

Forming ideas

FORMING IDEAS Cairo Symposium

8 and 9 July 2009

The Ismaili Centre, London SW7

'Khamseen'

Khamseen (sandstorm in Arabic) will explore how art and craft practice in Cairo is impacting on society through the work of contemporary practitioners and innovative art projects.

It will question how society can nurture traditional skills whilst remaining open to innovation.

Why Cairo? Because in Cairo today we have a model where the recognition of the value of traditional skills is in resurgence and is playing a pivotal part in the regeneration of Cairo and artistic practice across the Middle East.

Khamseen will bring together leading artists and professionals to discuss the context for this change and how it might relate to contemporary practice here in the UK.

"I had this vague conviction that every human being was born an artist, but that his or her gifts could be brought out only if artistic activity was encouraged from early childhood by way of practising a craft..." Rames Wissa Wassef, architect

Presentations will include:

Dr Amr Abdel Kawi - Editor, 'Magaz' design magazine

The power of the individual to affect change

Ikram Nosshi - Director, Rames Wissa Wassef

Craft as a social document

"The creative energy of the average person is being sapped by a conformist system of education and the extension of industrial technology to every sphere of modern life."

Rames Wissa Wassef, architect

Artists **Susan Hefuna**, **Kahled Hafez** and **Azza Fahmy** will present and discuss:

How do artists approach tradition and innovation in their practice and how do their personal histories impact on their practice?

William Wells - Townhouse Gallery, Cairo and **Dina Bakhom** - Aga Khan Cultural Services, Egypt will present and discuss:

Practices of engagement and specificity of location

Other speakers will include: **Aleya Hamza**, **Rose Issa**, **Charles Merewether**, **Glenn Adamson** and **Venetia Porter**

Symposium Times

Wednesday 8 July from 13.00 until 17:30

Thursday 9 July from 8.45 until 13.15

Tickets

Available for sale from 1 May – 1 June at an early bird rate of £35

From 2 June – 3 July at £55

Location

The Ismaili Centre, Thurloe Place, London SW7

The Ismaili Centre was opened in 1985 to commemorate His Highness the Aga Khan's Silver Jubilee. The building is a cultural, religious and social space designed for the Shia Ismaili Muslim community. In keeping with the spirit of its architectural design, creating a sense of balance and serenity, the Centre also fosters friendship, understanding and dialogue through its various activities with the wider community.

London Underground to South Kensington

London buses: 14, 345, 49, 70, 74 and C1

Khamseen is organised by Forming Ideas, for more information and tickets please see <http://www.formingideas.co.uk>

