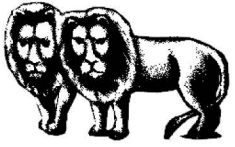
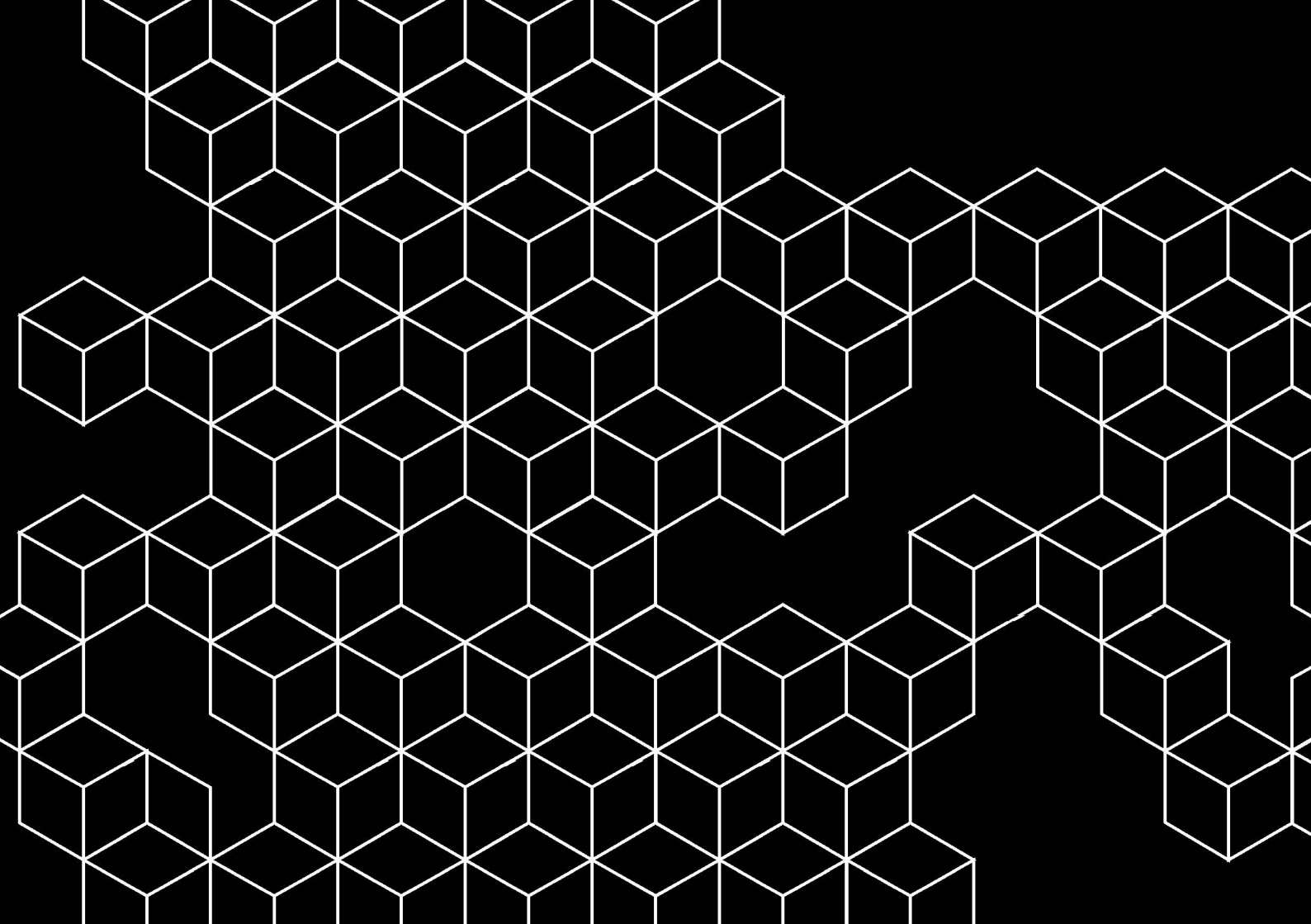
Vahida Ramujkić

Cairo Integration Diary



Spring · 2008



Arriving at Cairo for a three month residency, I was suspecting that when it ends, my life would be completely changed and I would leave the city a different person. My expectations turned out to be very true. This diary is a document of this transformation.

ARRIVAL
CAIRO
EGYPT

Part I *Arriving*

	May				June	
Monday	05	12	19	26	02	09
Tuesday	06	13	20	27	03	10
Wednesday	07	14	21	28	04	
Thursday	08	15	22	29	05	
Friday	09	16	23	30	06	
Saturday	10	17	24	31	07	
Sunday	11	18	25	01	08	

Monday · May 05 · 2008

- Found five Korans in the apartment. Two in the small cabinet in the entrance and three in the cupboard in my sleeping room - one of them pocket version with a zipper. There are three wall clocks - but non of them working. Each one stopped in different time.

- go out to the street / very busy loud traffic / all the woman wearing scarves

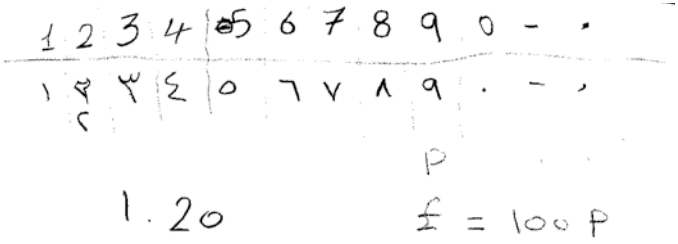
- how do people manage to make trees so dusty?

- meet with Edit at CIC

- get settled in the studio with a great roof-top but so dusty and very hot

- clean studio - take so much dust out - seems as if nobody was using it for a long time

- Shaza, very sweet girl, who works at CIC shows me Arabic numbers and money



- eat *koshari* at *Fillfela*, strange local dish / consists of rice, pasta, chick-peas, lentils, fried onion and tomato sauce all mixed together

- buy a map and few books - Islam and Sport, some English translation of the Koran, and a study about Islam and Nationalism

- my nose is full of dirt due to the pollution in the air

- Meeting with Aleya at CIC to go to Townhouse opening with her car. I ask her how is that she is not wearing traditional clothes.

- on the way back walking with Maymuni to the Nile /

- call Ben, artist who was doing the same same residency before me to meet up tomorrow /

Tuesday · May 06 · 2008

- morning in studio

- Edit gives me contact of Arabic language tutor - she is very traditional but very nice, she says.

- Lots of men on the street have dark marks on their fronts. I beleve it comes from insistent praying. The darker it is the better a believer a person in question is, more devoted to the religion.

- go visit national museum / Innumerable objects dating from different ages of thousands of years ago. Common object and furniture that was barred with the Pharaohs in the Pyramids is in a perfect state. Lots of local guides with groups of tourists shouting in different languages from all directions. They are all explaining their own resumed version of the known history. I stay at one place and observe how different guides are explaining different stories in different languages to their groups. In English, Spanish, Italian, Russian, French... Occasionally I decide to follow some of the groups for a while, and then join another one, and so on...

- The Museum is full of guards. A man in a white uniform takes my camera and asks me for 20€, saying it is a fee for taking pictures. After discussion I grab my camera back from his hands and say I am going to call the police. The 'guard' runs away.

- taxi drivers constantly stop and ask - Where are you going?

- arrange an appointment with Sayonara for the Arabic lessons /

- meet with Ben for a dinner and a drink at *Horeyya* / Man and women drink beer and smoke cigarettes. I have 2 bears and 4 cigarettes. An older woman sitting on the table next to ours talks all the time and asks for cigarettes. When she gets up to leave, various customers had noticed that she had left a pond of piss on the chair. Now everybody is looking carefully at a man just coming into bar saying hi to people on different tables. He goes strait to the chair with the piss and sits. Immediately he jumps off when he notices it was wet. The whole bar breaks into silent laugh.

Tasks:
- making plans to visit Siwa oasis and Alexandria. -

6 May

National Museum

U nacionalnom muzeju
ažapski vodiči objašnjavali
bi exponate na raznim
jezicima - engleski,
nemački, francuski, ruski,
italijanski, španski, raznim
grupama posetilaca. Zaniniljivo
je bilo čekati samo pored
jedne statue i slušati
razna objašnjenja -

mini odise } njihove
različite
interpretacije

Wednesday · May 07 · 2008

- walk to studio

- work in studio

- Walk over the island towards Agricultural Museum. Nice sidewalk through vegetation at the left coast of Zamalek. ... By the time I arrive the Museum had closed. It closes very early at 15h.

- eat wine rolls at Filfela - how women eat with those coverings?

- propose to Edit to paint the floor in the studio /

- drinking waters bottled by Pepsi, Coca-Cola, Nestlé and Schweppes.

- Banks, gas-stations and schools are called 'Misr'. Getting intrigued about what kind of mega-corporation is that I try to Google it - found nothing. Than somebody tells me this is actually Egyptian word for Egypt itself also used to refer to the city of Cairo.

- The same case with plastic bags as in India and Novi Sad. They are flying all around but no waste-pickers collecting them for recycling. I start to collect them aside. Maybe make another Cairo model of the crochet plastic bags.

- meet with Sayonara - Arabic tutor / She explains how all the prices two weeks ago raised 30% due to the price of petrol, that went up. All was followed with a chaos on the streets and demonstrations. This was an excuse to charge me more for Arabic classes than what I was told initially. We discuss if I should start with *fosha* or *ameya*. *Fosha* is classical Arabic used as written language, in newspapers, TV, etc. It is universal standard Arabic used in all Arab countries. The problem is that nobody speaks it. *Ameya* is colloquial Egyptian non written language. Finally I decide for *Ameya*.

- red phone at the apartment won't ring - remembering the Sophie Calle's book "Exquisite Pain" that my ex-boyfriend gave me when we broke up.

Tasks:
- practice crossing streets /
go decisively and the car should slow down.
- crochet plastic bag - Cairo model (?)

Thursday · May 08 · 2008

- visit agricultural museum / go strait there now with a taxi /

- It is ruined and abandoned, quite a wired place. Nobody speaks English. Young fellow leaves his working-place to guide me. He has to open the exhibition rooms and turn on the lights. Seems they are not used to receive too many visitors. While he is explaining things I always have to move his hand that constantly ends up either on my back or my shoulder. In another building of the complex when I ask a doorman something he takes me to the offices. Some administrator receives me there very kindly. He thinks I am coming from some NGO.

