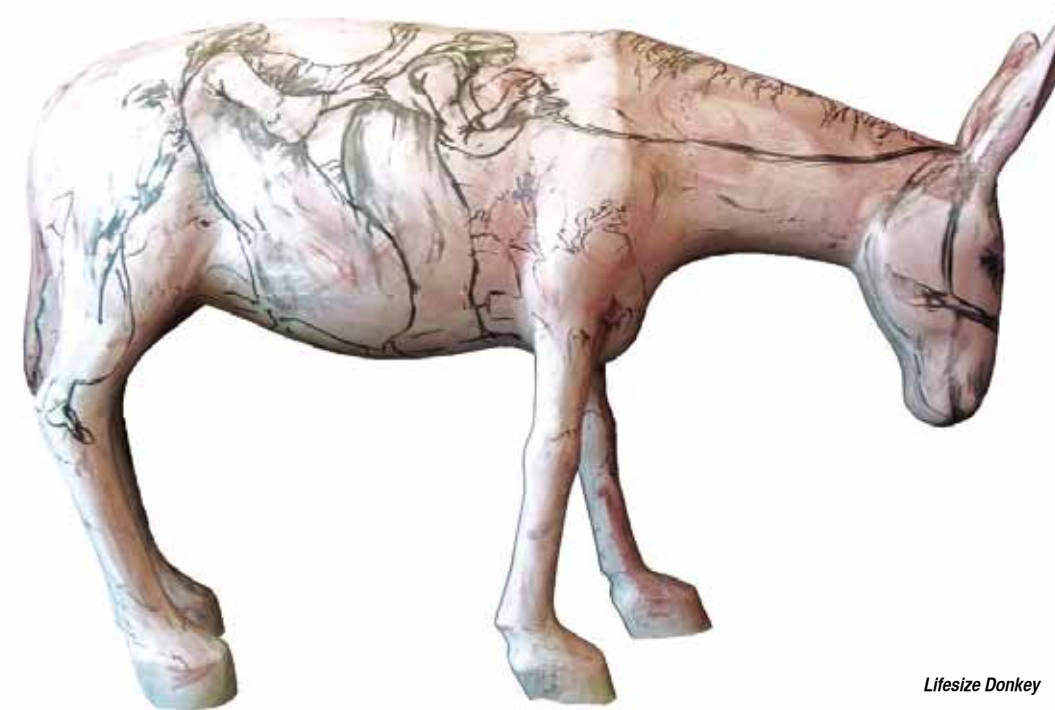
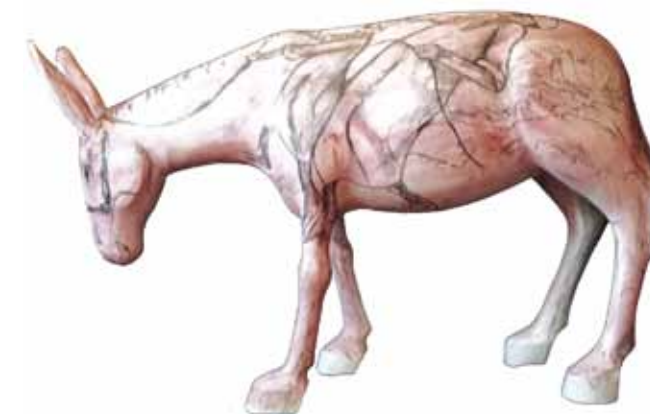
2012 Gallery Hotel Kabiska



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Farid Fadel

Described by some as a true Renaissance man, Farid Fadel was born in 1958 in Assuit, Upper Egypt, into a family noted for both its musicians and its doctors. He has since excelled at medicine, art and music, taking all three gifts very seriously. In art, he has held 34 solo exhibitions; in music, he has given prominent recitals and concerts, and in medicine, he obtained his M.Sc. in Ophthalmology, and is presently working as a practicing eye doctor at the Memorial Institute of Ophthalmology, Giza.

In 1973, Dr. Fadel was awarded the Pope's Medal and Vatican Award. In 1975, the Egyptian Parliament granted him a trip to Italy to see Renaissance art, which had a strong influence on his style. In 2000, Dr. Fadel traveled with his exhibition "On Both Sides" to the USA where it was displayed in Ohio, Connecticut and Washington D.C. Over the years he has taken part in numerous group and solo exhibitions around the world. His interest in art theory culminated in the establishment of his "AIN" theory (Aesthetic Integrated Naturalism), which explains his particular views on a naturalistic approach to fine art in a postmodern context.

Artist's statement (large donkey) "The Renaissance donkey"

This full sized donkey is a real donkey in all its splendor. I have given it the name "Renaissance donkey". On the one side a flying angel is barely holding on to the donkey's back while the other side becomes



Small Donkey

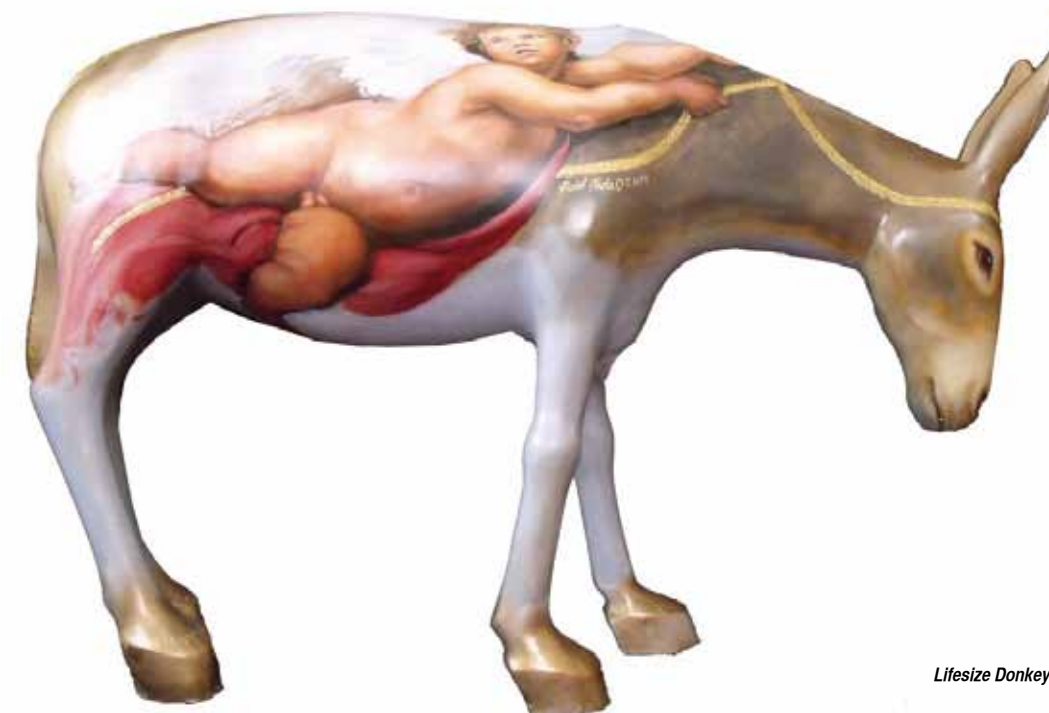
the backdrop of the two bored putti of Raphael's famous "Sistine Madonna". The idea is originally from Egyptian village life where naked boys often enjoy simultaneous bathing with their donkeys and buffalos in nearby Nile water. Such water "games" occur in an atmosphere of love, laughter and close friendship.

