CAIRO

IMAGES OF TRANSITION

PERSPECTIVES ON VISUALITY IN EGYPT 2011-2013

EDITED BY MIKALA HYDLIG DAL



[transcript]

Urban**S**tudies

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 META-IMAGE TAHRIR

07 Editor's note: Mikala Hyldig Dal

10 Mindmaps

A preliminary overview of the book's contents in the flux of process

16 "Meta Image Tahrir" Introduction:

Mikala Hyldig Dal, reflects on the iconization of the revolution and Tahrir's entry into the global imaginary

20 Tahrir Square: Social Media, Public Space: Mohamed Elshahed, architect, reviews the history of Midan El Tahrir as an architectural space and describes its transformation during the 18

26 The Tain of Tahrir: Kaya Behkalam, filmmaker, describes the curfew imposed

days of January and February

2011

by security forces in the wake of the revolution of 2011 as an iconoclastic act

36 Blind Spots (unfinished manuscript for a stage play):

Various contributors

An unordered set of scene descriptions for a manuscript attempt to trace the erasure of protestors' vision in the Egyptian uprising to a global power struggle over visual representation. The scenes have been collected during open editing sessions of this book

38 The Language of Tahrir – Working Together on Translating Egypt's Revolution:

Samia Mehrez, scholar, reflects on the collaborative process of writing the 2012 book "Translating Egypt's Revolution: The Language of Tahrir"

42 2011 is not 1968:

Philip Rizk, filmmaker and member of Mosireen Video Collective, reflects on image politics and international viewership during the January 25 revolution and reaches the conclusion: The subaltern cannot blog

48, 50, 80, 100, 101, 119, 174 Egyptian Letters: Eliane Ursula Ettmueller

Ph.D in Islamic Studies, kept an extensive blog that documents the political developments in Egypt 2011-2012 in the form of personal encounters and observations

76 Warnmeldungen/
Security reports part 1:
Alexandra Stock, curator, has tracked the representation of the situation in Egypt by Egyptian embassies abroad, in hand-drawn word clouds

2 PACE:

Ellis Johnson and Susanne Slavick, visual artists, superimpose national emblems of the US and Egypt in a play on the geopolitical power relations that bind the two nations 84 Springtime in Alexandria connects the destruction of a governmental building in Alexandria with the mythology of ancient Egypt

90 Shrouds II:

Monika Weiss, artist, discusses her plans for a future performance at Midan Tahrir, shaped by the notion of loss and the healing power of lament

94 Today we are all Egyptians: Jane Jin Kaisen and Guston Sondin-Kung, artists, account of the increasingly tense environment in downtown Cairo one year after the 2011

102 Caption of the revolution:

revolution, in the form of di-

ary notes

Nele Broenner, comic artist, examines gendered news language in Western media coverage of Egypt 2011-2012, in hand-drawn text-collages

106 Mashrabiya: Recension of Al-Ahram newspaper, Cairo Feb 12, 2011: Kaya Behkalam

The newspaper from the day after former president Mubarak stepped down is emptied of all text and image contents, leaving only the negative space of its framing

108 Crop: Marouan Omara and Johanna Domke, filmmakers,

Johanna Domke, filmmakers, follow the development of official image-politics in Egypt over six decades, through interviews with Egyptian photojournalists

114 Work is our only solution:

Daniel Rode, visual artist, translates the formal aesthetic of program-errors in Cairo's advertising system into light based installations

Throughout chapter Images by Mosa'ab Elshamy Andreas Sicklinger, Joscelyn Jurich, Mona Amr, Jane Jin Kaisen, Daniel Rode, Steve Double images from the archives of Mosireen Video Collective, Tahrir Media Tent, Cairo: Images of Transition, Collective Image Archive (C.I.A)



126 "Politics of Representation" Introduction:

Mikala Hyldig Dal discusses the functional usage of visual imagery in the electoral processes of 2011-2012

130 Temporary

Mahmoud Khaled, photographer, has documented outdoor election campaign advertising in Ismailiya

136 Poster Archive:
Various contributors (Cairo Images/C.I.A) An archive of posters from the constitutional referendum of 2011, the parliamentary elections 2011-2012, the presidential elections 2012 and the constitutional referendum of 2012 (continuous throughout chapter)

146 "The Politics of Representation" – Notes on an Exhibition at Townhouse Gallery:

Dina Kafafi, program coordinator, discusses the gesture of exhibiting election ephemera in a gallery space