- image of a nude woman on some decoration all scratched over

- fragile organic objects very deteriorated, covered in dust

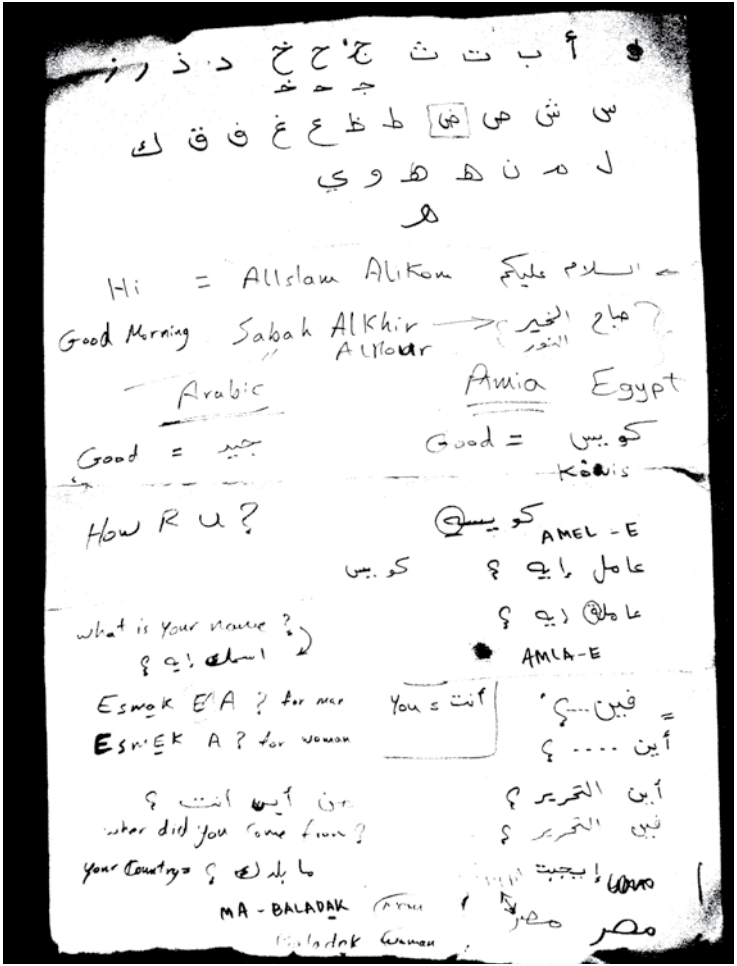
- back to CIC / looking for Nasser to buy floor-paint but he is busy / receive first Arabic lesson from Maymouni /

- meet Apolonia Sustresic and Kaas her boyfriend and arrange visit to the pyramids tomorrow. Apolonia says – I traveled alone so much and I know how lonely it could be.

- getting a bit depressed /

- work in studio ---

Tasks:



أ ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ ر ز
جـ حـ خـ
س ش ص ض ط ظ ع غ ف ق ك
ل م ن هـ و ي
هـ

Hi = Allslam Alikom السلام عليكم

Good Morning Sabah Alkhir → صباح الخير
Alnour النور

Arabic — Amia Egypt

Good = جيد — Good = كويس
Kowis

How R U? — كويسة
AMEL - E

عامل إيه ؟ كويس

عاملة إيه ؟
AMLA-E

what is your name ?
اسمك إيه ؟

Esmak E A ? for man — You = أنت — = فين ...؟
Esmek A ? for woman — أين .... ؟

من أين أنت ؟ — أين التحرير ؟
wher did you come from ? — فين التحرير ؟

your Country = ما بلدك ؟ — إيجبت
MA - BALADAK — مصر
Baladak Woman

Jueves 08

8:30 taxi → AGRICULT MUSEUM

11-12 CIC
comprar pintura

pintar melo

hacer fotocopias libro arabe

hacer press card

enviar direccion Sayonara

mail Ben para el viernes

Friday · May 09 · 2008

- visit to the Pyramids

- in the car Apolonia asks me what will I be doing here - Try to integrate - I say

- at the Pyramids tourist hunters, romantic couples, kids with horses (tempted to ride a horse)

- pyramids inside the town, on the edge of the city / from another side starts the desert

- Dhashur - extraordinary experience / There is no one around. Just one man sitting at the entrance to the pyramid situated at its mid-height. A wooden scaffolding takes you to this point. It's almost like climbing a mountain. From there a very narrow tunnel takes you to the middle of the pyramid. I go inside alone as nobody else wanted to come. (Kaas is waiting in the car as he got hustled with tourist hunters and Apolonia stays at the entrance). As I am descending down through the tunnel only one meter high and wide I start to get a feeling of pressure and fear. The sounds coming from outside arrive distorted. I look back towards daylight now far away, not sure if I should run back, but tempted to continue. The tunnel is around hundred meters long. There is still half way to the other end. After a small crisis as I decide to continue, I go faster with my legs trembling. At the end of the tunnel, a space opens with high ceiling almost Gothic in style. Passing through a small entrance almost crawling it's possible to get to identical another chamber. Feeling of pressure is culminating with a strong smell of ammonia. The sensation is like being very deep under the water. I haven't ever been in a similar human made space in my life.

- coming back to CIC. Meet Mayada and her friends / they take me to the street festival at Heliopolis, that is a new part of Cairo / a German girl who I met works with NGOs and crafts / should contact her for some artisan workshops /

- smoke 2 cigarettes

- Dinner at *Taboula* Lebanese restaurant. Very good food also very expensive. Talk about dance in Cairo with Rana. People here have some problem in relation with their bodies. Men and women could feel very uncomfortable with their bodies along their life - she says. / *explore that more* /

- drink at *Horreya*

- back home very tired

Tasks:

Saturday · May 10 · 2008

- breakfast at Edit's / get an Arabic text book /

- go to Islamic Cairo / Some man that introduces himself as a french professor makes me company and shows me places and workshops. He is very kind and explains lots of things. After a while I tell him I will go to the Mosque now and offer him some money. To my surprise he refuses my offer and gives me his card.

- long visit to Al Azat Mosque and Islamic School, *Madrasa* / arrange meeting to study Koran another day / I get lots of booklets and CDs also a small book about women in Islam / in the offices a man plays Solitaire on the computer /

- go Townhouse to meet Shahira and Ferran

- back to *Khan el Khalili*: visit market, do not buy anything, but a ball of *tamar* (black mass used to make refreshing beverage, something like Coca-Cola). Men in traditional clothes with lots of plastic flowers and plastic boots sell it on the street.

- I wear white head scarf bought in the Skopje women market and that makes me feel more secure. I feel that people treat me with more respect even if it's obvious I am a foreigner

- People trying to sell me things - I talk with them visit all the shops if I like the people talk about everything, learn to play instruments, smell spices, perfumes. Someone said - How can I get your money?

- Finally have a *shay* at the cafe in the market / very traditional dirty and cheap. All men, smoking *shisha*.

- Visit *Al Hussein* Mosque where there is a head of Mohammad's grandson or so. I want to go inside but on the entrance I am directed another way. Around the corner there is a special entrance for women. Inside lots of people praying everywhere. / *Just after I discover it's forbidden for not believers to accede in.*

- In front of the mosque there is a kid carrying big wooden cage with breads on his head. I want to take a picture of him but he runs away protesting and almost crying of anger. I chase him with camera and it seems a bit funny / *just after I find out that there is a belief that bread sold in the front of Al Hossein Mosque is holly* /

- Meet with Ben to go to some opening at AUC (American University). There meet his friend who is a dancer. She gives me contact of belly-dance couple and mentions stick dance (? women can't do it) *tahtib*.

- go to studio warming party at Rana's / meet lot's of people / nice party

- returning back home tired but happy

Tasks:

Sunday · May 11 · 2008

- high pressure in the air / not an easy day

- buying vegetables on the street / seller very excited, teaches me words for vegetables and puts me a kilo of each vegetable that I look at / struggling to make it less /

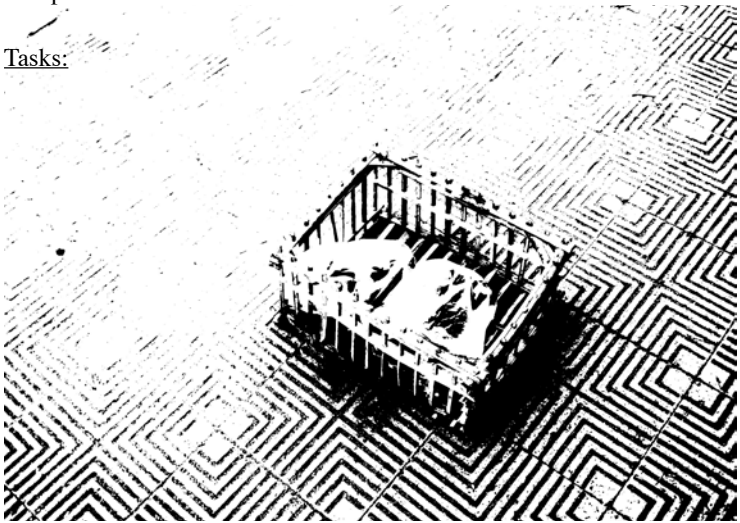
- first Arabic lesson with Sayonara

- go home to rest ?

- more wooden cages / and vending carriages

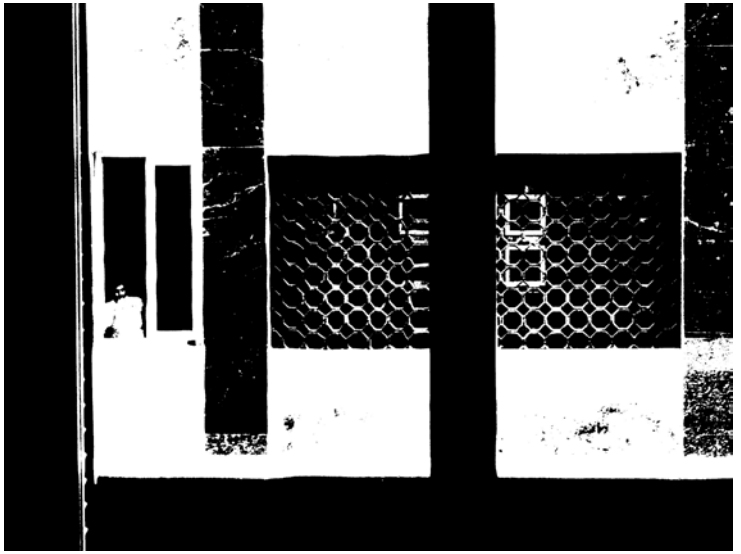
- Apolonia's presentation at CIC / interesting discussion about the roof the space

Tasks:



Monday · May 12 · 2008

- a man at the office in the front building staring again - I decide to keep the blinds closed from now on



- car coverings - protection from the dust?

- Lunch on the island with Sancho.

- Take wooden box from the street. Very common hand made object that doesn't seem to have any value. Work doesn't seem to be very appreciated here

- Sancho tells me incredible story of his exile in Libia

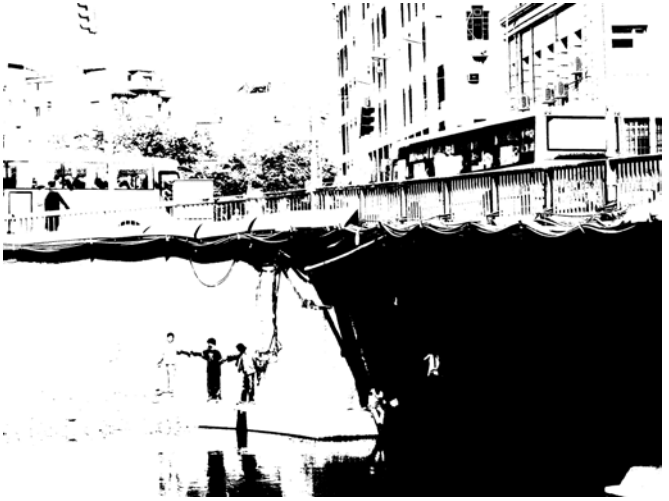
- On another side of the river boys jumping the fence and sniffing glue under the bridge.

