

# KÜNSTLERHAUS BETHANIEN

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Berlin, 9th January 2018

Dear Colleagues,

we are pleased to invite you to the opening of the following exhibition:

## AHMED GHONEIMY

Opening: THURSDAY, 18TH JANUARY 2018, 7 – 10 PM  
Showroom at Kottbusser Straße 10

Exhibition: 19TH JANUARY – 11TH FEBRUARY 2018  
Tuesday – Sunday, 2 – 7 pm

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RECHTSFORM: Künstlerhaus Bethanien GmbH · SITZ: Berlin · AG Charlottenburg

GESCHÄFTSFÜHRUNG: Christoph Tannert · Andrea Boche · HANDELSREGISTER: HRG 8089

# KÜNSTLERHAUS BETHANIEN

P R E S S R E L E A S E

The work of filmmaker AHMED GHONEIMY engages with the multifarious forms of human interaction and the resultant dependencies and tension and is set against the backdrop of Egypt's firmly established, traditional patriarchy. In his films, Ghoneimy examines the specific power structures and idiosyncratic, daily rituals which are adhered to by people when they meet – fathers and sons, friends and enemies, the so-called winners and losers of society. He often uses scenes drawn from his own memories and re-enacts them with the help of amateur actors, aggressors (*Bahari*, 2011) and friends (*The Cave*, 2013). His films take no heed of a narrative arc culminating in a dramatic climax, but rather follow associations alternating between fiction and documentary.

Ghoneimy's presentation at Künstlerhaus Bethanien includes video loops, each projected on a screen. In quiet, haunting images, the films put the spotlight on the trusting relationship between a boy and his father and are shot in a documentary style. On a joint outing, the son is playfully introduced to the rituals and behaviours which form part of male-dominated everyday life in the public domain: swimming in the surf, strolling across the fish market, bargaining and joking with the salesmen, etc. Sequences taken from so-called open-world computer games, provide a sharp contrast with the kid exploring the spaces. He shifts from amusement and the feeling of security, till at moments this comfort is disrupted: in everyday life, violence, hatred and injury are just as present in human interactions as safety and happiness.

The exhibition at Künstlerhaus Bethanien was conceived by Ahmed Ghoneimy as a project which is developing further using other forms of presentation.

A **catalogue** of the exhibition is available: edited by Nicola Müllerschön and Christoph Tannert; published by Verlag Kettler (Dortmund), 2018.

AHMED GHONEIMY \*1986 in Alexandria, Egypt, lives and works in Alexandria and Cairo. He studied Interior Design, Expressive Arts Major at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Alexandria, Egypt (BA, 2009), at the Jesuit Filmmaking Workshop, Jesuit High School in Alexandria and the Ashkal Alwan Home Workshop Programme in Beirut, Lebanon (2015/ 2016).

Ghoneimy has exhibited his work internationally, including at International Film Festival Rotterdam, Netherlands (2013 und 2011); Home Works 6, Beirut, Lebanon (2013); International Film Festival (FID), Marseilles, France (2012); Hamburg International Short Film Festival (2012); Photo Cairo 5, Cairo, Egypt (2012); *Mapping Subjectivity: Experimentation in Arab Cinema*, MoMA, New York, USA (2012).

Ahmed Ghoneimy is currently receiving a grant from the **KfW Stiftung**, Frankfurt / Main, and is a guest at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in the context of our International Studio Programme. Grant-holders of the KfW Stiftung in Künstlerhaus Bethanien in 2018 also include Vartan Avakian (Lebanon) and Andrés Pereira Paz (Bolivia).

The non-profit, independent foundation **KfW Stiftung** was founded in October 2012. One particular emphasis of the KfW Stiftung is a consolidation of cultural diversity. Aiming to advance intercultural dialogue, it enables artists from Latin America, Africa and Asia to spend twelve months working in Berlin by participating in the International Studio Programme of Künstlerhaus Bethanien.

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