

THE LIQUID CONTINENT – la mostra



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**18 MARCH > 05 APRIL 2011 | BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA
ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT**

Alexandria, Istanbul, Venice - three great cities, each with its own history and habits, each speaking disparate languages, each observing different political and economic traditions. Despite their great differences and particular characters, 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.

Rather than cultivating the connection to their respective hinterlands, the cities looked outwards to the ever-changing sea and its precious possibilities of exchange. Nowadays the Mediterranean region is facing new challenges; the shifting of economic centres, globalization, and mass tourism all affecting the delicate balance of the Liquid Continent. In search of their identity, the three cities appear to adopt their own strategies in face of these threats.

The exhibition at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina explores these questions through works by various international contributors in a variety of different media and different approaches.

Artisti: Mahmud Ashour, Salma Ahmed Badawy, Ugo Carmeni, Burak Dikilitaş, Agnieszka Dobrowolska, Jan Dobrowolski, Jaroslaw Dobrowolski, Mona Magdi Kenawy, Jasmina Metwaly, Andrea Fincato, Laura Fioro, Lindsay Sekulowicz, Gaia Zuffa

edited by Archinos Architecture, Il Cairo

exhibition co-funded by the European Union, through its Delegation to Egypt, within the context of its annual Call for Proposals for Cultural Activities in Egypt.

The exhibit at the Western Exhibition Hall of the Alexandria Library is open to the general public free of charge.

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

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 Fioro
Lindsay Sekulowicz
Gaia Zuffa



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