- waiter makes constant jokes about the wooden box I put on the chair, he wants to throw it away / at the end I forget it in the restaurant

- Adham's presentation about video-dance in Townhouse.

- A perfume vendor takes me to his shop and talks about some people from Belgrade who were shopping there. He takes out a guest book to show me their notes inside. There it is written in Serbian that those men are cheaters and warns not to buy anything from them. I laugh - and he asks - what does it says?

- on the way back home buy 2 wooden boxes for 3EP



Tasks:

Tuesday · May 13 · 2008

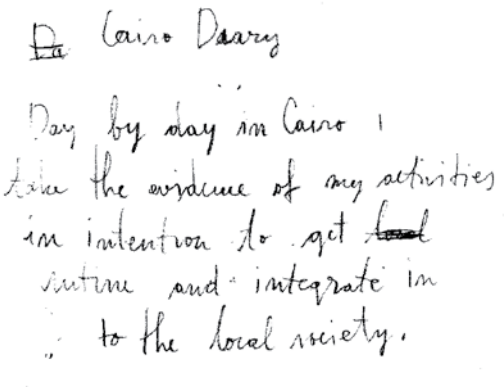
- In the morning planning to paint the floor in the studio and in the afternoon to go to the Cervantes Institute for a theatre play and the Videodance event in Townhouse afterwards. That's why I leave home in working clothes and put the more elegant one into the plastic bag to take it with me and change after. I carry this bag with other two of the garbage that should be thrown away at the container. Few blocks away I realize that both of my hands are empty! Run back to the container. It already filled up luckily just with leafs and branches that the workers have just cut from the nearby trees. I remove them but can't see anything. Look around. There is a white plastic bag flying in the air moved by the wind. The same as the one that contained my clothes before. Ah, somebody already took it away. But in the next movement I see my trousers and white shirt out of the bag in the corner of the container. I grab it and direct my self to CIC. What a case! Somebody already checked it but seems he didn't liked my elegant clothes.

- Talk with Dionis about dreams we were collecting / *Set up The Second life ?* /

- Meeting with Edit and Aleya to talk about my work. In one hour I could hardly explain a fourth part of it. We scheduled next meeting for the coming Monday to continue this conversation.
- Edit said Spanish cultural attaché announced his visit to CIC tomorrow to meet me. So I called Sayonara to cancel the Arabic lesson. She proposed to meet Thursday 20h.

- Meet belly-dance couple at CIC terrace. They offered to give free belly-dance sessions. We taught perfect place to do it could be CIC hall after the working hours.

- Go to Cervantes Institute in the evening to the theatre play. Meet a Director that is quite amusing man with red cheeks. He invites me for a visit. Theatre play starts late. Have to leave before tit ends to go to Adhan's presentation about video dance in Townhouse. Get there to the second part. Meet some people and tell them about free belly dance sessions I was planning to organise.



Tasks:
- visit Cervantes during daytime

Wednesday · May 14 · 2008

- Comment the idea of the belly dance sessions to Edit and she seems a bit scandalized. She said it's not possible to do it at CIC and explains that belly-dance is related to prostitution here and very badly seen. I got a bit disillusioned. / *have to look for another location now* /

- getting better self-confidence in crossing the streets

- going out without a map

- still haven't painted the studio floor / maybe this weekend.

- getting Arabic lessons everywhere: today with a CIC doorman Mohammed and with a Taxi driver

- Not so much beggars on the streets as in other counties I travelled. But still you could see some very poor people bagging. Gave five pounds to a woman today - she was so grateful.

- went to Islamic market and bought Egyptian sneakers for 25EP = 3euro. They are great! Very proud of my shopping. I see a drawings on a shoe box. A seller explained his father did it. Nice drawings.

- This evening sand storm again. You can feel it in your nose as it is filling up and filtering the dust.

- People constantly complaining about the prices that went up due to the raise of a petrol price.

- People that were stuck in Beirut coming back.

- Ahmed the psychiatrist called to arrange a meeting. We said to meet Friday afternoon.

Tasks:
- look for the hand-crafts.
- Sufi-dance - Friday at Khannah Khalili.
- ~~ticket to Cyprus~~ not going
- study Koran at Al Azat Mosque.
- paint floor in the studio

Thursday · May 15 · 2008

- could not sleep last night / then I did sleep and had lots of dreams / *At the en of a tunnel I got to some kitchen, but it was so small or I became so big that I had difficulties to move, had to crawl on the floor to pass between the table legs and chairs to reach a door to get out.*

- make list of short sentences - (to pass to Arabic?)
- Hechos no palabras - 'laf3alan la laqwalan'
- Para que todo siga igual cambiando lo todo.
- do and name after
- words make reference to themselves not to the real things
- canals interrupt flows
- progress interrupt evolution
- class order design environment
- 'las cosas son el dinero que valen y las personas son el dinero que vale su fuerza de trabajo'
- product erases memory of the material
....

- Arabic lesson with Sayonara / started to talk about classical Arabic calligraphy. She found two teachers for me immediately so she calls them but not managing to arrange anything. I have to call them later again.

Tasks:
- look for local hand-crafts.
- Sufi dance - Friday at Khan el Halili.
- ticket to Cyprus on 8th?
- Study Koran at Al Azat Mosque.

Studio - work:
- set up Ancona-Skopje
- caves- images Bristol / erased nettle images by accident!
- work with Laia – Rotor site

- set up a questions as a guidelines for the diary:

Questions for the day:
-What unexpected happened today?
-What was the strongest experience of the day?
Image, drawing, story...

Long term questions:
What do you expect from Cairo stay?

What small thing have you made today that made you happy?

Friday · May 16 · 2008

- walk along the Aqueduct / not really possible because of the new construction / should try to go from another side - from the Citadelle

- try to talk with a policemen - he repeats Magra Il-Ayun / something about eyes - I think, as he keeps pointing on his eyes / the access to Aqueduct is closed / *would be great to do the walk over the top of it some other time* /

- trying to cross busy street I stand near to the policeman waiting for him to stop the traffic / an overpacked van runs away giving gas while a policemen tries to stop it unsuccessfully

- a hut attached to the building

- Continue walking down the Nile. A wheel-disk falls of from some car and continues rolling crashing with other cars. A man from a car mechanic workshop runs into the middle of busy traffic to get it.

- meet with Ahmed psychiatrist / *he was saying something interesting about public space in Cairo on Apolonia's presentation?*

- drink Schweppes water today

- start crochet plastic bag / spent 2 black shopping bags

- taking pictures of writings on the walls / do not understand anything

- want to call German girl for the craft workshops but confused the names and got to Elke, an artist I met on Apolonia's presentation / anyway we arrange to meet tomorrow / What was the name of the German girl than?

- my mother announces her arrival on the 20th night

Sentences:
- *Release! You can't possess anything.*
- *Nothing new but the point of view.*
- *The material part is always the same. Things are changing only in the way that elements are relating and recomposing among themselves. A mouse is equal to a stone.*

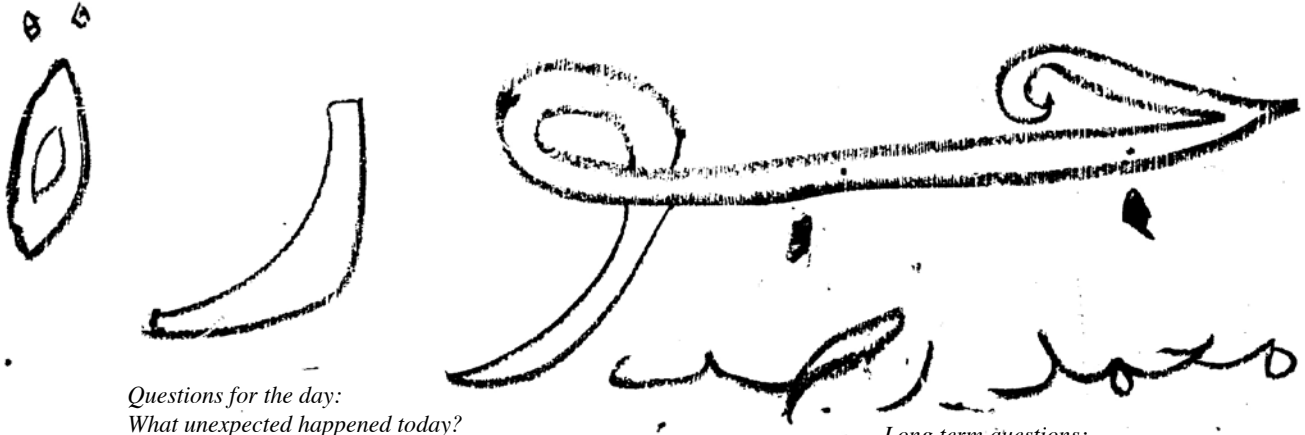
- I go to the bookstore and buy The Cairo Lonely Planet guide and maps because I want to plan excursions when my mother arrives. It's going to be her 60th birthday on the 26th. Can't remember the last time I bought a guide in my life.

- evening - meet Adhem psychiatrist / go to Al Azhar Park for the concert / We take a subway and a micro-bus and walk for a long time on the perimeter of the City of The Dead. He talks about Islam and psychiatry, as his mission is to join those two things, he says. He takes things from the religion that could be applied to the contemporary knowledge. Also he mentions new, big and polemic shopping mall that is currently under construction in this area. Seems there is lots of fights about that (similar to what's happening in other cities). Al Azhar Park is a very strange place. It's enclosed enormous park very clean and very elitist. It was donated to the city by Aga Khan - very rich man, founder of some Islamic sect. Concert - not too interesting. We go to eat something in a Restaurant that looks like a Palace, but prices are quite regular. I show him the old hand-made Koran eaten by the worms that I got from my father some time ago. Adhem translates me beginning of it. It says something like – *Don't direct yourself to the people of the book unless you treat them kindly...* (people of the book refers to Jews and Christians). We talk about calligraphy, Sufism, places in Egypt, lots of things. At the end we go back with a Taxi and find out that he grew up in the street where I am presently living.

- In the evening I stay until late looking at the guides. I find there that Al Hossein mosque is closed for non believers (and I was there inside taking pictures) even there is a belief that the bread that is sold around the Mosque is holy. Now I understand why this kid with a huge wooden box with bread on his head was getting so angry and was trying to escape me.

Tasks:
- ~~call calligraphy artist~~ - not accessible

Studio- work:
- resume of the passed days
- letter Andrea, Laia - rotor manuals



Questions for the day:
What unexpected happened today?
What was the strongest experience of the day?
Image drawing, story...

Long term questions:
What do You expect from Cairo stay?

Saturday · May 17 · 2008

Studio - work:

- paint studio floor in the morning

- go meet Elke in Townhouse / Elke and Wauter told me about some Dutch artist who had the same white Egyptian sneakers as me and was also doing some kind of a diary in 2006 !? / *should write him* /

- meet Mina, a guy who is organizing a workshops next to the Townhouse on Saturdays / very good atmosphere / *maybe possibility to do something there* /

- Locals are always pleased when they understand that my name is Arabic. They keep telling me different meanings of it. Most common is lonely and alone or the only one. Like only watch that somebody has or only child of a parents or a divorced woman. Hana on the party told me 'the one that can be alone'. But today a young man (Ibrahim) told me that it was a very famous woman hero from upper Egypt. There is some song about her. We listened the song but it was so long that he could not find the part where Wahida was mentioned.

