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Writer, Curator, Critic and
Educator

Ismail Fayed

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17+ years writer and critic

Over 17 years experience writing and covering contemporary artistic practices in Egypt with a focus on visual arts, film and contemporary literature

10+ years educator

Prepared, developed and taught alternative educational modules on art history, history of art appreciation, intellectual history of 20th C Egypt.

10+ curator

A curatorial practice focused on research-based approach, close collaboration with artists and accounting for site specificity and targeted audience

Selected Projects

ASIKO Art School

Cairo, 2025

Designed, developed and led the artistic program of the ASIKO Art School for the Cairo edition, 2025. The roaming academy invite African artists from all over the continent to think and deepen their practice in relation to the context of African cities and their global as well as local context

ÀSÌKÒ
CAIRO
القاهرة
2025

ISMAIL FAYED



Artistic Strand Lead

cca lagos
CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, LAGOS

Selected Projects

Against All Odds 2022-

A research project on the history of contemporary art in Egypt (2000-2022). The project includes archival research and tracing and locating physical and digital documents across institutional and personal collections, as well as a parallel public program

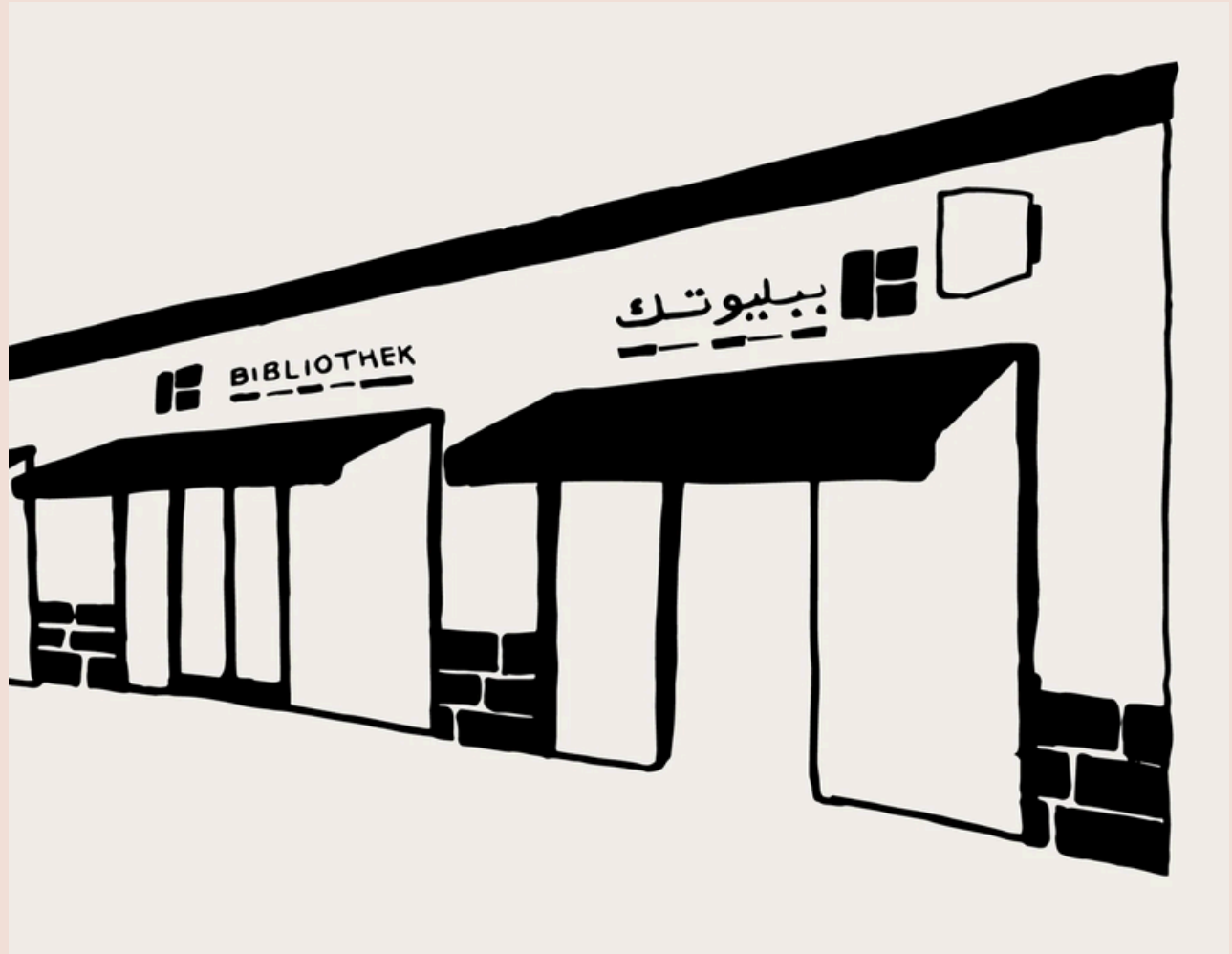


Selected Projects

Bibliothek Cultural Hub

(2019-2024)

Worked on developing the overall cultural and artistic vision of the cultural hub, specifically building one-of-a-kind collection of specialized art books on contemporary artistic practices of Egypt and the Middle East. As well as curating a program of exhibitions focusing on visual arts and film history.