Artists' statement (small donkey)

The small donkey sacrifices his form to metamorphose into clear sky. Against the blue backdrop white doves fly back and forth declaring a message of peace. The donkey's hooves have become tulip bulbs that send green leaves along his legs budding into gorgeous white and pink tulip flowers. Originally from Turkey, tulips have acquired their names in Holland where they became very popular during the 17th century, appearing in many paintings of still life and flower arrangements. White tulips have long been a symbol of forgiveness, newness and purity hence the association with heaven and peace. Indeed, the period from 1718/1730 was a time of peace in the Ottoman Empire under Sultan Ahmed III and became known as the Tulip era. The white dove on the other hand is the more classical symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit both in biblical history and modern art iconography.



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Gamal Ez

Gamal Ez (1963) was born in Alexandria (Egypt) and educated at Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of El Minya (1983-1988). In 1990 he emigrated to the Netherlands and studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in The Hague (1996-2002). In Egypt Ez learned traditional techniques and ideas and in The Hague he became familiar with a more contemporary idiom. He went on to make 2-D and 3-D works, not modern in an academic sense, but show his search for a wholly personal vocabulary that he would later expand.

Ez became known for his "site specific" 3-D installation in very large spaces and often using materials such as wood, windows, shoes, toys, baby buggies, chairs- which are combined in a new way, articulating a new way and a new, dramatic meaning. The building where the installation is seen may even become part of such an installation. He often combines two-dimensional and three-dimensional elements while new media such as video sometimes are a part of a larger work.

Ez's work has been shown at home and abroad. It was part of a group exhibition in GEM (The Hague) where he befriended Jimmie Durham who still means a lot to him as a kind of mentor. The House of Glass was shown at Quartair (The Hague) and Ozon at Cucosa (Rotterdam). Ez also showed in Cairo (2004 2011 and 2013), the Kulturamt Wetzlar (2006), Gallery Max in Frankfurt (2006), the Exchange Vaishwik Center in Poona (India 2006), the National Gallery in Liverpool(2007) and the gallery Sophie Lanoë Paris (2011). Works by Gamal Ez found their way to several international collections.

Artist's statement:

"My donkeys . . . are not donkeys or zebras, they are angels."



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



George Bahgory

George Bahgory is one of Egypt's most renowned contemporary artists. An Egyptian-French artist, he is widely referred to as 'the granddaddy of Egyptian caricature,' Bahgory is most famous for his political cartoons that have been featured in Arabic press for decades. Bahgory was born into a Coptic Christian family in Luxor, Upper Egypt in 1932. In 1955, he studied painting at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Zamalek, Cairo, under the guidance of the Egyptian artist Hussein Bikar. In 1970, he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Paris.

Thirty years in Paris refined his talent in drawing, engraving, painting, sculpture, marionette art, novel writing, cinema and criticism. Upon an invitation from the Society of Art Lovers in Paris, his works were selected to represent the Egyptian Pavilion. His painting "A Face from Egypt" won the Silver Medal award. His wood and bronze engravings have been displayed in galleries in France and Canada. He also created two granite works during the Aswan International Symposium of Sculpture. From 1953 to 1975, Bahgory was also a prominent cartoonist for the two weekly Egyptian magazines Sabah Al Khair and Rose El Youssef.

Works by Bahgory can be categorized as expressionist and cubist

with bright colours appealing to folk art fans. He cites Pablo Picasso, Egyptian modernist Abdel Hadi Al Gazzar, German expressionist Paul Klee, and Egyptian Fayoum portraits as influences. Bahgory paints in a manner that can be perceived as either dark or whimsical, a model combination for the rugged and creative spirit of both Egypt and the 20th century's best-selling artist. He is a multifaceted artist with an impressive history, having written books, garnered numerous national and international honours and participated in over thirty exhibitions across Europe and the Middle East. Bahgory has mastered various fine art mediums, including drawing, painting and prints as well as photography and sculpture.

Some of his works can be found in the Museum of Modern Art in Amman and the Museum of Modern Art in Cairo. Following the Egyptian Revolution, Al Masar Gallery for Contemporary Art in Zamalek, Cairo, hosted a special exhibition 'Bahgory on Revolution' of Bahgory's postrevolution artworks. Scenes from "The Battle of the Camel" (of 2 February 2011) were featured, alongside paintings depicting scenes daily life in Egypt and the artist's love of the music of Om Kulthoum.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Hakim Jamain

Hakim studied "Painting and Anatomy" at the Academy of Fine Arts, Perugia, Italy in 1990 and "Sketching and Drawing" at the Nuova Art Academy under Professor Titio Varesco. In 1995 he obtained a bachelor degree in Arts from Milan Fine Arts Academy and a post diploma from Cova Art School in Milan. Jamain also studied "Architectural Design" at The Hague Royal Academy, Holland.

In 2002 Jamain obtained a degree in 2D printmaking in Holland. He taught printmaking at the University of Jordan and supervised the graphic workshop at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in Amman. He has participated in several international group exhibitions and was awarded prizes in Jordan, Italy and China. His paintings and prints depict local landscapes, inspired by writing and reproduced narratives, and among the body of his work is a series of art books that are inspired from his life journey of moving and creating. He currently lives and works in Cairo.

Artist's statement

The donkey, often associated with those living at or below subsistence levels, was first domesticated in ancient Egypt. It served to increase the mobility of pastoral cultures, having the advantage over ruminants of not needing time to chew their cud. Based on a stronger prey instinct and a weaker connection with man, it is considerably more difficult to force or frighten a donkey into doing something it perceives to be dangerous for whatever reason. The donkey was the symbol of the Egyptian sun god Ra, and excavations revealed the skeletons of ten donkeys found buried in pharaohs tombs in a manner usually used with high ranking humans. These two depictions of blue donkeys take their inspiration from the importance of donkeys to the early Egyptian state and its ruler.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Hayam Abdel Baky

Hayam was born in Kafr el-Sheikh in 1972. She is a member of the Plastic Arts Association, Egypt and holds a Master's degree in the field of oil painting (Ain Shams University 2002).

Hayam attained a PhD in the Philosophy of Art Education (University of Cairo 2010). She taught at the Academy of Art (Higher Institute of Applied Arts and Design) in 6th October from 2002 – 2010.

Artist's statement "In Peace and Mercy"

It was a pleasure for me to hear about the idea of drawing on the donkey because I have lots of memories with the donkey as I grew up in the countryside. The donkey was a dear friend to me. I talked with it and went with it to the field, fed it, rode on it and played with it. It shared a great part of my life when I was little and I still have all the memories with it and with my countryside till now.

When the donkey came to my studio I started to touch it and talk to it about our stories together and I started to feel that I went back in time. So I decided to draw our stories on it when we were young as it was a part of it, listening to us it saw and felt with its intelligence everything around. I started to tell it my story to remind it of those memories. And despite its silence I felt that it was sharing the same feelings, of the childhood stories, playing, the innocence, feeling of freedom and the love of the places we went to, the lovely and bright colors of the countryside.

My donkey is a part of my story, it knows it very well and it is very nice that it is bearing it on its body from outside as it bore it from inside its body, inside its tender heart. So our story is a witness of an era when the human being was kind to the animal and considered it part of history and would always be proud that it was always next to him



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Hend Adnan

Born in 1970, Cairo, Egypt, Hend lives and works in Cairo. Hend Adnan received a B.A. from the Painting Department of the Faculty of Fine Arts in Cairo (1992). She has shown her work in many national and international exhibitions, festivals and meetings and her work is represented in both Egyptian and international collections.

Adnan treasures the ability to work freely in oil colors and with live models, respecting shadows in all their forms, working on psychological moods and feelings into realistic representations and colours that bring together all the characteristics of oil colors with an emphasis on texture.

Artist's statement (large donkey)

Art gives us an experience freed from the disturbing conditions of actual life. An experience which is removed more entirely from bodily physiological accompaniment. Our experience has the purity, the intensity, and the abstraction of a dream.