- *shay* at coffee shop in the neighborhood / meet new people, socializing

- A guy on the street laughing at my Egyptian sneakers. They seem to be the cheapest local footwear.

- on Tahrir Square young guy asks me - Hey, hey, where are you going? What are you looking for? (repeating several times) - I reply – Why do you ask me questions? - and I get caught up in a discussion...

- back to CIC studio / put another layer of paint on the floor

- white sneakers already got dirty

- go to the dance event at *Ghomoreya Theatre*. Meet belly dance couple - they found the place for the sessions! Will call tomorrow to arrange the first session on Monday.

- drinking water on the streets (?)

- paint for the floor ends up being the wall paint. Although I asked Nasser several times if this is floor-paint when we went shopping I was given common acrylic wall paint / seems it's impossible to find floor paint here, they didn't know that something like this exists at all / anyhow I painted the floor with wall paint, light turquoise /

Questions for the day:
-What unexpected happened today?
-What was the strongest experience of the day?
- Image, drawing, story...

Long term questions:
What do you expect from Cairo stay?

Sunday · May 18 · 2008

- put all the furniture back into the clean studio

- sort all Cairo images

- postman arrives to CIC with the notification that there is a package for me / he takes me to the post office to get it / long bureaucratic procedure to get my VGA cable /

- call calligraphy professor 13:30 / Shaza talks with him and we arrange the classes twice a week -Tuesdays and Saturdays

- washing-machine is not working

- found a collection of plastic bags in the kitchen

Studio-work:

~~Sentences: --~~

Tasks:
- call calligraphy artist - haven't found him yet
- visit War Panorama
- call German girl for craft workshops
- get Mina's contact

- get up late due to insomnia - phone ring woke me up - older woman asking for Ben - I suppose it's his mother, she seems worried

- meeting with Edit and Aleya

- do, undo and redo the plastic bag crochet / I didn't liked the form it was taking, so I decided to do it from the beginning. It's much better now

- drink Coca-Cola water today

- funny ad for anti-spots cream / more drinking water in clay pots

- Sherry comes 16.30 and we go for a belly dance session . We meet at Metro Station and go to the dance-studio at *Ahmed-E-Din*. Lots of fun. Ezat said - Belly dance is a funny dance for women because they are much more flexible and can do more things vthan men. That's why they smile and have fun while dancing, proud of their ability.

- wooden cage again but as a small garden in front of a building

Cairo Integration Diary

- lesson with Sayonara

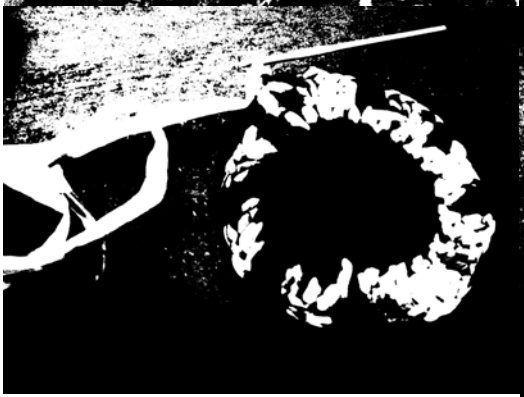
- coming back home I find hexagonal pavement tiles and plastic hamburger packaging in identical shape and size one next to another / *thinking of serial production, pattern* /

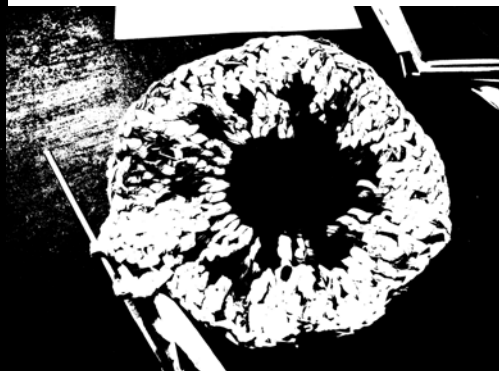
- At home I cut all the plastic bags that I could find and roll them into a ball. They are all white with some prints - mostly bags from pharmacies, left from somebody who was living here before me (maybe Ben).

Studio-work:
- make image photo album with Cairo images
- insert images in diary
- make belly dance flier

Tasks:
- call German girl for craft workshops
- get Mina's contact

بقالة
النيل الأزرق
BLUE NILE GROCERY
صيدلية
العزبي
١٩٦٠





Tuesday · May 20 · 2008

- call for yoga course but the center is having a holiday today

- I hear the front door ring-tone for the first time. It's a garbage collector.

- my mother arrives this night

- I have to call the psychiatrist to tell him not to send me any more messages / hard to have a male friend here?

- more clay pots on the way / a custom coming from Islam where the drinking water is to be offered to unknowns /

- first calligraphy lesson today 1.30 (!) / I got the time wrong - lesson was starting at 12h. So I leave the studio running and take a taxi. The taxi ride takes about 1h because the taxi driver doesn't have any clue where this place I had written on the paper is. I get pissed-of with him.

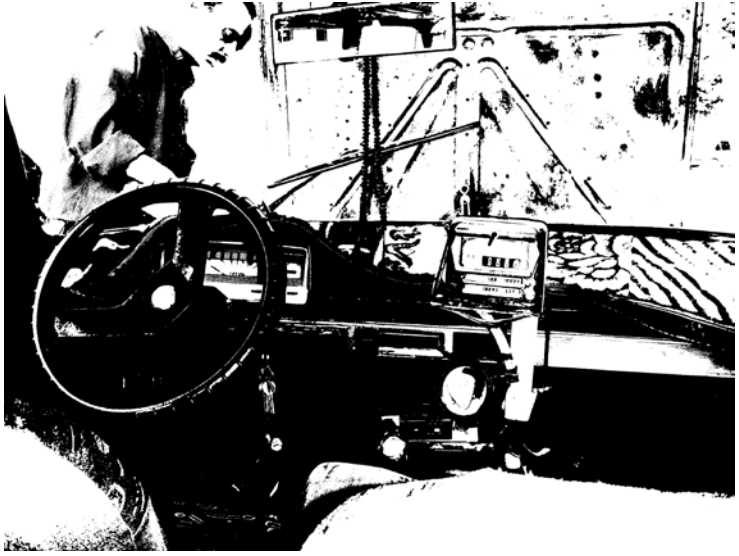
Behaes station

قصر العينى

-> ١٨ شارع يوسف البندارى بجوار
مسجد الهادى ارضه اللواء المهندسين
- الدور السادس
شجرة ، مكتب محامى

- At the end it was the calligraphy professor who gave the wrong address. During the lesson the professor's wife is sitting with us all the time. We start with practical things immediately. All great, except that he wants to charge me 300 pounds for an hour. His time is very expensive and he can earn lots of money doing calligraphies for weddings and celebrations - he says. The first lesson was free.

- On the way back the taxi driver gets out in the middle of the intersection to fix his car that broke down. He gets very nervous and talks a lot in Arabic. I get nervous too as I was in a hurry to meet with Ben, so I respond to him in Serbian. Finally I manage to make him calm down.



- Later at a falafel place I talk with a guy who says he is a taxi driver. We arrange to meet at 2.15 this night to go to the airport to pick my mother up.

- I drink Nestle water today

- in the evening Raffle party on the CIC roof. I comment to some people about the taxi driver with whom I arranged a ride to the airport this night. When I mention that he has a light blue car that is a not proper Taxi they say - No-No, you should not do this. Hana offers herself to help me with getting a taxi tonight. I feel bad for the taxi driver I arranged to meet with tonight, so I want to call him and cancel, but realize I lost his number.

- after the raffle people go to another place - *La bodega*. Going there in Shahira's car, listening *Fairuz* on the way.

- *La Bodega* is a fancy place where alcoholic drinks and cocktails are served. We are a big female group. I talk with Fatiha - an Arab dance professor - She is giving a class tomorrow 19h at Ahmed-E-Din Studio. I said I would try to come.

- going back home with Shahira very tired.

- rest for half an hour, around 1h I go to Hana's place / have a drink and talk / around 2h go out to get a taxi for the airport / pick up my mother and drive back home with a same taxi / tired with headache / need lots of sleep /

- find more hexagram tiles on the way

Studio-work:
- insert images to a diary
- belly dance flier

Tasks:
- call German girl for craft workshops
- get Mina's contact

Wednesday · May 21 · 2008

- drink Siwa water today

Work at studio:
- insert images in diary
- make diary interface

Tasks:
- call German girl for craft workshops
- get Mina's contact
- ask Adhem for good and cheap *galabiyya*

- Arabic lesson at 16.30 / call Sayonara to change for 16h

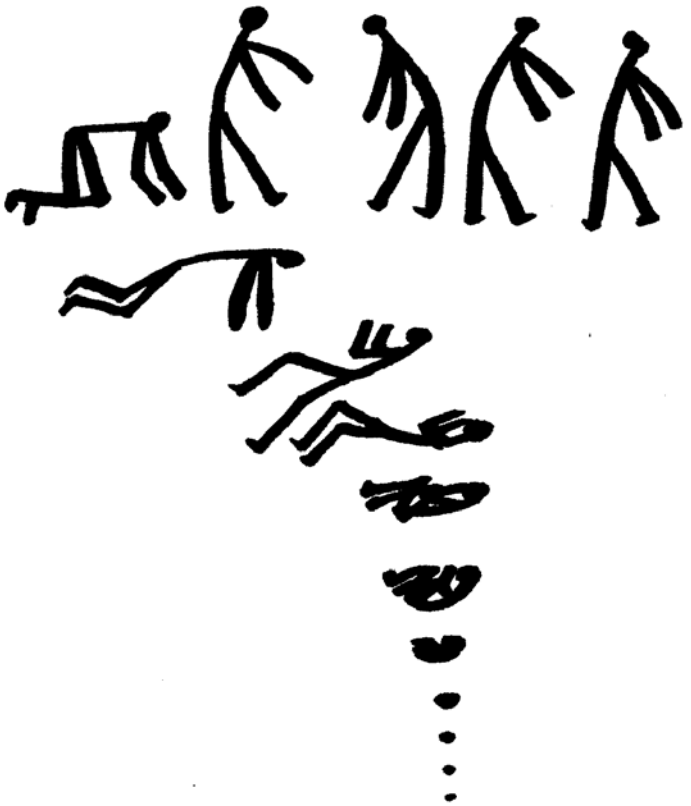
- I forgot the effort necessary to start speaking a new language

- Arabic dance at Mededin 19h with Fatiha

- on the way back see a dog sleeping on a car

- dinner with my mother

Momkin



Thursday · May 22 · 2008

- get up early 7.45 / have coffee in the bed / go through Arabic *(ameya)* / draw /

- visit Zamalek and downtown with my mother

- drink Pepsi water today

- my mother makes order in the flat in her way / she asks for beer in the shop (of course they don't sell it), goes to the policeman when she wants to cross the street...

- police bench

- buy sack of tobacco DRUM blue (45EP)
- buy calligraphy material (40EP)

- bought sunglasses 20EP

- call calligraphy professor and propose to him 100EP for a lesson he doesn't accept / *look for another one* /

- Mohamed, the CIC doorman is 'caught' giving me Arabic lessons in his work time. He receives a scolding from Mayada and Shaza. Seems that the main issue is that he's refusing to use a mobile phone.

