

# THE LIQUID CONTINENT EXHIBITION

Remnants from Alexandria by Mona Magdi Kenawy, Alexandria 2010

## ALEXANDRIA, ISTANBUL, VENICE

18 March 2011 – 7 April 2011

Western Exhibition Hall  
Bibliotheca Alexandrina

Chatby, Alexandria 21526  
Egypt

[www.theliquidcontinent.com](http://www.theliquidcontinent.com)

*The Mediterranean is not an empty space surrounded by Europe, Asia and Africa. You can look at the sea as a single entity, a place from whose coastlines people look not outwards, to this country or that capital, but inwards over the water to each other. This sea has its own cities, its own life, its own way of being.*

Nicholas Woodsworth

Exhibition co-sponsored by  
European Union Delegation to Egypt  
Mercedes-Benz, Egypt - Alexandria National Automotive and Sofitel Cecil



Alexandria National Automotive  
SOFITEL  
LUXURY HOTELS

Exhibition produced by ARCHINOS Architecture

Cooperators:  
Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alex Med Research Center; Faculty of Fine Arts Alexandria University; L'Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia, Venice; Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul; and House Publishing, London



# THE LIQUID CONTINENT

*The Mediterranean is no longer at the centre of things and culture doesn't get off-loaded any more - it gets down-loaded. Once the port-cities connected an old world, and sometimes I wonder if they mightn't help us reconnect a new world.*

Nicholas Woodsworth

## ALEXANDRIA, ISTANBUL, VENICE

Three great cities, each with its own history and habits, each speaking disparate languages, each observing different political and economic traditions.

Yet each of the cities can be immediately identified as Mediterranean. There are similarities in their architecture and art, urban settings, colours, sounds, fragrances, cuisine, in the ways in which people interact. They result from a long history of exchange of goods and ideas, centuries of looking over the sea towards people on the other shore.

Nowadays the Mediterranean region faces new challenges to the delicate equilibrium of the Liquid Continent. Is it still alive? Does it still matter? These are the questions the exhibition strives to explore by revealing aspects and faces of Mediterranean daily life, primarily through work of artists of the three cities, mostly belonging to the young generation.

Material presented at this event originates from a two-week workshop held in The Faculty of Fine Arts of Alexandria University with participants from Art Schools in Alexandria, Venice and Istanbul, and further artwork from international artists, film-makers, and writers. A literary workshop at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina inaugurates the exhibition in the Little Theatre on March 21, 2011, bringing together distinguished authors who extensively wrote about the three cities: Ibrahim Abdel Meguib, Michael Haag and Philip Mansel. Nicholas Woodsworth, author of *The Liquid Continent. A Mediterranean Trilogy*, which inspired exhibition, is the guest of honour.

This exhibition will not provide any definitive answers to the question what individual strategies the three cities adopt in search for their identities in the face of challenges of the modern times and how it affects their shared Mediterranean qualities. But if it encourages visitors to its venue and its website to ask themselves what the Liquid Continent means to them, and to look over the water to other cultures and different histories in search of answers, it will have served its purpose.

The Liquid Continent exhibition is co-funded by the **Delegation of the European Commission to Egypt** within its Local Cultural Activities Programme and

**Mercedes Benz, Egypt – Alexandria National Automotive**

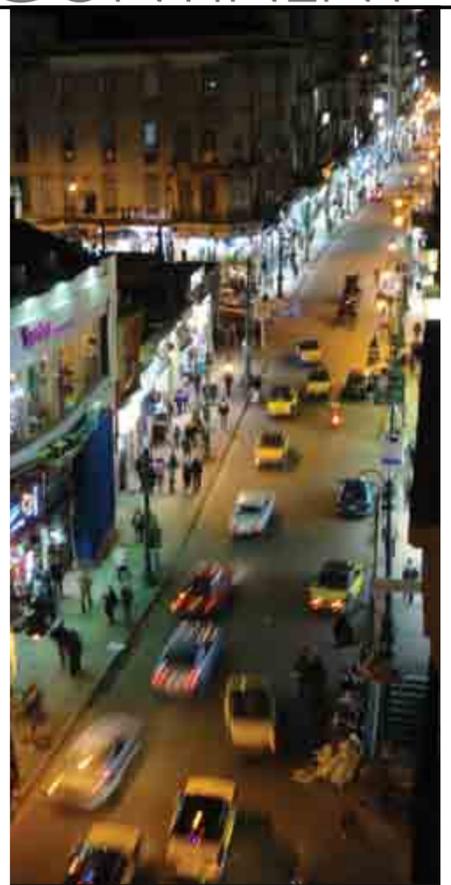
Accommodation of participants of the literary workshop courtesy of **Sofitel Cecil**

Exhibition designed and produced by **ARCHINOS** Architecture, Cairo

in cooperation with  
Bibliotheca Alexandrina – Alex Med Research Center  
Faculty of Fine Arts, Alexandria University  
Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul  
Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia, Venice

Authors of the works displayed in the exhibition:

Mahmud Ashour  
Salma Ahmed Badawy  
Ugo Carmeni  
Burak Dikilitas  
Agnieszka Dobrowolska  
Jan Dobrowolski  
Jaroslaw Dobrowolski  
Mona Magdi Kenawy  
Jasmina Metwaly  
Andrea Fincato  
Laura Fiori  
Lindsay Sekulowicz  
Gaia Zuffa



Exhibition design:  
Agnieszka Dobrowolska  
Exhibition coordinator:  
Lindsay Sekulowicz  
with  
Fatma Farouk and Jasmina Metwaly