Although the donkey is a peaceful animal to call someone a donkey in many cultures means that person is an idiot. But donkeys are not necessarily stupid, and possibly quite intelligent, it has more to do with stubbornness and not stupidity.

Polygamy has been practiced in most societies before Islam, having more than one wife is more related to animal's nature than human's. In Islam polygamy is allowed, with conditions and specific limitations, a man can have up to four wives at any one time. Some people choose the four wives option and forget about the conditions. Anyway this is what inspires me to participate with my donkey. My donkey has his four beautiful women, but being a donkey with hidden eyes, and closed mouth, can he control them ..! Or do they rule over him?!

Acrylic and oil colors, accessories are in copper, rope and leather.

Artist's statement (small donkey)

Women are human beings just like men are. They deserve to be treated well and with respect and therefore, he doesn't have the right to abuse them and to treat them like objects. But a donkey is known as a stupid animal.

Painted with golden and silver colors over a warm deep orange color.

Women drawn in black fiber.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Hisham El Zeiny

Born in 1956 to a German mother and an Egyptian-Sudanese father, and therefore grew up in a multicultural and religiously very tolerant environment. I attended the German school in Cairo, which provided me with a solid formation in languages formation, which assisted me as I took many trips in various places around the world in my youth. Initially, I found myself studying architecture at the Fine Arts faculty of Cairo. While this study didn't stand in way of my great passion in arts, it did in fact lead me to my career as an artist for over 25 years.

1979 BA Architecture, Faculty of Fine Arts, Cairo.

1982 Post grad. Vernacular Architecture with Prof. Hassan Fathy, Faculty of Fine Arts.

1991 Computer courses for architects at the IHK Frankfurt, Germany.

Since 1975 friend & member of the working team of sculptorpainter Salah Abdel Krim.

Solo Exhibitions:

2008, 2007, 2005, 2001 Mashrabia Gallery, Cairo
Capital Club, Dubai (artworks commissioned)

2006, 2004 La Bodega Gallery, Cairo

2002 Town House Gallery, Cairo/2001 Flux, Cairo

2000 Xenios Gallery, Frankfurt/1997 Espace Gallery, Cairo

1995 Artforum, Karben, Germany/1990 La part du Sable Gallery, Cairo

1985, 1983, 1980 Goethe Institute, Cairo

Artist's statement (large donkey)

While I was walking Attaba looking for skinlike imitation on textiles, I passed those loud street vendors that were selling cheap Chinese stretchleggings for girls. And a lot of them were stretching them over inflated legs, or even complete mannequins, hanging over their stands and bouncing in the air. I found the sight most amusing and the idea immediately fascinated me to dress my donkey up with all those stretching lady items, catching an idea between Carnival and Attaba.

Artist's statement (small donkey)

During the days...weeks, while the donkeys where staring at me waiting for a treatment, I was having a smoke for inspiration, while I was sculpting the little silverpaper of my cigarette box between my fingers. It didn't take me long when I started wrapping it around the ears of the little donkey, which led me to try the aluminumfoil that you can usually find in any kitchen household, and applying it on the complete head. The rest of the work is decoration to accentuate the original idea giving it a more transcendental aura.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Ibrahim El Dessouky

Born in 1969, Cairo, Egypt. Lives and works in Cairo. After studying painting at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Zamalek (Helwan University), Ibrahim El Dessouki received his doctorate in 2003 on the dynamics in painting. He is currently an associate professor.

He has participated in an extensive number of national and international exhibitions and has shown his works throughout Europe, the Arab world and Asia.

Acquisitions of his art can be found at the Egyptian Museum of Modern Art, AlAhram press Organization, Bibliotheca Alexandrina and Arab Museum of Contemporary Art, Qatar.

Artist's statement (large donkey) "The night donkeys"

At night we go out at the same hours. Our direction is known and our goal is clear.

News, information and analysis before the ink gets dry or before the sunrise.

Daily target without a rest, without a horizon.

But it is our daily routine to gather these papers maybe we could one

night find a way out.

But we always miss reading this red bold headline:

This road has no end ...

Artist's statement (small donkey) "I have my keys"

The donkey knows its way. It has passed through it going and coming many times. This knowledge is an essential part of its existence. It is even clever enough to walk head down. It clearly knew and experienced every detail on the main road and its sides. Yes...it is the road to work and back home, the road of hard labor and rest. It is the human road too, forward and backward, but he has to notice the signs and make sure of it and even stops to experience and understand. So he doesn't lose his direction on his boring daily routine.

But this blue donkey is totally different and doesn't have anything in common with other donkeys. It doesn't only know its ways and its directions but has enough keys and solutions. And all its keys gather again to confirm the direction.

But he has around his neck a very unique key, which surpass the other earthly keys. It is the key to eternity.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Karim Abdel Malak

Graduate from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Minia University, Graphic Design

Illustrator for Sabah El Kheir & Rosalyoussef, Egyptian local magazines.

Art & Managing Director for Red Box Advertising Agency.

Practice Sculpture.

Participant in the 1st Child's Biennale workshop "Fantasia 1", Cairo 2003.

Silver medal - the International Competition of "SHANKERS World Association" India 1993.

Exhibitions:

Private Art Works Exhibition at Cairo Gallery, 2001.

Public Exhibition at Ahmed Shawky Museum, Cairo 2001.

Public Exhibition at Mahmoud Said Museum, Alexandria 2002.

The Sixth Salon of the art work small sector.

The Exhibition of the Newspapers Paintings, "The 1st Foundation Cycle".

Black & White Exhibition, Cairo 2004.

Private Art Works Exhibitions at Gallery Grant, Cairo 2004 to 2005.

Public Exhibition at Ebdaa Art Gallery, Cairo 2007 – 2008.

Regular Exhibition at Degas Gallery, Alexandria.

Art Work shown at Modern Art Museum managed by Ministry of Culture in Cairo.

Artist's statement:

When you look at me,

What do you see?

The beauty or the shackles?

Am I a slave or am I free?

Take a good look now,

For when you do, you'll clearly find that I reflect you and you reflect me...



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Keizer

Keizer is the pseudonym of an anonymous Egyptian street artist and graffiti artist whose work has gained popularity and notoriety in Egypt following the 2011 Egyptian Revolution. He is known to be one of the most prolific and subversive artists in the Middle Eastern art scene.

Keizer has been described as an Arab nationalist, and much of his artwork targets capitalism, corporations, consumerism and imperialism.

Keizer's artistic style has been noted as reminiscent of that of Banksy and Shepard Fairey.

Among the images stencilled by Keizer in public spaces in Egypt are images of ants.

The artist writes that "The ant symbolizes the forgotten ones, the silenced, the nameless, those marginalized by capitalism. They are the working class, the common people, the colony that struggles and sacrifices blindly for the queen ant and her monarchy. Ants are devoted, dedicated workers, they cooperate, organize, delegate, and put themselves first in the line of danger and duty. Under appreciated and ruled, they receive and expect no reward for their efforts, toil and struggle..."

Small Donkey



Lifesize Donkey



Khaled Hafez

Khaled Hafez is born in Cairo, Egypt in 1963 where he currently lives and works. He studied medicine and followed the evening classes of the Cairo fine arts in the eighties. After attaining a medical degree in 1987 and M.Sc. as a medical specialist in 1992, he gave up medical practices in the early nineties for a career in the arts. He later obtained an MFA in new media and digital arts from Transart Institute (New York, USA) and Danube University Krems (Austria). Hafez practice spans the mediums of painting, video, photography, installation and interdisciplinary approaches.