- belly dance session at 17h

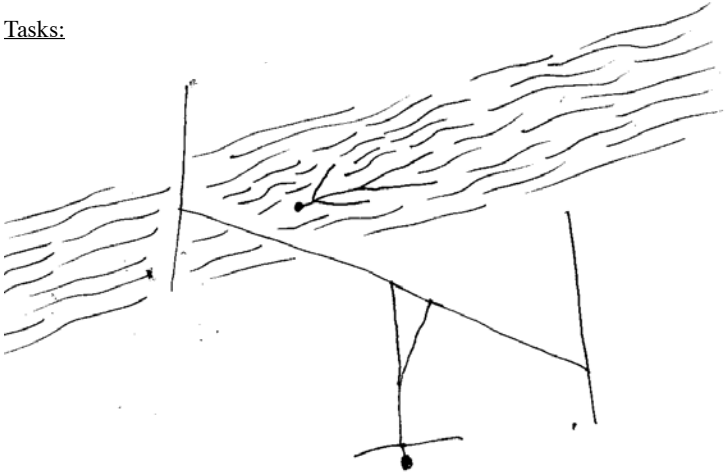
- Townhouse fashion show until 21h / people having great fun / have a *shay* in the coffee shop with my mother, Anastasia, a greek-swiss artist and her friend.

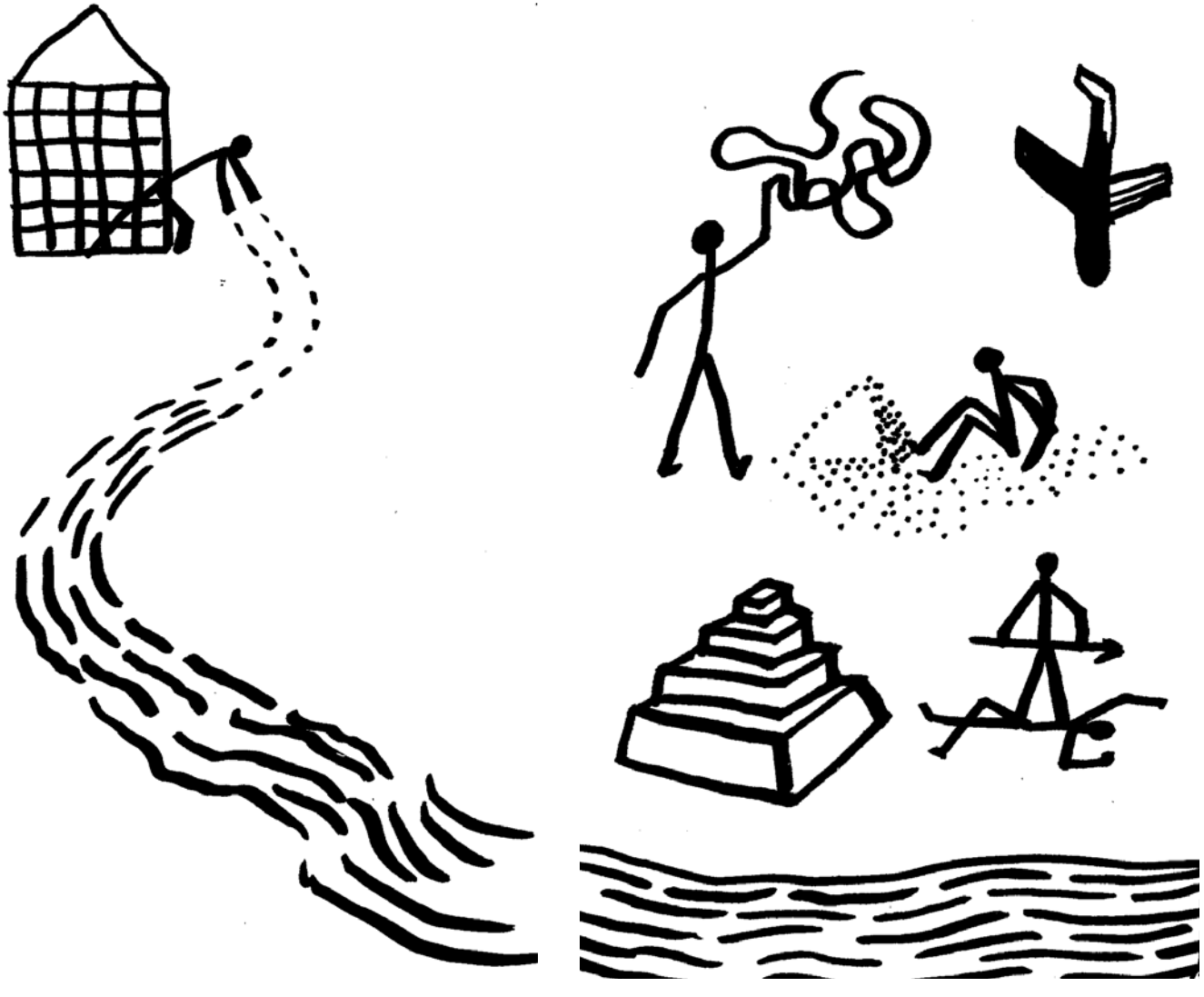
- ~~concert at Music Institute, Ramses street 21h~~ / not go

- take my mother home / Taxi ride takes too long as the driver doesn't know where our street is. At the end he drops us at a completely different part of the city. Take another taxi - he as well doesn't know the street - it takes an eternity but at the end we arrive. I continue to some party at Aghouza, Verena (a German girl) and Mayada are there. Mostly German people there playing association games on the balcony. Don't get any interesting information about craft workshops from Verena.

Work at studio:
- insert new images into diary
- make diary interface
- advance with plastic bag
- work on rotor new site and manuals

Tasks:





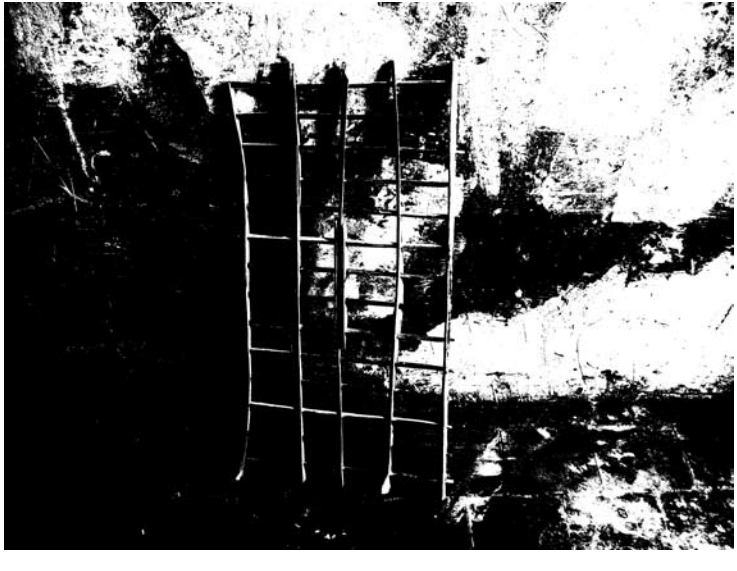
Friday · May 23 · 2008

- get up late 10.15 - go CIC

- go to Islamic Cairo in the afternoon / buy a bread tray from a bread seller on the street for 3 EP / simple common hand-made object / seems like it doesn't have any value here as people look at me strange and laugh at me passing by / they ask me if I'm selling bread, I guess.

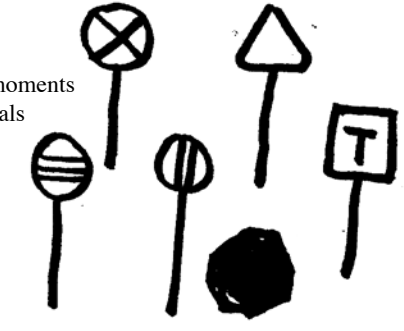
- ~~Sufi dance this evening - 20h Al Azhar Mosque~~ it is moved to tomorrow

- plan excursion to Fayum tomorrow. In the guide: all the worst things about Fayum - also it warns that Islamic fundamentalists that organized assault on tourists in '97 were coming from this area. I convince my mother to go anyways. At the end I call Hana and she gives me the contact of some guest-room in the village of Tunis in Fayum. I call the number and they have a bus leaving from our neighborhood at10h next morning.



Work at studio:
- respond mails from days ago
- insert new images in diary
- crochet plastic bag during dead moments
- work on rotor new site and manuals

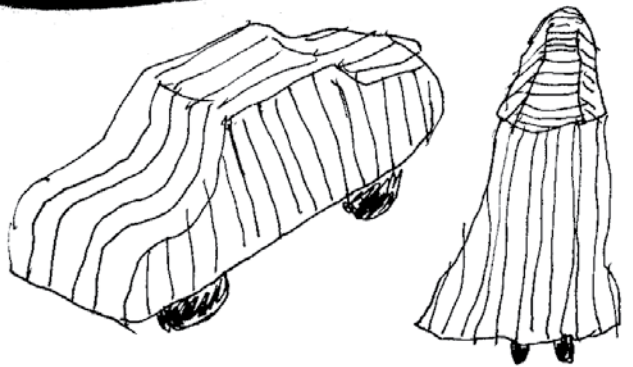
Tasks:



Saturday · May 24 · 2008

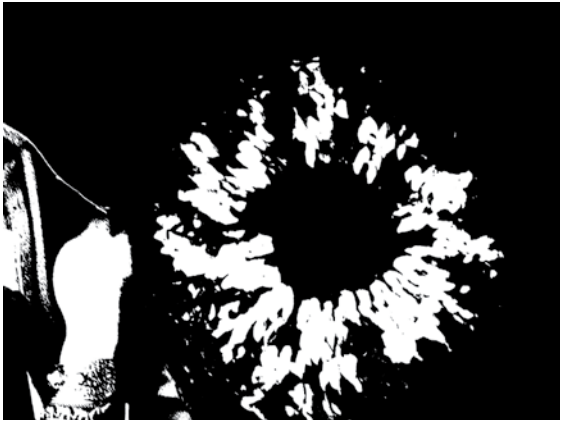
- get up go to studio

- cars very often covered. to protect from so much dust I guess. it seems to me they are also like a woman, hidden to protect its 'ornaments' (or how they say it in the Koran). The car is a status symbol and private property of a man - similar to a woman...



- get the bus for Tunis village

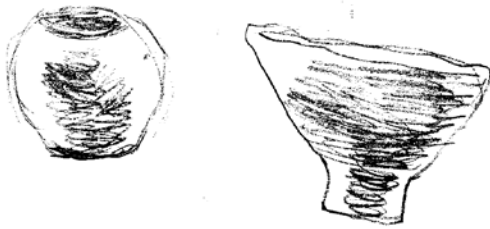
- continue doing and undoing the plastic bag - getting sentimental - I kind of don't want to finish it /

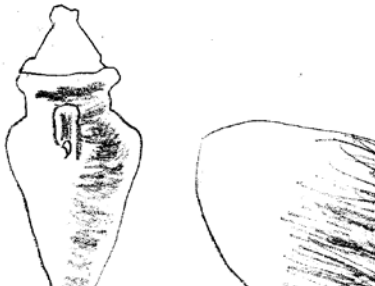


- passing through Al Haram suburb of Cairo on the way - neighborhood growing up in concrete blocks / *place to come back another time*

- 1h drive to Tunis that is a beautiful place next to the lake and palmistry /

- have a *shay* in the shade and go visit the village with Michele.