Selected Projects

ATHR Gallery

(2019-2024)

Worked on several projects with ATHR team, developing content, fact-checking, reviewing and copyediting major proposals such as Noor Riyadh Festival , Tuwaiq International Sculpture Symposium (TISS) and teamLab Borderless Jeddah, in addition to editing and translating artists' bios and exhibition catalogs of major Saudi and international artists.

The logo for ATHR, featuring the Arabic word 'أثر' (Athar) in a stylized, modern font above the English word 'ATHR' in a clean, sans-serif typeface.

Selected Projects

History and Cultural Memory Forum

(2015 -)

Initiated, along with researcher Fouad Halbouni, the History and Cultural and Memory Forum, a public forum aimed at examining political and cultural reality post-2011 by looking at post-colonial and post-independence legacies of Arab states and their afterlives. The forum organized to date, five public seminars and published three publications.

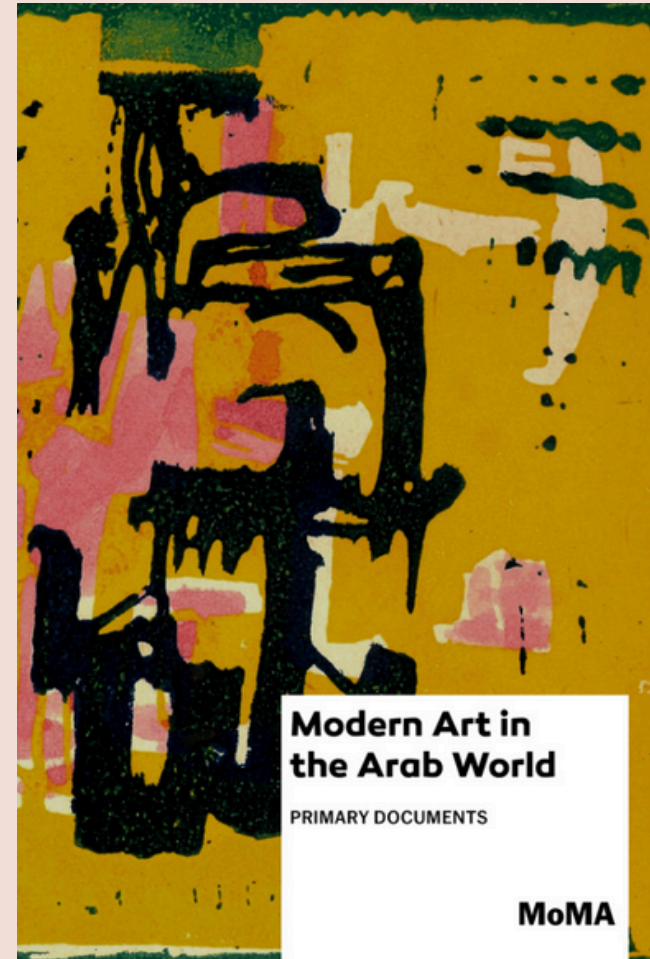


Selected Projects

Modern Art in the Arab World: Primary Documents

(2014-2018)

Responsible for researching, editing and translating material for MoMA's first publication of its kind on history of Modern Art of the Arab World. In addition to securing all the copyright for original texts and artworks used for the publication which is part of the series Primary Documents, published by the Museum of Modern Art in New York