21 Solo Exhibitions:

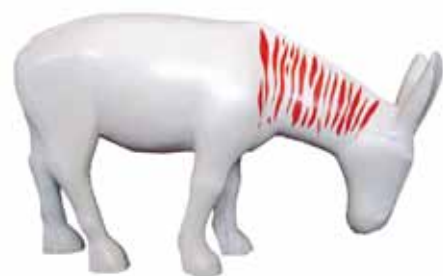
International group exhibitions include: 11th Havana Biennale, Cuba, 2012 9th Bamako Photo Biennale, Mali, 2011 8th Mercosul Biennale, Brasil, 2011 12th Cairo Biennale, Egypt, 2010 Manifesta 8, Murcia, Spain, 2010 2nd Thessaloniki Biennale, Greece, 2009 3rd Guangzhou Triennale, China, 2008 7th Sharjah Biennale, UAE, 2007 1st Singapore

Biennale, 2006 6th & 7th Dakar Biennale, Senegal, 2004 & 2006

Artist's statement: The Donkey Project: Red Lines

Red Lines is a play on two linguistic puns: "red line/s" which is a post revolution term referring to censorship/prohibition of discussing certain political topics on the one hand, and on the other hand it is the name for the Zebra in Egyptian slang language: "homar mekhattat," which literally means "lineddonkey" or "donkey with lines."

My donkey takes reference from the zebra through the use of striations of red and black that simulate zebra skin patterns, and at the same time those are the colors of the Egyptian flag, alongside the raw white color of the resin the donkey is made of. The project puts in question notions of censorship, taboos and freedom of thought.



Small Donkey



Lifesize Donkey



Maged Mikhael

The artist was born in December 1982 and studied the fine Arts in Helwan University, graduating with honors in 2004. He joined the studio of artist Adam Henein, and participated in many Collective Exhibitions (at the French Center , Creation Hall at El-Muhandessin, House of Nations, Fifteenth youth, twentieth youth saloon, twentieth one, twentieth two youth saloon, Sixth Miniature works saloon, the Centennial Anniversary of the faculty of fine arts at Arts at Arts Palace –boushahri gallery in Kuwait Gallery German Schoolsolo exhibition in gallery “arttalks” in name “Egyptian, I am” 2013.

He held a workshop in Aswan International Sculpture Symposium and made a sculpture that is currently being exhibited in Aswan Open Museum. He also held a workshop at the First Stone Gathering Place at Mahmoud Mokhtar Museum and is currently being exhibited at the Museum. During his participation in the University Youth Week, Mekhael created a sculpture that is being displayed in front of the Assuit Governorate Building, made of limestone. Individuals living in Egypt, as well as abroad have acquired many of his artistic masterpieces.

Mekhael received a dedication scholarship in sculpture from Egypt's Ministry of Culture (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011)

Artist's statement: "The donkey, folklore and Easter"

When I first saw the donkey, I realized that I would not be doing a fine art piece to be put in luxurious exhibitions halls; instead I was taken into the realm of a folklore atmosphere. For this reason I used the donkey's body as a tool to express this atmosphere; I felt as if I was in the "Virgin Mary's" folklore festival, and the Holy Week celebrations. This is why I chose to draw Christian symbols on the donkey's body, such as "the pomegranate" which symbolizes the church's congregation, "the palms" which symbolize the palm branches and Palm Sunday celebrations, and "the palm trees and dates" which symbolize the Coptic church martyrs.

My approach to this work was as if I was a folklorian artist sitting on the ground drawing and waiting for people to pass by and purchase this simple form of art.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Marwa Adel

Born in 1984 in Egypt, Marwa Adel is a photographer and installation artist who works with text and photography in many of her projects. Adel holds a BA and MFA in Applied Arts from Helwan University, and teaches interdisciplinary approaches at October 6 University.

Marwa has a Masters degree in Advertising Visual Identity. Her recent exhibitions include "Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial" and "Egyptian Art Today", Frankfurt, Germany. Marwa was winner of the "2011 Best Arab Photographer".

Exhibition (Personal)

2013 2012, 2010 Artsawa Gallery, Dubai.

2012 2011, 2010, 2009 Safarkhan Art Gallery, Cairo.

2012 French Institute, Alex and Cairo

Exhibition (Collective)

2012 (WEYA) World Event Young Artists, Nottingham, UK.

2012 Dak'Art | Biennale de l'art africain contemporain Dakar Senegal.

2012 NordArt Exhibition, Germany/ Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial.

2012 Egyptian Art Today, Frankfurt, Germany.

2012 "9th European – Arab Festival of Photography – Hamburg Germany.

2011 9th Bamako Encounters: Biennale of African Photography, Mali

2011 Marrakech Art Fair "Familiar Features btwn reality & myth", FA Gallery, Kuwait.

2011 Beirut Art Fair, Lebanon/ Safarkhan Art Gallery "Multiple Vision", Cairo.

2010 "Why Not" Exhibition – Palace of Arts – Opera House Ground.

2010 "Pathways" Changing Focus Photography Competition – "AUC".

2010 Biennale of Amsterdam.

Artist's statement

"I was one of those children where, if you put me in a room and gave me pencils, you wouldn't hear from me for hours. And I was always drawing Angels, horoscope, leafs and birds. Those drawings took me away from reality. It was my way to feel free and as a Donkey is the symbol of peace I wanted to represent what makes me feel peace."



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Moataz Nasreldin

Moataz Nasr was born in 1961 in Alexandria (Egypt). He lives and works in Cairo. After studying economics, he decided to change direction and take a studio in Old Cairo.

This self-taught artist gained local recognition marked by many prizes before breaking into the international art scene in 2001, notably winning the Grand Prix at the 8th International Cairo Biennial.

He has participated in large international gatherings such as the Venice, Seoul and Sao Paulo biennials and exhibited in prestigious contemporary art venues. Today he is considered one of the greatest representatives of panArab contemporary art.

Showing complex cultural processes currently underway in the Islamic world, his work surpasses idiosyncrasies and geographical limits and voices the worries and torments of the African continent. The feeling

of belonging to a specific geopolitical and cultural context and the need to maintain a link with his homeland are key elements of the artist's life and work.

Art and life are inseparable for him. His childhood memories, frustrations and the society in which he is evolving fuel his paintings, sculptures, videos and installations. His work focuses on Egypt with its traditions, people, colours, without ever slipping into the exoticism or creating distance. It appears, on the contrary, close to everyone's preoccupations. In fact, Egypt is just a background, a territory inhabited by human beings whose fragility is universal, as are indifference, powerlessness and solitude, weaknesses inherent in human nature.

Title: "Motherhood"

Small Donkey



Lifesize Donkey



Mohamed Abla

Renowned Egyptian artist Mohamed Abla, winner of the prize at the 1998 Cairo Biennale and of many prestigious awards in Egypt and abroad, is a man of curious character and many faces. Born in Mansoura, Egypt, he graduated at the top of his class in 1977 from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Alexandria. Upon graduation he took part in Egypt's "Young Artists Exhibition," winning the grand prize. He then spent 7 years traveling around Europe, painting and studying. As a young artist he was almost detached from his indigenous ties, reluctant to settle in one place. In Germany he met a gallery owner and showed him his work. "He saw my sketches, loved them, bought them and asked if I would put on an exhibition." Six more exhibitions followed.

His extensive traveling, gave him a broad exposure to the international art scene, and led him study, teach and exhibit in galleries around the

world. Abla says that he has an internal feeling that art is the key to bringing cultural and environmental awareness to people. He has an intense desire for expressing feeling through his paintings.

Abla's work focuses mainly on graphics and oil painting. His current working space is on an island in the Nile. It provides a quiet oasis and source of inspiration. The Nile and the local Egyptian environment are prevailing themes in Abla's art, whether graphics, installation or oil paintings.