- In the pottery workshop I take a small turquoise pot from the waste and try the pottery wheel. You need lots of strength and coordination to keep the wheel moving with a leg and press the clay with both hands. We are offered *shay* too. My mother buys 2 very nice pots. On the way back we pass by a stable / lot's of nice horses, other animals and people there. We arrange to go riding in the afternoon. I haven't ever ridden a horse in my life.

- Lunch so good, small boy filled with mosquito bytes - thinking that we haven't brought any mosquito repellents - we decide to stay for a night and take a room. Go rest for a while. My mother wakes up on an ant path. We change the room and put the mosquito repellent.

- After short nap go to the village again, visit more pottery workshops, pottery school... / the drawings on the houses are about going to Mecca with airplanes and ships.

Cairo Integration Diary

- On the way back I go for a horse ride. We go to the lake with a young man who works there. we go through the water. In the beginning Emma doesn't listen to me but soon we go galloping and I learn how to make her go left, right, slow down, stop, etc. On the way we meet Hassan's father and brother. He wants to make a break on the end of the beach – its very nice there so I agree. We get off the horse and take the equipment off. He offers me local cigarettes. He sits on the sand and starts to draw hearts on the sand. I feel he is getting a bit too romantic so I ask him if he has a girlfriend. He says no – and continues – You my girlfriend – I pretend I haven't heard and continue with another subject. On the way back, he makes me listen to some love songs from his mobile phone. It's a song about a woman who had lost her man, he explains.

- small dinner in the guest house / put mosquito net and go to sleep early. In the night I suffer a mosquito invasion and my mother doesn't even note them

~~Work at studio:~~

~~Tasks:~~

- wake up very tired and go to Wadi Al-Ryan and Wadi Al-Hyat that is also known as a Valley of the Whales. During hours we are driving trough a shiny desert that we know was a bottom of a big ocean 40 thousand years ago. It looks like in a dream

- have shay with the driver in the shade / we have to force him to sit with us /

Cairo Integration Diary

- on the way back to the village visit the waterfalls / lots of kids playing in the water. all boys. I want to go to the water but the only thing I can do is wet my trousers up to the knees.

- from the village a driver takes us to the micro-bus stop to go to Cairo / it's one hour and a half of uneasy silence in a packed bus /

- in the evening I get the courage to go out for the first time in a skirt - feel tension on the street / walking on the side of the road, a car runs strait into me

- after, i feel something hitting me in the back, when i turn around I see a small girl running away. I go after her but she disappears into a court-yard. Two older girls show up. I say - Hello, why she is throwing things at me? - I'm sorry, one of them says, and she is so cute.

Monday · May 26 · 2008

- wake up with the image of a broken TV screen. Can't get rid of grey-scale lines

Work at studio:
- work on water (rotor) collage
- ~~13.30 Arab *ameya* lesson~~ canceled
- ~~pay rotor host~~ - not possible as my card got blocked for internet operations

- my mother's 60th birthday. We go for dinner to *Abu el Sid* in Zamalek
- call Hana to join us but she is having a meeting. An older aged couple enters to the restaurant. He in a white *galabiyya* and a hat and she is all covered in black with black gloves. Just a narrow stripe shows her eyes. This is not so unusual to see here but in this moment they look very impressive. I think how balanced they look as a couple. He has a quality to reflect, emanate into exterior, project outwards to the public, while her quality is to absorb, interiorize, she is projecting into private, towards the inside.

- Peter announces his visit 5-10th June

Tasks:
- plan visit to Sinai this weekend

Work at studio:

Tuesday · May 27 · 2008

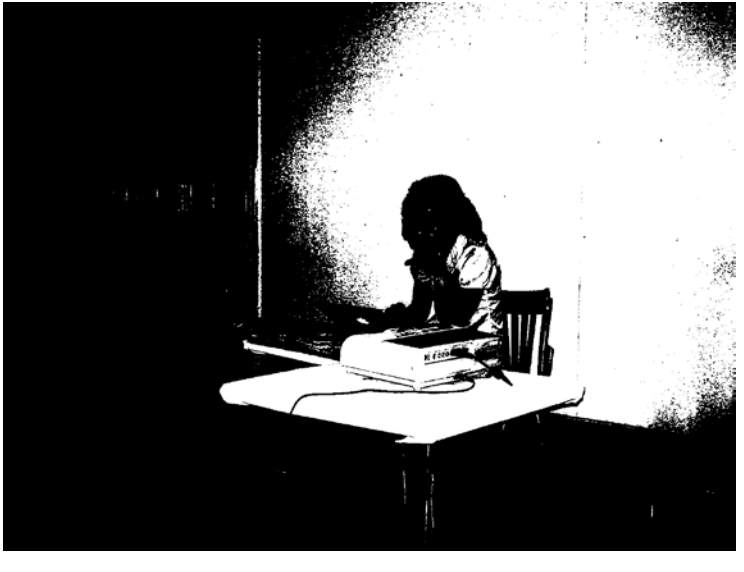
- spend almost all the day in preparing a slide-show as I was advised not to do the presentation from the internet /

- invasion of ants in the studio

- doing presentation this evening - satisfied - seems like people liked it

- after we go out for dinner *(Estoril)* with Hana and her boyfriend Tariq who just arrived from Beirut. I eat *Molokheya* - green slimy sauce with rice and chicken - It slows down the digestion, Hana says - One could just say - I had *molokheya* - to excuse himself for not doing something.

Tasks:
- extend Egyptian visa these days



Wednesday · May 28 · 2008

Work at studio:
- send mails
- download / sort images
- collage terra - rotor
- upload presentation slide-show

Out:
- ~~visit Coptic Cairo with my mother afternoon~~ / too hot
- ~~15h belly-dance session~~ cancelled walk around - buy new note book

- pottery workshop presentation - from Townhouse 18.30 19.30 - I was told the wrong time. Visit Townhouse earlier - there was a government inspection today so all the shops and cafés around shut down. Seems it's impossible to get all the right permissions to work here, so the government does these controls some three times a year to charge penalties, after people go back to works as before. Elke and Wauter also explain to me that we, foreigners, are paying 2 times more for anything in shops. If you go with somebody local the best price you can get is 1,5 times more. I'm not sure about that / *have to test it*.

- Walking I feel some tension on the streets - people keep asking me things - feel a bit better covering the hair -I find a very nice bar in a thick shade next to Talaat Harb Square. Lots of people smoking *sheesha* and sitting there for long time.

- Ibrahim Ibrahimovic - an artist working with Elke and Wautter - the one that was telling me about the very long song with some princess Wahida now talk me about his friend Sameh who is calligrapher. This is the same one I had problems to get in touch with before. I am introduced to another Wahida.

- pottery workshop opening. Lots of people. Socializing.

- generally women are more tough here, specially if they go out unveiled / going out unveiled for a woman here means important decision and statement

- beer in Horreya. We set up a football match for Friday.

Tasks:
- extend Egyptian visa these days

Work at studio:
- images
- practice *ameya*

Tasks:
- make Arabic/English visit-cards on Tahrir Square
- ~~plan visit to Alexandria this weekend~~ or Dahab

Thursday · May 29 · 2008

- wake up nice but no water in the flat

- I realize that I don't have a key to the studio, so I can't go there earlier than 10hwhen all the people are arriving / have to find out where it is / I believe I forgot it yesterday in the bathroom when the phone rang

- go to the lab / In the front I meet a nice guy, Sameh. He speaks good English and helps me lots to figure out all the bureaucratic mess. He is also doing some bureaucracies there. As I have to wait for my thing I join him for a while in his paper-work. He was born in Holland from Egyptian parents and says he is a graphic designer. Worried for the key I want to go to the studio and we arrange to meet later, he will help me finish my tasks afterwards.

- go to CIC and find the key where I had expected / *all fine*

- work in studio /

- meet with Sameh again / do the analysis / nurse thinks he is my spouse, as he is not declining she makes him all sorts of questions / we have a drink after and go to studio together. On the way he makes me try *khasab* – sugar cane drink made and sold on the street.

- my mother waiting at CIC / Sameh calligrapher calls to meet up / we arrange to meet at 16h at Talaat Harb

- First Sameh leaves / I go out to eat with my mother / Its too hot to walk and we can't find any good place to eat nearby so I go back to the studio for an hour /

- meet Sameh calligrapher / he explains he's so busy and cant give me classes but will try to find someone else /

- Peter arriving 5th of June

- 20h Arab *ameya* lesson / learn new words from the children nationalist alphabet video *Alif, Ba, Ta* on YouTube (learn new words: *my country, my flag, my nation, nationalism, peace, soldier*).

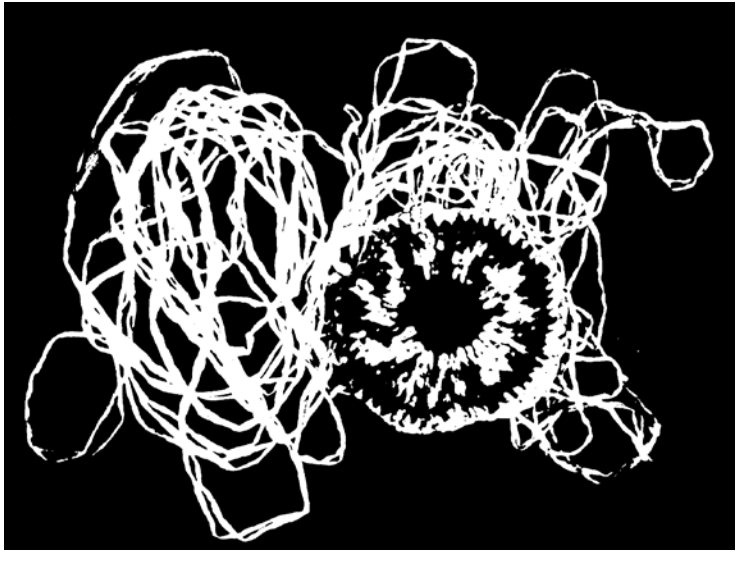
- dinner in *Taboula* with my mother / - more veiled cars -

- go to sleep very tired /

Friday · May 30 · 2008

- wake up very early

- read in bed



- undo crochet

- go out - the city is completely empty - only the street cleaners / some stone falls in front of me – an old blind woman jumps in front of me from behind a car. I would have given had I not gotten her so frightened.

- studio /

- go to Al Azhar Park with my mother - now during the day - through the fence there is a view to the City of The Dead - the guard telling we have to move away - without any explication, he is not answering any of our questions - just repeating that he could have problems. Park is very exclusive and luxurious with connected water basins trough all the park and network of water supply for each three. Suddenly while we are on the top of the hill the Friday prayer starts. Multitudes of untuned chanting arrive from different sides of the dense urbanization in the bottom. We make a break in the shade. Do crochet.

- go out of the park and walk by the highway trying to reach the City of Dead. Unbearable heat. Taxi drivers stopping next to us offering a ride. Finally my mother give up, and accepts one. She thinks it's so sad that people live in the graves.

