

## UNTOLD STORIES' MANIFESTO

Curated by **Valentina Gioia Levy**

Darb 1718, Il Cairo, 1 November - 16 December 2018

Opening 1 November 2018 - from 5,00 pm to 23,00 pm

**ARTISTS:** Lisa Batacchi (US/IT); Stefano Cagol (Italy); Manohar Chiluveru (India); CoCa Collective, Poornima + Chintaka Thenuwara (Sri Lanka); Valeria Costa (IT); Dalila Dalleas (Algeria); Edgar Endress (Chile); Hantu (France) Izumi Chiaraluce (JP/IT); Cesar Meneghetti (Brasil); Peter Puype (Belgium); Valerié Oka (Ivory Coast); Yoko Ono (JP/USA); Marco Raparelli (Italy); Reena Saini Kallat (India); Tomasz Wendland (Poland)

Darb1718 is pleased to present the second edition of Something Else OFF Biennale Cairo which will run from 1st November until 16th December 2018. OBC is a large scale international contemporary visual arts exhibition, which was initially designed to run parallel to the official Cairo Biennale. However, due to the recurrent cancellations of the state run biennale, OBC is now organized independently.

The current edition that is titled "What if it did not happen!" showcases works by more than 90 artists. It is directed and coordinated by **Moataz Nasr** and **Simon Njami** and it also includes exhibitions by 6 international curators: **Elena Abbiatici** (IT); **Power Ekroth** (Sweden); **Valentina Gioia Levy** (IT); **Sara Oberrauch** (Germany); **Henry Woo** (Hong Kong); **Sheila Zago** (Brazil).

Italian curator Valentina Gioia Levy is presenting the group show "Untold Stories' Manifesto" that will display works in form of posters by: **Stefano Cagol** (Italy); **CoCa Collective** - (Sri Lanka); **Dalila Dalleas** (Algeria); **Edgar Endress** (Chile); **Izumi Chiaraluce** (JP/IT); **Cesar Meneghetti** (Brasil); **Peter Puype** (Belgium); **Valerié Oka** (Ivory Coast); **Yoko Ono** (JP/USA); **Marco Raparelli** (Italy); **Reena Saini Kallat** (India); **Tomasz Wendland** (Poland)

The project aims to explore stories and individual narratives as a part of the History. The curator invited the artists to broke the silence and bring back the unsaid to the table of discussion, offering a framework for questioning an encompassing idea of History, which would be ideally made by the losers' narratives and by common people's stories and by all those facts that have been silenced and never told before. What do we know about History? We know that History is the study of events that took place in the past, a succession of facts, which some academics and experts called 'historians' have attentively collected, gathered together and arranged according to chronological

order. We know that we can 'trust' History and that we should learn from it how to not repeat the same errors that we did in the past so that we will be able to construct a better future. That being said, the only thing that we effectively get from history is that it seems condemned to repeat itself.

Why are we keeping making the same errors again and again? Why are we learning nothing from history? Why this is still happening?

If we got nothing from history isn't it because we are looking at it always from the same perspective? Isn't it time to look at history from different points of views instead of looking at it only from the same side, that is the winners' side because, as the British statesman Winston Churchill once said: "*History is always written by the victors*"

The dominant classes have always shaped history and produced official narratives which are generally taken for granted, but this doesn't imply that all the unofficial narratives and all the silenced stories are lost forever. Despite the attempts of erasure, the untold stories often find a way to resurface and even if they don't, they still can produce effects. In fact, as the French philosopher Jean Paul Sartre once said, "*Every word has consequences. Every silence, too.*"

All the participating artists sent a different contribution (drawings, comic stripes, photographs, poems or brief statements) which tells a story, a personal feeling or opinion that they think would deserve attention.

The show will present a new participatory project by internationally acclaimed artist **Yoko Ono** that she specifically created for this event "Write your untold story". The work consists of a series of blank posters that will be hanged in Darb1718 and around Il Cairo. People will be encouraged to give their contributions giving voices to their silenced stories.

The exhibition will also include a selection of works by the Italian artist **Valeria Costa** (1912 - 2003) that in the '80s realized a series of paintings and drawings inspired by middle east conflicts, the oil crisis and the Italian foreign policy in the area which, during those years, has been often described as 'pro-Arabs'. The selection embodies three canvases of the series the *Women's Burden* and some drawings on paper which have never been exhibited outside of Italy.

Moreover, the show includes three special projects: a workshop and a collaborative installation by **Lisa Batacchi** and two performances by Indian artist **Manohar Chiluveru** and the French duo Hantu composed by **Pascale Weber** and **Jean Delsaux**.

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The project "Untold Stories' Manifesto" has been made possible thanks to the support of Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Cairo, partner of Something Else OFF Biennale Cairo, and Darb1718.

## **ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI CULTURA**

The Italian Institute of Culture in Cairo is part of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and it promotes knowledge of Italian language and culture in Egypt, organizes wide-ranging cultural events, in collaboration with Egyptian cultural institutions and in synergy with the Country System; responds to requests for information on Italian culture and on the Italian university system; organizes Italian language and culture courses and is in constant contact with the five Egyptian universities in which Italian language and culture are taught.

## **DARB 1718**

Darb 1718 was founded in 2008 as an Egyptian non-profit organization with the aim of promoting social change, sensitizing people and expanding their horizons through the inspiration and education of artists and the broader community. Its premises include a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces that host different art mediums and cultural events. Darb 1718 houses three art exhibition spaces, workshop spaces, outdoors spaces which include a stage and an outdoor cinema.

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### **“Untold Stories’ Manifesto”**

curated by Valentina Gioia Levy

as a part of Something Else - OFF Biennale Cairo 2018

### **Darb1718**

Kasr El Sham3 Street, Al Fakhareen – Old Cairo, Cairo, Egypt

Opening: 1st November 2018 from 5pm - until 23pm

FREE ENTRANCE

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