Artist's statement

Those who claim they worship Allah but do not follow His Law are like donkeys that carry books and do not understand what they carry. [Surah 62:5]



Lifesize Donkey



Mohamed Talaat

Education from Helwan University (2001), a Diploma in Criticism from the High Institute of Art Criticism (2004) and an M.A. from the Faculty of Art Education (2004). Talaat is a member of the Fine Artists Association and the Association of Writers and Artists (Cairo Atelier). He founded Misr Art Gallery, was a programmer for the General Administration of Arts Centers of the Sector of Fine Arts (Egyptian Ministry of Culture) and is the former director of the Palace of Fine Arts (Ministry of Culture). Talaat has participated in numerous solo shows in Egypt and internationally, led workshops, curated symposiums, organized exhibitions and been granted many merit certificates and honors. His art can be found in private and state collections in Egypt and abroad.

Artist's statement

Conversion to theocracy

Self-proclaimed guardians gave themselves divine mandates to control nations. These guardians seized authority outrageously and defiantly. Demonstrating absolutely outrageous ideology, they stereotyped the shape, and manipulated the mind. They also outrageously claim the best understanding of the past, the present and the future. Self-proclaimed

guardians are claiming that religion is the best mechanism for causing global changes. Religious bigotry and chauvinism are the products of power struggles by selfish clergymen. Motivated by their self-interest, they ride religion to achieve political goals. As a result, religion is fragmented to several sects, faiths and parties. A major threat looms nearby when a war erupts between religious parties with everyone of these adversaries claiming selfishly it is given the divine mandate to steer the people's destiny in the present life and in the afterlife. Self-proclaimed guardians condemn others for being renegades or converts, who should change their minds to avoid a fierce war. The guardians would also arrest the alleged renegades, forcing them to come to terms with the preposterous truth. The self-proclaimed guardians are no more than propagandists. They treacherously compromise human relationships and values; they would not hesitate to commit gruesome crimes in the name of God to overpower their opponents. In addition to the Taliban in Afghanistan and Al-Qaeda, many Islamist movements in Arab, Muslim and Western countries have distorted the image of Islam badly. After the US invasion, the Arab country of Iraq has become the tragic example of compromising religion to have a role in the political game.



Small Donkey



Lifesize Donkey



Omar El Fayoumi

Born in 1957, graduate of Faculty of Fine Art (Cairo) 1981 – mural painting.

1986-1991 – Academy of Fine Art (RIPEN) St Petersburg, Russia. Resident and working in Cairo since 1993.

Group Exhibitions:

1982 (ILI Gallery) with ASSEM SHARAF

1984 (Atelier Le Caire) – five Artists – 1

1985 (El Mashrabia Gallery) – five Artists – 2

1989 (Abdul Moniem El Sawy Gallery) with ASSEM SHARAF

1990 (Academy of Fine Art Gallery) – Leningrad.

1994 (El Mashrabia Gallery) with ASSEM SHARAF

1995 (El Mashrabia Gallery) Chair Chair.

1996 (Ekhnatoun Gallery) Cairo

1997 (Atelier Le Caire) Gathering.

1998 (Espace Karim francis) Group Exhibition.

1998 (Atelier Le Caire) 3D and (Palace of arts) National Exhibition

1999 (Ekhnatoun Gallery) miniatures.

Individual Exhibitions:

1995-1998 (Espace Karim francis)

2000 (Ekhnatoun Gallery)

2001 (Russian Consulate Gallery)

2002 (Atelier Le Caire)

2005 (Espace Karim francis) Zamalik

Artist's statement

For me the donkey is the closest living being to the human. The donkey tolerated a lot from the beginning of the history and up till now, this is why in my opinion this animal should be honored by us the human being.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Rania Fouad

Rania Fouad is currently working as a teacher in the Faculty of Fine Arts – Helwan University.

2012 PhD in Fine Arts from Faculty of Fine Arts Helwan University .

2012 Group exhibition “ L’artista e il Professore in Egyptian Art Academy in Rome.

2012 Presentation in Saad Zaghlol Museum “ Artist Archive project “

2012 Master in Fine Arts from Tsukuba University School of Art and design (Japan)

2011 Solo exhibition in Moineau Gallery (Tokyo city – Japan)

2011 Exhibiting with artist Tsunemi Fujiyo in JICA Global PLAZA (Tokyo City - Japan)

2010 – 2012 Group exhibitions: Tsukuba Art Museum & Meguro Art Museum Tokyo

2010 Participated in Realtime Documentary Embroidery - Barcelona

2007 First Solo exhibition in Alexandria Bibliothèque

2008 Granted Monbukagakusho scholarship to study art in Japan

2005 Master Degree in Fine Arts – Helwan University.

Artist’s statement

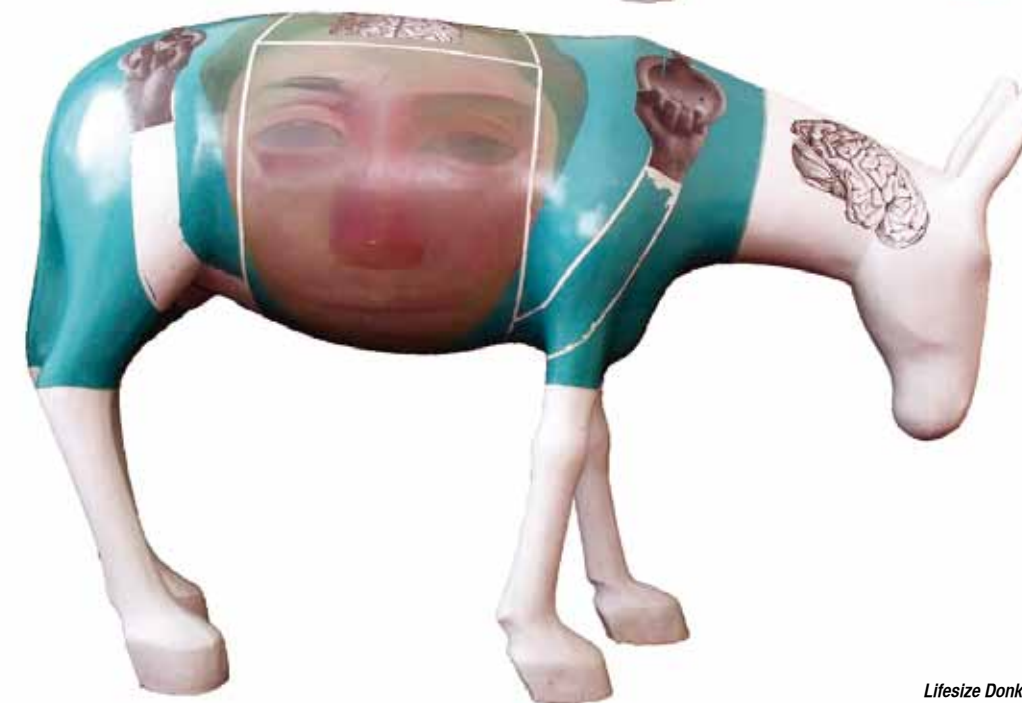
“Among the paintings that described Mary’s and Christ’s flight to Egypt, my favorites were the ones that bring consciousness of the donkey’s actual presence. My work in the Caravan Festival reflects on a creature generally known as the beast of burden. Being wise and gentle he bears with people throughout the road, wearing them like a second skin, no matter which country, which religion and which race they belong to. Incarnation of unconditional acceptance, not only of people, but also of life and all that it brings.”