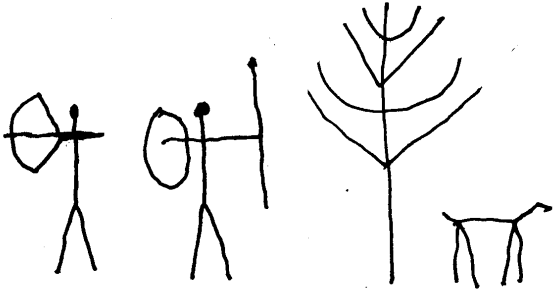
- go to Islamic museum, but it's closed - will open in three months the guard say / but no works seems to be happening there

- go to Zamalek, *Diwan* bookstore, look for calligraphy books. On the way we enter *Cilantro* café to get refreshment. Get "Daily News" and surprisingly there is a big article on the last page about the presentation that I gave on Wednesday. Waiter says we can take the newspaper. My mother stays to explain to him that there is an article about my work in it. She's proud of me. Go to Diwan and buy three calligraphy exercise booklets, book about Rumi and Fairuz's CD. In the meanwhile my mother was out in some shop with clothes. She takes me there and we try and buy few things. Walk trough Zamalek for a while and take a taxi to go home.

- have a rest - read Rumi's book, arrange to meet with Sameh First for a dinner / While waiting for him in front of the Munira Garden I witness a very violent fight among schoolgirls. The big one very angry took the small one and pushed her against the car. The small one felt on the pavement staying to lay there without any signs of life. Schoolteachers and other kids didn't seem too upset about it. A teenager with a beer in his hand comes to me and asks if I am looking for something. Sameh was waiting on another place so finally we meet and go to *Hossein* with his car. Sameh Calligrapher calls – his friend accepted to give me classes - we arrange to meet all three of us tomorrow at 16h at *Horreya*. Sameh First takes me to a tiny family restaurant in a small street of Khan el Khalili. This place is famous for stuffed pigeons *(hamamma mashi)*. We take all the pigeon in hands and bite them - they taste delicious. Leaving the place we drive trough the small streets of the City of The Dead and get lost on the surrounding Highway.

Work at studio:
- images - mails

Saturday · May 31 · 2008



- wake up in the night beaten by something - have a shower and listen to the night prayer 4.20 +/-

- prepare plastic stripes from yesterdays shopping for crochet

- get out go to the bookstore and lab for the results

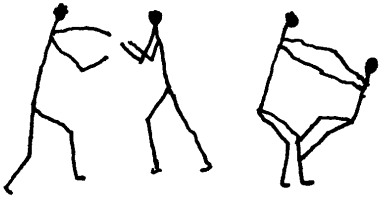
- go for a coffee with my mother / do crochet

- CIC - work on the terrace / getting too warm outside / I lost my crochet needle somewhere / turning around all the pillows I find a small plastic bag with some powder in it / found crochet needle also / day when nothing seems to make too much sense /

- 20h meet with Sameh Calligrapher and his friend who should give me the lessons. Waiting for them inside the bar but they were waiting outside. They are not coming in. We arrange to start with the 1st lesson tomorrow afternoon.

- dinner at *Estoril*

- go home sleep



<u>Work at studio:</u>
- images
- mails

Sunday · June 01 · 2008

- lots of dreams / *It is The New Years Eve. Milica my mother's friend is organizing a party in a swimming pools of a luxurious hotel. But she encloses all the people in the space with glass wall. All the people are lying in foldable beach chairs one next to another as in the Big Brother TV Show. Somebody says – Common, you can't keep us locked here. It's New Year's Eve. Let's go swimming. Somebody opens the door and we just walk out.*

- prepare a plastic bags for the crochet / my mother was shopping for some gifts yesterday - almost all the bags are black

- go to the lab for a new test

- buy rice to send in a package /

- go to CIC - no internet - do crochet / draw

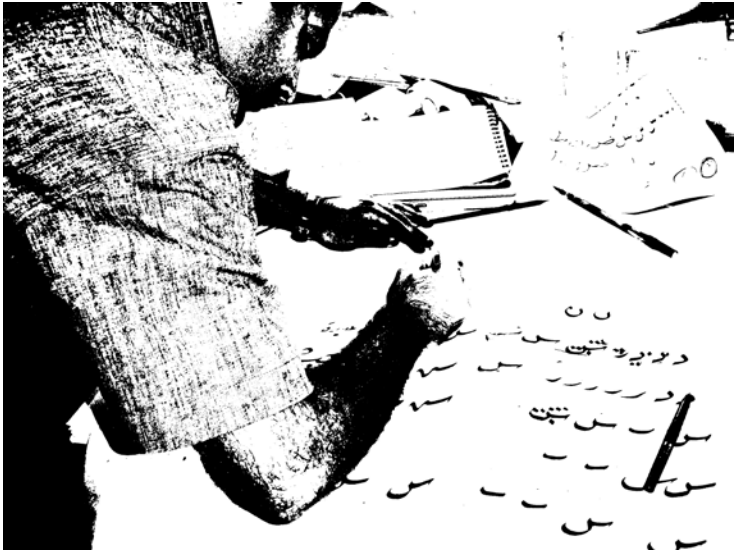
- internet comes back - sort old images

- go to the nearest post office / For sending packages they direct me to *Ataba Square*, it is not so near so I take a cab. On the way a taxi driver takes one more customer. He is getting lost now, he can't find the post office. When we arrive he asks me for 20EP which is too much. To cut with a discussion I go out through window leave him on the seat 5EP that I considered fear price. Leave in fear that he could go after me. Inside the post office I realize that I don't carry enough money on me for sending a package so I go to out to get some cash. Walk under the bridge I always pass over to go to Khan el Khalili. It's filled with small kiosks and workshops. Buy a bunch of stickers. Back to post office - my package was 1.100g so they want to charge it as it has 1.5 kg. Take some rice out so it wights 980g now. Anyway I pay for the shipping a sum that could be somebodies month income here. I give them reason hated me for a moment.

- Essam calligrapher teacher calls - he is already at the metro station *Saad Zaghlool* waiting for me. I can be there in 15 min earliest with cab / taxi driver picks up another customer on the way /

- now no time to pick up the results

- calligraphy lesson / my teacher hardly speaks any English - but he is a very good guy, serious, methodical and easy as a teacher /



Cairo Integration Diary

- my mother arrives to CIC and we go to Townhouse / meet with Mina and Yordanka / set up a meeting for sometimes next week to talk about Sawa workshops / meet Elke, Wauter and Ibrahimovic / afterwards going for a *shay* on the terrace / some guys, journalists they say, surround us at the table and talk, talk, talk... / my mother gets uncomfortable and we move soon /

- eat at Filfella

- arrive home early but very tired, do BG phone agenda, draw, go to bed

Work at studio:
- images
- mails

Tasks:
- plan Greece

Monday · June 02 · 2008

- wake up / tidy up the flat

- go to lab

- studio work / crochet while uploading - -

- go make visit card / will be finish on Thursday

- reserve flight Greece

- Peter will bring Italian wine and watercolors

- receive mail from Toni about doing solar system models in the city scale - I was just thinking about it two days ago.

- practice balance walking on the small pedestrian island in the middle of busy Al Aini Street

- Leaving the studio late. There is a door open on the ground floor. A woman is living there. Very bad smell extends from her apartment through all the building. I see her sometimes as she look through the window. She is about middle age, with very short grey hair, fat, and people say she is crazy. This time somebody was visiting her, some family member who was taking care of her. When I go out I close the door downstairs with a massive chain as usual. But behind me I hear very loud and angry shouting. She shows up trough the ornamented forged metal of the closed door shouting something in Arabic. Shivers pass through my body. Than the man shows up on another window and says - Could you open the door? We will close it later. I excuse myself and open it.

- 20h Arabic lesson / lots of new words / I'm kind of starting to speak

- go home - have a glass of wine with my mother / talk about family and do crochet - run out of plastic bags

Work at studio:
- living outside
- play lines

Tasks:
- plan Greece

Tuesday • June 03 • 2008

- wake up - do some writing

- go out in Egyptian *galabeyya* that my mother bought me few a days ago. It's very airy and comfortable, but people can't stop staring at me on the street. What is strange, is that they are not looking at my *galabeyya*. They are looking strait into my eyes. As it is repeating so much I try to understand the nature of their looks but not succeeding.

- go buy smoking supplies in Talaat Harb / take *wara wa ainab* for a lunch at 'Filfela'

- work in studio

- administration, visas, call embassies, Yugoslav, British, civil registers, Cairo, Barcelona...

- 17h film about a woman taxi driver at Opera House / they put also an documentary about unmarried Arab women in their 30ies

- ~~exhibition from the Sawa photographic workshop, El Dokki~~ / not going

- just realized how I started to pronounce my name with 'W'

- make pictures for the visa with a head scarf

- evening at home / my mother knitting a woolen shall and I crochet a plastic bag

Work at studio:
- ~~fiskultura urbana~~ bukra
- empty your symbols
- embroided diaries
- ~~people~~ bukra
- practice calligraphy
- do Arabic

Tasks:
- do the visa tomorrow
- make photos and passport photocopy

Wednesday · June 04 · 2008

- get up early - *shwaya shwaya*

- make photocopy passport / go studio / call civil register Barcelona - they put some elevator music for 15min until the line breaks - nobody answers

- go MUGAMMAH - Cairo Civil Register for the Visa extension / Huge building, all sorts of legal procedures are to be done there: births, deaths, marriages, land properties, nationalities, visas, etc. Its labyrinthine and full of police and officials that who knows what they are doing there. As like a miniature state. Even a shoe cleaner is there in the middle of the corridor, a small self-service bar, a kiosk, etc. It's possible to learn about the organization of Egyptian state just by exploring this building. I make apply for the visa extension with Shaza and at the end they say it will take 10 days. As I should travel to Greece in one week I keep asking questions of what should I do? Woman at the window is hardly talking, she looks as if she is going to cry at any moment. She says -You cant travel. Than we go to another window and ask again. A woman takes my passport and splashes the fly on the desk with it. It's not that I appreciate my passport so much, but... She says also to Shaza - She cant leave the Country. Than I say that I was told that it's possible to pay some fine on the border and enter again - she says – Yes, 12 dollars.

- go to the tourist agency than to buy a ticket to Athens / Getting my way through subterranean passages under the Tahrir Square, like a mole I show up onto the daylight on different spots of a enormous Square, not managing to hit my target - a corner where the agency is placed.

- wait for some half an hour at the agency until the ticket is done /

- find my mother and go for lunch - she finished the woolen shawl and was having fun making images of people wearing it in this heat /

- looking for the places to swim -

- calligraphy lesson 15h - Essam says I am nervous today and my lines are getting out harder – I improve in the course of the class

- skype with Dionis, Peter and Bojan / work a bit

- leave CIC, a taxi driver stops next to me this time to ask me for the direction of some place in Arabic I just smile but he was serious, he taught I am local (!)

- 10h meet Samir - he asked to see the Schengen book so we meet and go Cairo Jazz Club. He picks us up with his car. Good air-conditioning. We stop on the way because I have to get some cash. Coming back to the car I enter saying - Bahh, this cash machine is not working. I think you are in the wrong car - I hear while turning the head to see some completely unknown person sitting next to me on the drivers place. I look in the front and there is Samir's car just some 15 meters in the front. In the Jazz club very loud music so we have to shout - my mother gets anxious about loosing the flight this night, so we leave soon.