154 Visual Election Campaigning in Egypt: Fred

Meier-Menzel, graphic designer, describes the function of visual communication in the Egyptian electoral system and discusses its politics of female representation

162 Get a designer's viewpoint on election symbols: Fred Meier-Menzel and Mikala Hyldig Dal document a research workshop at Fair Trade Egypt in Cairo

164 Student works Hana Sadek, Sara Sarhan, Amina Shafiq, Mina Nader, Forat Sami, Nadia Wernli, Ali Heraize, and Rana Elgohary, media design students from the German University in Cairo, reflect their analyses of parliamentary campaign posters visually 172 Old Eyes, Young Words: Nikolai Burger & Mona Khaled Diab, product designer and teaching assistant, discuss how Egyptian voters' decision-making might be influenced by obiect-based

180 Growth & One-Line-Note:

visual communication

Abla Mohamed, design student, documents the traces left on her body as she cast her vote for the first time

186 The Fool's Journal – 2012 (work in progress): Huda Lutfi, artist, has used newspaper clippings to form a fool's hat from the media coverage of the presidential elections of 2012

188 The experience of an implausible female candidate for presidency: Mona El Prince, lecturer of English literature and activist, inscribes the reactions of her peers after announcing to run for president in 2012

192 Presenting Khaled Ali: Sarah Borger & Bogdan Vasili, editor and scholar, recount their involvement in designing a poster-campaign for civil-rights lawyer and

2012 presidential candidate

Khaled Ali

196 Two ears, one mouth: Jakob Erie, director of the Danish Egyptian Dialogue Institute (DEDI), discusses statistical information related to voter behavior in the 2011-2012 elections

198 QOMRA - An Online Platform for Political Participation:

Dina Kafafi argues for the necessity of independent political education in Egypt

200 Design education and Social Progress:

Qassim Mohammed Saleh Saad, product designer, argues in favour of increased social awareness in design education

202 Youth's Reflections on Change:

Amira Mansshour, Sandra Nagy, Alia Yassin, Mirna Alfred, (Mona Amr)

graphic design students from lecturer Alexander Tibus' class on information design at the German University in Cairo, have created posters that condense statistical information about current political developments

206 If I Were President: Amado Fadni, artist, distributed blank election posters throughout Cairo to encourage citizens to define their own political programs

210 Who are you voting for?:

Hamdy Reda, artist and manager of the independent project-space Artellewa, initiated a poster campaign that promoted the social values of anonymous citizens

211 Bakaboza:

Nini Ayach, cultural worker, organized a public rally for the fictitious presidential candidate "Bakaboza"

212 Sing it out loud, Brother – Impressions from a Muslim Brothers Campaign Rally:

Mona Abouissa & John Perkins, journalist and photographer, were present as the Muslim Brotherhood celebrated the parliamentary election victory of the Freedom and Justice Party

220 The President:

Nadia Mounier, visual artist, documents the campaign of presidential candidate Ahmed Shafig from street level

224 Crumbling down the Walls:

Matteo Valenza, photographer, documents how the posters of presidential candidates disintegrate through organic decomposition and public interventions

Throughout chapter Images by Mahmoud Khaled, Mostafa Hedayat, Mosa'ab Elshamy, Eliane Ettmueller, Nina Hwaidak Images from the archive of Cairo: Images/C.I.A.

<u>CHAPTER 3:</u> <u>Urban</u> Transformations

232 "Urban
Transformations":
Introduction
Mikala Hyldig Dal considers
the various forms of writing in
Cairo's urban landscape, as a
draft for a new constitution

234 Archive II

Photo documentation of activist political communication in Cairo's public space (continuous throughout chapter)

240 Notes on Optical Illusions around Tahrir: The No Walls Project:

Andreas Sicklinger, product designer, traces the art historical roots of the *No Walls* street art project to the tradition of the trompe l'oeil mural in renaissance Italy

248 Gender Representation in Graffiti Post-25 January Mona Abaza, sociologist,

discusses the use of Irony and the subversion of symbols as important tools of dissent in the context of the Egyptian revolution

265 Graffiti as Stage – Performing Dissent Eliane Ursula Ettmueller

was on-site during the creation of various murals in Mohamed Mahmoud Street and discussed the pictorial statements with artists and bystanders

272 Cairo Palimpsest
Joscelyn Jurich, writer and
photographer, describes the
rapidly changing layers of
political communication in
the urban landscape of Cairo
as an organically evolving
palimpsest

Throughout chapter Images by Mosa'ab Elshamy, Joscelyn Jurich, Steve Double Images from the archive of Cairo: Images/C.I.A