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Reda Abdel Rahman

Born in Ismailia, Egypt and studied at the University of Minya at the College of Fine Arts, surrounded by pharaonic monuments and Coptic monasteries. His artistic expression focuses on the relationship between his ancient Egyptian heritage and the demands of contemporary life. Themes of happiness, indeed "a good life," are intricately related to what is gleaned from the fields of Egypt and the Nile valley. Reda's work draws strength from the nurturing Nile, serving as a source of creativity. Reda has been seen as groundbreaking in that he draws and presents to us the naked or semi-naked female figure in his pictures, believing profoundly that women are central to the wellbeing of the family which is a commonly held value in Egyptian society.

Through Reda's work we see the combination of pharaonic and decorative motifs. He draws a direct relationship to the hieroglyphs that the ancients left behind. Indeed, his work can take on monumental proportions, whether it is large canvases or murals, depicting scenes that are of old yet at the same time new. More recently he has powerfully focused on the Egyptian revolutionary events of January 2011. Not only has Reda enjoyed a prolific and international career in the Arts but also he has helped found symposiums, led workshops, established an art magazine and curates a gallery in downtown Cairo, both of which are titled Portrait.

Artist's statement (large donkey) "The Renaissance donkey"

I always feel that there is a connection between the donkey and the Egyptian citizen who is always crushed and poor. I divided the body into two parts to make a political statement. The rear section symbolizes the military, which often blindly pushes their agenda without taking into consideration the results. The front section represents a leader that is a face of an unhealthy troika: financial authority and the religious fascism and military mafia. I hold them responsible for all the Egyptians who died during the revolution. I invite observers to write a statement on one of the small mummies and place them in the basket that the donkey is bearing, and thereby symbolically taking the responsibility of all the martyrs as a result of these three aggressive powers: the money, religion and military.

Artist's statement (small donkey) "The love donkey"

I always feel that there is a connection between the donkey and the Egyptian citizen who is always crushed and poor. This donkey depicts natural scenes of Egypt and also Nut, the goddess of the sky and all heavenly bodies. I put two loving birds on its back as a symbol of peace, prosperity and love, which is my wish for the whole world.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Sabah Naim

Sabah Naim is an Egyptian visual artist who was born in 1967. Several works by the artist have been sold at auction, including 'Untitled' sold at Sotheby's London 'Contemporary Art including Arab & Iranian Art'. There have been several articles about Sabah Naim, including 'THIS WEEK'S NEWS ROUNDUP' written for Saatchi Online in 2009. Sabah Naim lives and works in Cairo, where she is a professor at the College of Art Education. Recent exhibitions include solo shows at B21 Gallery in Dubai and Galleria Lia Rumma in Naples and Townhouse Gallery in Cairo, as well as the traveling group shows "Africa Remix" and "Word into Art."

BFA (1990) MFA (1996) PhD (2003): College of Art Education, Cairo, Egypt

Solo Exhibitions:

2008 B21 Gallery, Dubai

2007 Lia Rumma Gallery, Naples, Italy

2006 Karin Francis, Cairo, Egypt

2004 Cairo Atelier, Cairo, Egypt

2004 Lisa Rumma Gallery, Milas, Italy

2001 Part of Cairo Modern Art in Holland Circus theater, the Hague, Holland

2001 Goethe Institute, Cairo, Egypt

2000 Gezira Arts Center, Cairo, Egypt

2000, 1999 Townhouse Gallery, Cairo, Egypt

1998 Cairo Atelier, Cairo, Egypt

Artist's statement

The donkey.... It is always bearing lots of heavy loads and troubles. We can see it with its grey color, and how it surrenders to the things around it and the others would ignore its presence without it is being angry or rebellious about the surrounding reality. I got the chance to let it feel something different. My donkey is yellow, full of colorful flowers, and a tree that grows in every direction that makes it full of optimism, vitality and hope. It moves around the whole world with its usual calmness and carries prosperity, peace and hope. And it makes me smile in this world, which is filled with craziness



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Sameh Ismail

Sameh Ismail, born in Cairo in 1974, is a Visual artist and Calligrapher. He studied classical Arabic Calligraphy and then received a BA of Fine Arts. He worked as a graphic designer for Egyptian TV. Sameh has become a renowned artist in Egypt and abroad, working with advertising agencies as a freelance graphic Designer and Calligrapher. He is credited with Calligraphy work for the famous Egyptian director, Youssef Chahian's film, Al Masseur. He has participated in numerous exhibitions in Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan, Barcelona. In successfully breaking with tradition, Ismail's beautiful Calligraphy has evolved into more of an elegant street culture style.

1990 – 1992 studied the Classic Arabic Calligraphy

1997 BA of Fine Arts – Helwan University – Graphics & Book Art

Artist's statement: A Donkey from the East

(Dedicated to the soul of the satirical writer Mahmoud El Saadany)

The following words are from the introduction of Mahmoud El Saadany's book Donkey from the East.

We are serious in humorous times, and we are humorous in serious times. Our tragedy is deeper than Kalliona sons', the tragedy Kalliona referred to when he said: "my kids' tragedy is that they speak when they should listen, and they listen when they should speak." Our tragedy is deeper than Kalliona's, because our donkeys "which belong to us" fight when they should negotiate, and they negotiate when they should fight.

It is characteristic of our lives and a sign of our generation that we judge with iron and fire and we issue books about democracy. We create parliamentary councils and prevent its members from talking or discussion; if they speak or start to discuss, we turn them over to the court of shame, the revolution command council or the people's committee. In this donkey era, we have one system and different slogans.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Shayma Aziz

Shayma Aziz is an international visual artist, whose work combines traditional fine art skills with new media practice, focusing particularly on painting, video and animation. She was born in Asyut, Egypt in 1981 and obtained a BFA in painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Luxor, Egypt in 2004 and now lives and works in Cairo, Egypt.

Aziz has exhibited widely, both in Egypt and abroad, including exhibitions in Berlin, New York, Thessaloniki, Tehran, Beirut, Budapest and Marseilles. In 2012 her series "Spectral Characters in Cairo Town" was exhibited in New Cairo Atelier in a solo exhibition.

An important part of Aziz's practice involves participation in international residency programmes (including those in Italy and France) where she is able to bring her own skills and knowledge as a Egyptian artist and engage with local communities and artists around the world, bringing the knowledge she gains back to artists in Egypt and developing her work within an international framework.

Artist's statement (large donkey) "On the clouds"

The Lifesize donkey sculpture is painted in hues of greens and blues to convey an oneiric scape between the sea and the sky. It's spotted with figures resting and floating on cloudy shapes. As the donkey is culturally known in Egypt as a main means of transportation, in the countryside and also in the city, I am using this donkey here as a vehicle to a fantasy world. Each figure is travelling on its own cloud and dreaming, yet touching the cloud of the other at the same time, giving a feeling of distant connection... each in their own world, each are connected... with the donkey's back as a common ground.

Artist's statement (small donkey) "Moon faces"

The small donkey has been painted in carmen red and decorated with round glowy faces inspired by the moon's, giving a feeling of an unexpected spacious scape on a small donkey's back, using it as a carrier that is not limited to only people.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Anne-Francoise Giraud

Anne Francoise was naturally drawn to collage some twenty years ago. She was then living in Turkey, and it allowed her to settle and express her vision of the world in a sensitive and original way. Since her first exhibition in Ankara, she kept on assembling papers, photos, fabrics and various materials, transposing with poetry her daily life.

Upon her return to Paris, she completed a dance training course which resulted in an increased emphasis of movement, harmony, search for balance and unity in her work.

In Egypt, where she has now been living for four years, her creative work found an inexhaustible source of inspiration and new vibrations. She has participated in various exhibitions.

Furthermore she organizes self-expression activities in a center for mentally disabled women and takes oriental dance class.

Artist's statement

Peace originates from the acknowledgement of the other, of others, and therefore from diversity.

