

# Re:Perception: A Creative Investigation of Cross-Cultural Dialogue

Team: Mariam Ibrahim, Jeff Walls, Heba Safwat

## GOAL:

In the spirit of the work of generations of artist-travelers, from the Orientalist painters of the 19th century to Henri Cartier-Bresson's life reportage across Europe and Africa we seek to establish a sustainable artist-in-residence exchange and exhibition series between Egypt and America that will enrich the cultural explorations of the Gabr Fellowship and deepen its' current partnership network to include an even more varied array of arts and cultural institutions in both countries.



## ISSUE:

The inaugural edition of the Gabr Fellowship has provided us as a group and as individuals with an amazing opportunity to gain insight into the dynamics of cultural understanding, and to deepen our ability to be responsible, informed, and passionate communicators and ambassadors between cultures. As we have travelled across our respective countries, we have sought to formulate new and expanded concepts of intercultural discourse that take a rejuvenated approach to a dialogue at risk of failure, an approach which emphasizes the role of the arts as universal communicator.

Traditional means of communication between East and West have reached an historical nadir. They are outmoded and ineffective. Rather than dwell on failure, we as a group see an opportunity to push discourse forward by encouraging and facilitating a new emphasis on the arts. Art can serve an important role in East / West dialogue both serving to highlight positive stories that are missed by current means of communication, and to help build new bridges of understanding between citizens of each country.

## **PROJECT:**

The exchange will involve six week residency programs for a small, carefully curated group of artists who work in a variety of mediums, including photography, design, film, and creative writing. It would encourage participating artists to immerse themselves fully in the river of daily life in their new homes, acting as embedded citizen artists and opening their eyes, ears, and mind to the experience.

At the conclusion of the six weeks, the artists will have created a body of work that support the missions of the fellowship and their host institution and will be exhibited in the United States and Egypt, providing an opportunity for scholars, policy makers, creatives, and the public at large to share in their experiences and learnings.

We are confident that with the appropriate scope and resources, this project will help cultivate a new and vibrant dialogue between East and West, a dialogue of collaboration and shared experience, of understanding and compassion, spoken from one human being to another.