



Since the late nineteenth century Cairo has been a premiere center for the production of modern visual and literary art in the Arab world and far beyond. Over a period spanning three centuries, artists have produced groundbreaking and canonical work that has been, and continues to be, integral to a rich cultural landscape. At each turn musicians, playwrights, filmmakers, curators, artists, and writers have wrestled with the blurry boundaries between profits and aesthetics, the state and the public, and culture and politics. The longevity and power of these boundaries, and the artist's role in testing and transgressing them, come into view in times of crisis and flux.

One such definitive moment was the January 25 Revolution. Commentators and observers ubiquitously identified 2011 as a moment of rupture that gave birth to new practices of producing and consuming the arts in Egypt, a cultural fever of sorts. Many of these renditions work, if unwittingly, to flatten Egypt's artistic topography, and render it as derivative of narrow understandings of the political. Romanticizing the revolution as a self-evident rupture seamlessly ties the production of art to the successful mimesis of an amorphous and seemingly unchanging West. Geographic boundaries appear as essential and mutually exclusive. In such renditions the arts scene of Egypt, as well as the broader Arab world, are resigned to an always-already temporal lag . . .

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## Papers and Presentations

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Introduction: Reflections on the Cultural Field.

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Towards a Cultural Cartography: On Strategies of Language.

**Ilka Eickhof**

On Funding and Sustainability: Cultural Work in Egypt

**Omar Nagati and Beth Stryker**

On Mapping Cultural Initiatives and Revolution

**Salam Yousry**

Audiences, Revolution, and Cultural Initiatives

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Independent or Precariously Alternative: the Movie Business in Egypt

**Mohammad Shawky Hassan**

On the Construction of Cultural Networks

Additional Output authored by all of the above participants: "Reflections on Cultural Work in Egypt: A Roundtable"