I wanted to express this idea by adorning my donkeys with a mosaic of colors, an interlacing of shapes, an assemblage of material. Harmony arises from disparity; unity emerges from multitude.

Not only a symbol of compassion and humility, the donkey is also a peace messenger, carrying hopes of all religious cultures and popular beliefs: prayers, invocations, gris-gris, and charms underline the universal quest for happiness.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Barbara Elnimra Gerber

Barbara Elnimra Gerber, free artist, painter/dancer performer from Switzerland living in Cairo, el-Darb el-Ahmar.

2013 deeply touched by a trip to north India nearly lost my way. Had to go to Aswan, stay some days on felucca, breeze and "come back"... now I continue my embroideries with tiny beads and sequins, colorful and shiny improvisations which make you forget all the ugly things of life...am dancing and painting as well.

Artist's statement (large donkey) "The Donkey's Dream"

I love the donkey. He is so strong with his thin legs and fast tiny steps...

sometimes when a donkey is standing in the street, waiting and having a rest, I feel, he is not really here – he is dreaming!...and I think these dreams are keeping his heart warm and help him to carry his heavy burden.

... and if mankind had no more dreams, this would be real poverty!

Artist's statement (small donkey) "Protection"

As I live in a popular area, I am familiar with donkeys, always talking with some of them and many times I have pieces of apples and carrots in my pocket. I love the donkey, he is always friendly – and caressing his long soft velvet ears makes me feel so fine.

...in India I met a goat wearing a t-shirt.....and so I give to the little donkey my most colorful jacket, to protect him.

While speaking about little donkey I am thinking on children, mothers and fathers...



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Britt Boutros Ghali

Britt was born in the north of Norway has now lived in Egypt for the past 35 years.

She has exhibited in Europe, the United States of America and the Middle East. Britt's works are found in private collections and museums around the world.

In 1996 Britt was awarded the Order of St. Olaf by H.M. King Harald of Norway. This award is the highest honor given to a living artist for promoting Norwegian art around the world.

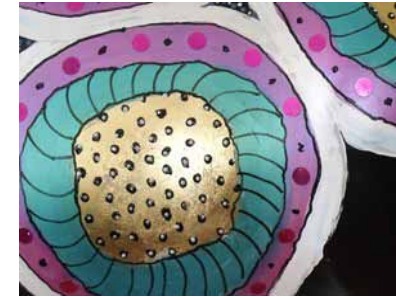
Britt lives and works in Cairo, Egypt.

Artist's statement

My painted donkeys are made to bring happiness and prosperity and joy.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Claire Marie Pearman

Born in Turkey in 1967, Claire Marie was educated in the UK and graduated from the American University in Cairo in 1990 with a BA in Psychology.

She lives and works in Cairo specializing in paper and metal sculptures and installations. Claire Marie's work often incorporates symbolic elements and is inspired by nature.

She has exhibited her work in both the UK and Egypt.

Artist's statement (large donkey) "Peace and Compassion"

Barbed wire is wound up the donkey's legs to portray conflict and the struggle for peace. Higher up, it morphs into a rambling rose; the thorns symbolic of the ongoing work that needs to be done to maintain peace once it has been achieved and the roses representing compassion.

Egyptian folklore has been referenced a little with the bloody hand print and the blue eyes. Locally, the hand print is done for good luck but I find it evokes a visceral, negative reaction and have used it to symbolize the blood of innocents that is shed in conflict. This highlights how the same image can be viewed so alternatively by different cultural groups.

The blue eyes are a nod to the 'evil eye' which keeps bad spirits

away, hence the donkey and its message of peace compassion will be protected.

Artist's statement (small donkey) "The Will to Live"

Bright colours have been used to celebrate life, to reflect the joyful aspect of the donkey. The poem, The Will to Live by Tunisian poet, Abu alQasim alShabi (1909 1934), is written on one side of the donkey to inspire and encourage.

The two sides are painted differently to evoke alternate moods and to emphasize the beautiful lines of the sculpture.

The Will to Live

"If, one day, a people desires to live, then fate will answer their call.

And their night will then begin to fade, and their chains break and fall.

For he who is not embraced by a passion for life will dissipate into thin air, At least that is what all creation has told me, and what its hidden spirits declare..."

Translated by Elliott Colla.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Cosima Lukashevich

"My name, Cosima (besides being derived from the names of Saints' Cosmos and Damian, early Christian Church representatives of altruistic healing and holiness) comes from the word Cosmos, meaning the universe, the root of the word, Cosmopolitan; someone at home in the universe, universally at home wherever they may be. It suits me being a German born American living in Egypt for quite a while. I AM home...In all these places."

Cosima has lived the union of cultural roots on three continents including German parents that immigrated to America in her early childhood, incorporating modern Egyptian life through marriage and motherhood that led her to live in Egypt for the past 15 years. During most of that she has been on her own studying, absorbing and reintegrating her ancient European family roots that are rich in the creative arts to her present home soil of Egypt.

She has exhibited and attended workshops in the Middle East and in Europe (Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Germany, France, Switzerland, Lithuania, and Ireland) and offers private and group classes while she continues to develop pieces large and small by commission as well as her numerous series of works on paper and also paintings on canvas.

Artist's statement

The donkey form became creatively a window through which life shines. Arising spontaneously in the paint itself came so many other animal forms and faces, the animal world pressed forth to show itself. I respond to their emergence in the materials with an awakened and expanded sense of compassion for them. Could that be their role in our lives so that we find a greater human sense of compassion in dealing with all life here on our mutual home, Earth? And the peace we would experience from that compassionate living in harmony and respect if we did so.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Julie Oxenforth

A British artist born in 1966, Julie has lived in Egypt since 2007. She is a yoga teacher and Reiki Master in Dahab on the Red Sea.

Julie attended art school in the UK: Grimsby School of Art 1984 -1986, Canterbury College of Art 1986 – 1988 and graduated with an MA in Fine Art from the University of Sunderland in 2005.

With a solid background of life drawing and figurative sculpture, Julie now works in mixed media including video, photography, collage and installation to express her concerns. The overall theme of her work plays with boundaries; blurring and redefining them, and is ultimately an invitation for the viewer to step into Being.

Artist's statement

I am a process artist so the result is not a conclusion but a place on the bank of a creative river where I chose to pause.

The artwork rejects the decorated surface and slick finish, the donkeys are chipped, scratched and bear the traces of service. The donkey is the abused slave of man and man is a slave to his beliefs and conditioning. Freed from their burden but still showing the scars, like us they are beautiful because they are real.

If my donkeys are sold, with the 80% I receive, I pledge to use all of it for rescuing abused street dogs and sending them to homes in the UK.

As the donkey was a given, I continue this theme and invite the purchaser of the small donkey to continue painting on it thus challenging the concept of ownership. We are all co-creators in this world.



Small Donkey



Lifesize Donkey



Katrina Vrebalovich

Katrina went to Parson's School of Design in New York City. She has had a long experience with various forms of art: painting, murals in mixed media, jewelry, wearable art, and public art. She exhibits internationally.

Artist's statement

Sophia has birthed a new Golden Age of tolerance, compassion, joy and peace, and her cosmic baby who brings balance and love.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Kimberly Odekirk

Kimberly is a wellknown American artist bridging Eastern beauty with a Western flare. Exploring a new arena of artistic expression you'll find the multimedia paintings of Kimberly Odekirk cross established boundaries of tool and medium to celebrate the rich cultural context of human life. American born, Kimberly is a resident of Egypt and a member of the faculty of art at Cairo American College. She holds graduate art degrees from California and Washington, with specialization in textiles and design.