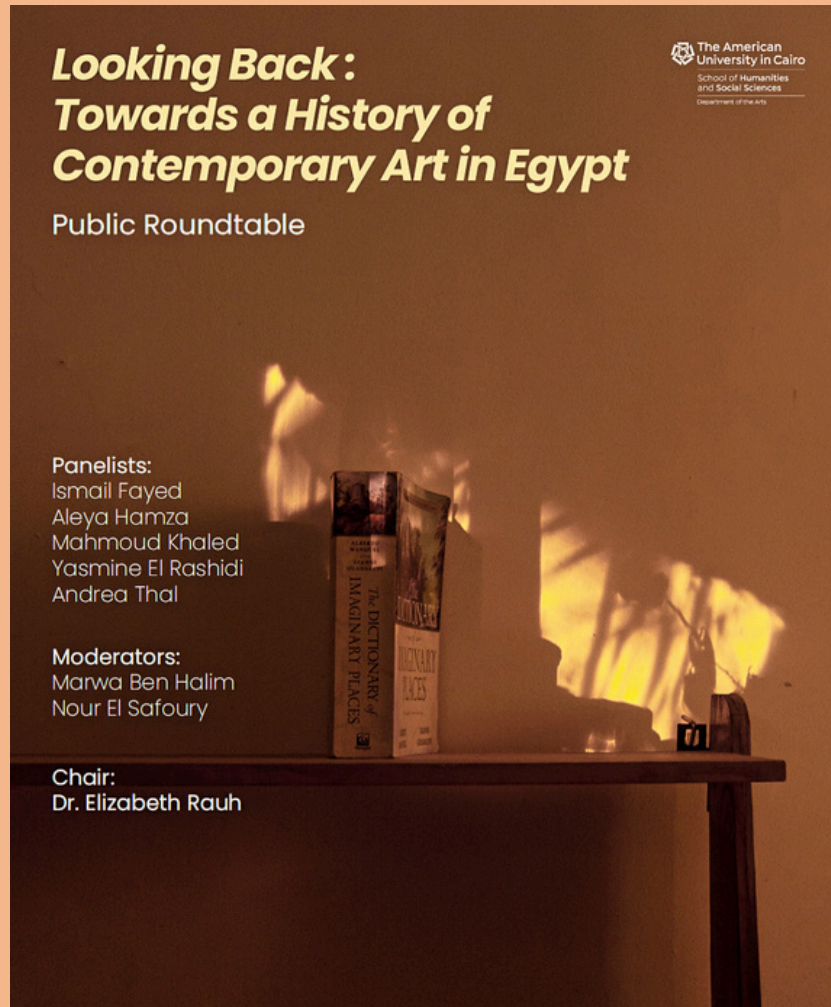


Curatorial & Speaking Engagements (Selections)

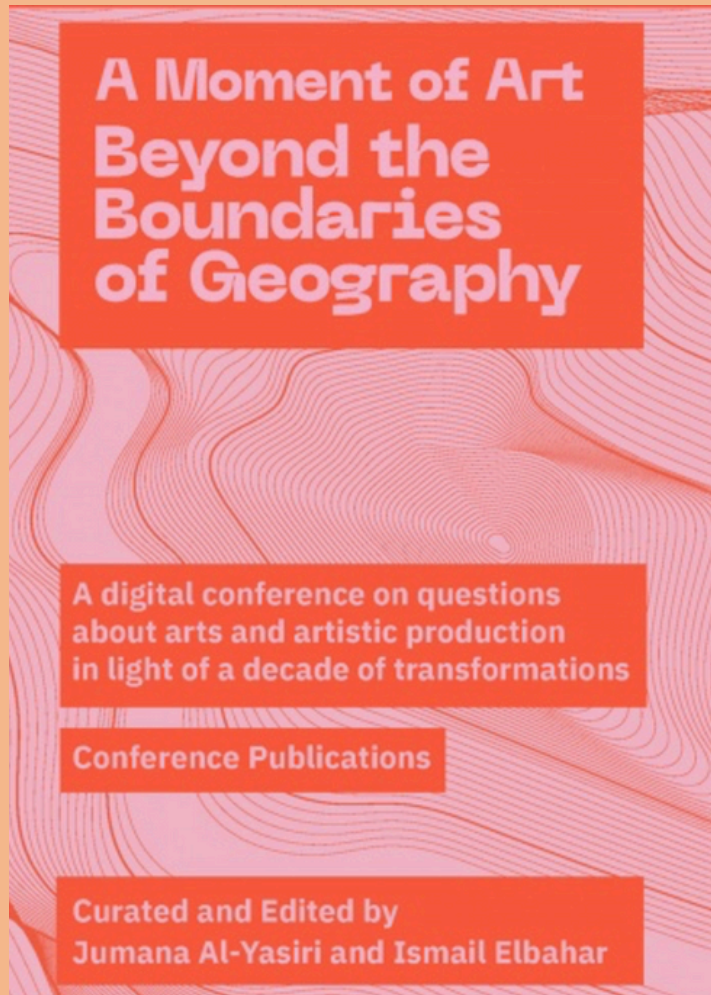


*Political Imagination and the
Postcolonial in Contemporary Egypt,
EUME Berliner Seminar, Forum
Transregionale Studien, Berlin (July,
2023)*

Curatorial & Speaking Engagements



Whose History? An Attempt to
Situate Contemporary Art in Egypt,
Department of Visual Arts,
American University in Cairo
(October, 2022)



Curatorial & Speaking Engagements

A Moment of Art: Beyond Geographical Confinement, Digital Conference, Ettijahat- Independent Culture (November, 2021)

SHUBBAK FESTIVAL 2019



Curatorial & Speaking Engagements

Shubbak: A Window on Contemporary Arab Culture, London (July, 2019)

Curatorial & Speaking Engagements



Watch and Write, Festival
Theaterformen, Braunschweig (4-17
June 2018)

Teaching and Lecturing (selections)

Counter Academy for Arab Journalism (2024)

Problematics and Approaches to Critical Writing,
Gender and Sexuality as a Critical Lens, (April, 2024)

Cairo Institute for Liberal Arts and Sciences (2016-2020)

How do we talk about death?, (2022)


Memory, History and Identity, (2019)

Reading the Self: Autobiography and the Making and
Unmaking of the Modern Subject in Egypt (September
2019)

Contemporary Image Collective (2015)

Concerning Violence and the Image (2015)

Educational Background



American University in Cairo

Pre-Masterm Comparative Politics of
the Middle East, (Fall, 2010)

Cairo University

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and
Economics, Faculty of Political Science
and Economics, (June 2004)

References

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