Ms. Odekirk participates annually in both solo and group exhibitions. Boasting close to 600 paintings around the world, she's been featured on CNN, Channel One TV, Nile TV, and in numerous magazines and newspapers. Corporate collections include the regional offices of Coca

Cola, Oberoi headquarters, Queen of Angeles Hospital, Cairo American College, various hotels and private collectors.

Artist's statement

Two donkeys, rambling through a beautiful garden, where life is perfect. Utopia, if you will. If you look closely, you'll see the sign of peace, barely visible. Although secreted within the ivy, it is the most important element in this scenario, because a Field of Dreams and the Garden of Eden are surely diminished without the element of peace. Sadly, it is so illusive.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Mariann Villadsen

Mariann was born in Denmark in 1967. She has been living in Europe, Asia and Africa.

Educated as a Montessori Director, the work with children inspired her to start painting.

She is painting modern abstract expressionists painting. She is using remnants of Egyptian culture and her own Scandinavian heritage. She expresses herself through vibrant colours. Her art has been displayed in galleries, art shows and the royal embassy of Denmark. Her paintings have been displayed in solo and group exhibitions. Her paintings have been sold to private collectors and companies worldwide.

Artist's statement

I believe art is a risky undertaking, which finds the artist seeking answers to elusive questions of creativity. I personally come out from such undertakings with questions rather than answers.

In Peace and With Compassion

I was entrusted with two donkeys to decorate and with compassion to Egypt, it's people and its culture, I decorated them in their original form in order to exaggerate their true meaning of "peace". The same peace that Egypt so needs to move on.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Mars

2007 2008 Vorkurs HSLU Design + Art

2008 2011 Bachelor of Art and Community Design HSLU

2011 – Member of the Customs House Lucern

2012 Studio scholarship in Kairo, February - July 2013

Exhibitions:

2012 TRANSFORM - Bern 2012

Lost in Tugium, Kunstparcour, Zug 2012

Dramatic Pause, Altstadtthalle, Zug 2012

Paul, Norman and Eloise, the vegetables, on a boat - artists as storytellers, Sic! Raum für Kunst, Luzern

Internationaler Frauentag, 8. März, Zug 2011

Aldo Walker auf dem Tandem mit..., Haus für Kunst Uri, Altdorf 2011

Werkschau 2011 HSLU D+K, Messehalle, Luzern 2009

Shift in Progress, Shiffestival, Basel 2009

Praxis Papiersaal, Papiersaal, Zürich 2009

200Gang Vernissage, Barfüsser, Luzern

Artist's statement

A donkey painted in moon yellow carries a metal construction. Onto this construction a megaphone is attached, out of which a continuous flow of "welcomes!" emerges.



Small Donkey



Lifesize Donkey



Renata Dyk

She was born in Poland. In 1996, she graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, and received her MA degree in Conservation of Painting. For many years, Renata worked as an art restorer in churches, palaces, and auction houses in Poland. She also painted numerous copies of masterpieces from famous artists, which are now in private collections in France, the UK, Germany, the USA, and Poland.

For several years, she also worked as an interior designer. She is a professional cartoon animator as well. For a period of time, she worked at "The Film Studio" in Warsaw.

She became a member of The Association of Polish Artists (ZPAP).

In 2006, she moved to Cairo, Egypt where she lives until this day.

For the last few years, she has been focusing on creating her own personal style of painting. Her inspiration has been drawn from nature, and the local architecture. Recently, she has taken up teaching painting to groups of students, with considerable success.

Artist's statement: "The Donkey of Hope"

Compassion signifies an open heart and mind towards others. It gives us hope for peace and quiet, life filled with agreement. There is always space for all: the old and the new, for what comes and leaves.

"The Donkey of Hope" brings also desire for the birth of positive human feelings, being filled with symbols for hope, sympathy and understanding for others, mercy and Peace.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Renee Van LilleDemetroudes

1988 – 1991: National Diploma in Textile Design - Pretoria Technikon – South Africa.

1992 – 1994: Textile Designer at David Whiteheads Textiles - Kwazulu Natal – South Africa.

1995: Established own business as commercial artist - Pretoria - Administrative Capital of South Africa.

Clientele consisted of: Businesses, Hotels, Schools, Government Departments and private commissions.

In addition to the commissions from within South Africa, she has works on display in Washington D.C. (World Bank), London and Mauritius (British American Insurance Company).

2004 2008: Relocated to Mauritius.

2009: Relocated to Egypt

Artist's statement

Without peace and compassion there is no way forward for Egypt.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey



Sonja Moser

Sonja Moser, born in Austria, is primarily a figurative painter who began her painting journey in New Orleans while studying Jazz piano. She moved to New York after the floods of Katrina, where she became involved in artist collectives, and gained an extensive collector base.

Her work is inspired by her immediate vicinity and the various characters moving within it. In magnifying the human spirit with emotional expressiveness, her aim is to let individuality shine through. She finds it effortless to uncover beauty in the peripheral, in the stranger contemplating his existence, or a stray dog roaming about.

Tracing everyday existence, she treats painting as a narrative, unearthing and illuminating that which lies beyond the surface. Sonja had two solo exhibits in her native Austria, before moving to Cairo in 2009, where she has exhibited work that is strongly influenced by Egyptian culture.

EXHIBITIONS: 2012-Solo Exhibit in Austria, Kirnberg, Galerie PenzenauerGriessler; Group Exhibits in Cairo - Zamalek, The Gallery, Galerie Urban Nomads, Caravan Festival

2011, 2010-Solo Exhibit in Cairo, Galerie Verlenden

2009, 2008-Solo Exhibit in Austria, Teichfest, Reidling, Hofstetten

2006/07-Group Exhibits in New York;

2005-Solo and Group Exhibits in New Orleans

Artist's statement

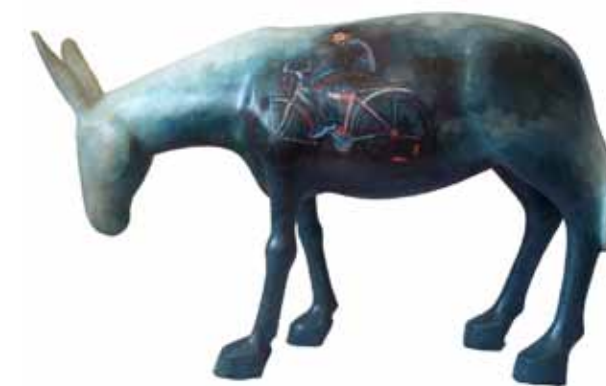
Peace and compassion become tangible when embraced from within a nondual perspective, where all is one, where an integrative worldview requires the ability to see beyond differences. Hegel said, "to transform is at once both to negate and to preserve," in other words, to transcend and include, to build emotional bridges to link the narrow and outmoded with the expanded and the new, to not view them in isolation, where one would stagnate and the other vaporize, but rather view them in conjunction, allowing for a richer and more luminous reality to emerge, from which it is easy to see that what occurs around us is a manifestation of our inner state, collectively and individually. With this awareness a cultivation of a culture of peace becomes attainable.



Small Donkey



Detail



Lifesize Donkey

VENUES IN CAIRO

The donkeys were exhibited at the following locations around Cairo for a two-week period after the opening night of the Festival.

HOTELS

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL CAIRO AT THE FIRST RESIDENCE

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL CAIRO AT NILE PLAZA

KEMPINSKI NILE HOTEL

CAIRO MARRIOTT HOTEL

SOFITEL CAIRO EL GEZIRAH

GALLERIES

PICASSO

MASHRABEYYA

GALLERY MISR

ZAMALEK ART GALLERY

ART TALKS

AL MASAR

OTHER

BRITISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSOCIATION (MAADI)

ST JOHN'S CHURCH (MAADI)

CAIRO AMERICAN COLLEGE

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF CAIRO

APACHE Co.