- my mother leaves at 00h

Work in studio:
- fiskultura urbana
- copy bg address book
- calligraphy
- check playall Dionis

Tasks:
- Swimming pool at Nile Hilton and nearest place on the coast (1h) Ain Sokhna

Thursday · June 05 · 2008

- wake up early 7h - phone rings but nobody's answering / I taught it's my mother so I call her / it was not her - she is only in Athens

- prepare more plastics for crochet

- go out - taxi drivers keep stopping next to me pressing horn and asking questions...

- National mine shaft

- Peter arrives 16h / we arrange to meet in the garden of Nile Hilton / running down 'Asr al Aini to Tahrir Square already late to meet Peter I see there is something burning in the front / traffic jam / gave up on collecting my visit cards on the way, no time now / find Peter having *shay* in Nile Hilton's café / all the Hotel is very good air-conditioned so it's pleasant to stay there for a while / checking for the swimming pool / they have a small one and the day entrance is 120EP / maybe an option for some extremely hot day / go collect the visit cards / a man made 200 instead of 100 that I asked / on the top of this he made a mistake in web address - he put rororrr instead of rotorrr / I take them anyway /

- national balance in the grocery store / so many things are called 'national' here / seems lots of basic services are subsidized by the government /

- taking Peter to Al Azhar Park for dinner / arguing with a taxi driver has a friendly tone - he wants to take too much money but doesn't manage - he explains how great Egypt is and being Egyptian - when at the end he asks me what is my country I say - I don't have a country / seems as he's having pity on me /

ناشيونال
NATIONAL

Friday · June 06 · 2008

- wake up / nice morning, blue sky, a bit of wind

- go to Coptic area with Peter /

- public drinking water tap

- buy a clay water bottle - *ola*

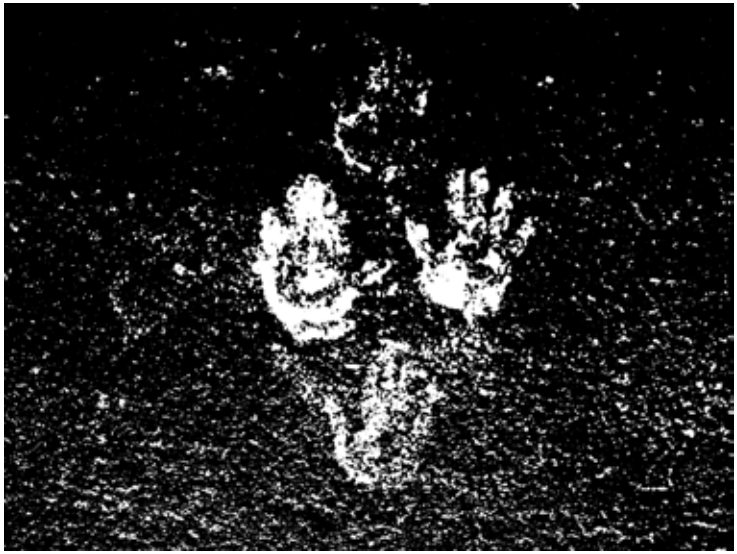
- do chalk drawings / play with kids / follow the hexagram patterns on the pavement/ kids start to gather / they think it's some game so we try to invent the rules - fun

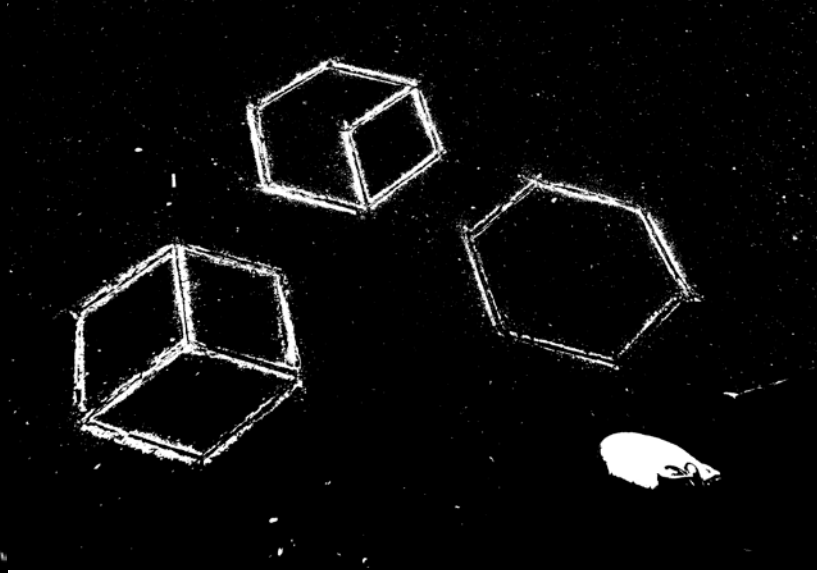
- go to Zamalek / Opera House /

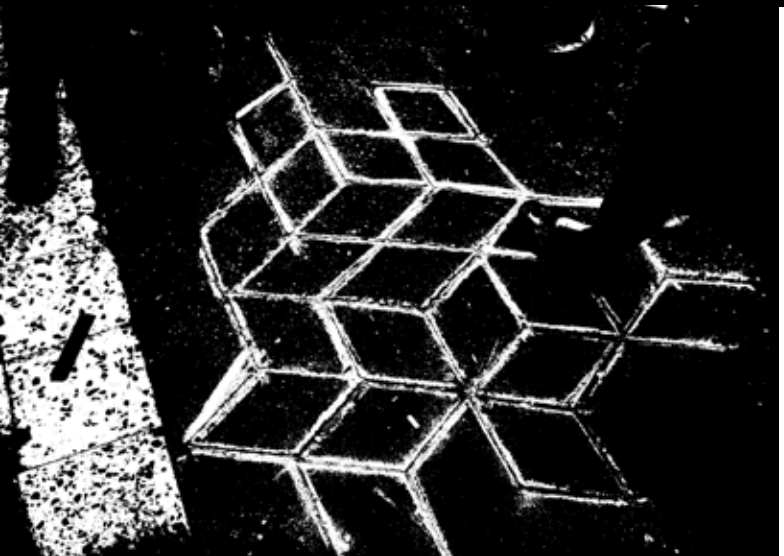
- hand prints on the wall (?)

- a man on the street offers to fill our bottles with water - mine ceramic and Peters plastic - we accept

- OLA - Clay water bottle - very common object, must be in use for ages / recyclable / keeps the water cool / (Sameh said that in Egyptian movies it is used in fights because it breaks in a very spectacular way)







- Go to the roof of the Odeon Hotel. Impressive view to the roofs of the buildings. They are filled with all sorts of dusty things as if all this just fell down from a sky after a big storm and stayed like this. A Dutch man joins us on the table. He talks with Peter about cameras.

- Peter is impressed with the covered cars. He is able to recognize the model of the car under the tissue

- ~~20h Arabic class~~ cancelled

- go to dance festival / I see my belly dance professors on the stage

- party at Townhouse / dance

- dinner in Taboula with Peter

Saturday · June 07 · 2008

- get up early have a coffee with Peter and go in front of CIC - Said is already waiting for us in his car to take us to Ain Sokhna

- Ain Sokhna is not a city as we expected. We are driving by the coast passing by beautiful empty beaches and huge wired constructions completely empty of people. There are only workers, occasionally taking refreshment in the sea. They seem to be living in improvised tents on the construction sites.

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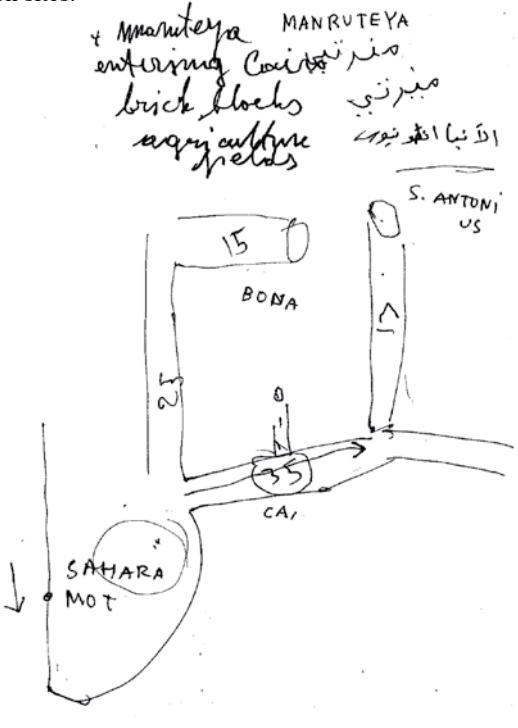
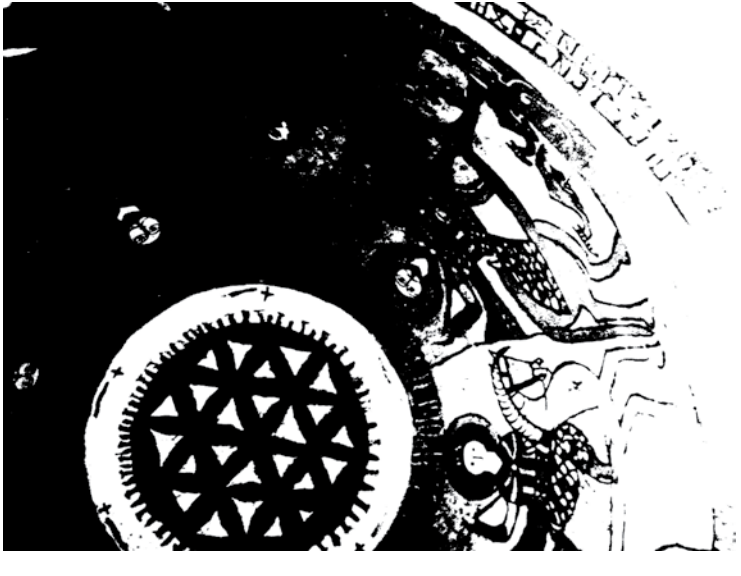


- Have a lunch in the Zafrana Motel on the junction at the Zafrana and decide to go to St. Pauls Monastery. We are told the monastery is built over the cave where St. Paul spent 90 years of his life.

- Three Bedouin women in their black festive clothes with modest decorations entering the church. One of them is carrying a baby. Following the oldest woman they are loudly kissing all the images of St.Paul they can see. They are asking for a blessing from Father Thomas. After them, we receive blessing too. Father Thomas explains to us after that despite the fact Bedouins are Muslims they honor St. Paul as a saint because he was living in the desert, like them.



Cairo Integration Diary

-We go to see the spring. Spring water that comes from the mountain is carefully channeled and used for people and watering plants in the community. Father Thomas washes my head with the spring water and he calls me Fatima all the time.

- Peter talks to Father Thomas about the use they could have for solar panels and proposes to make the calculations for them. Father Thomas is very interested. He shows us the rest of the monastery, gives us bread they are making and invites us for tea. We are receiving very special treatment. Father Thomas is not using Internet or mobile phone so we will have to write letters.

- Both Father Isaac, Father Benjamin that we had met before as well as Father Thomas are looking at you with their wide open eyes, smiling so you have to smile also, I don't know why.

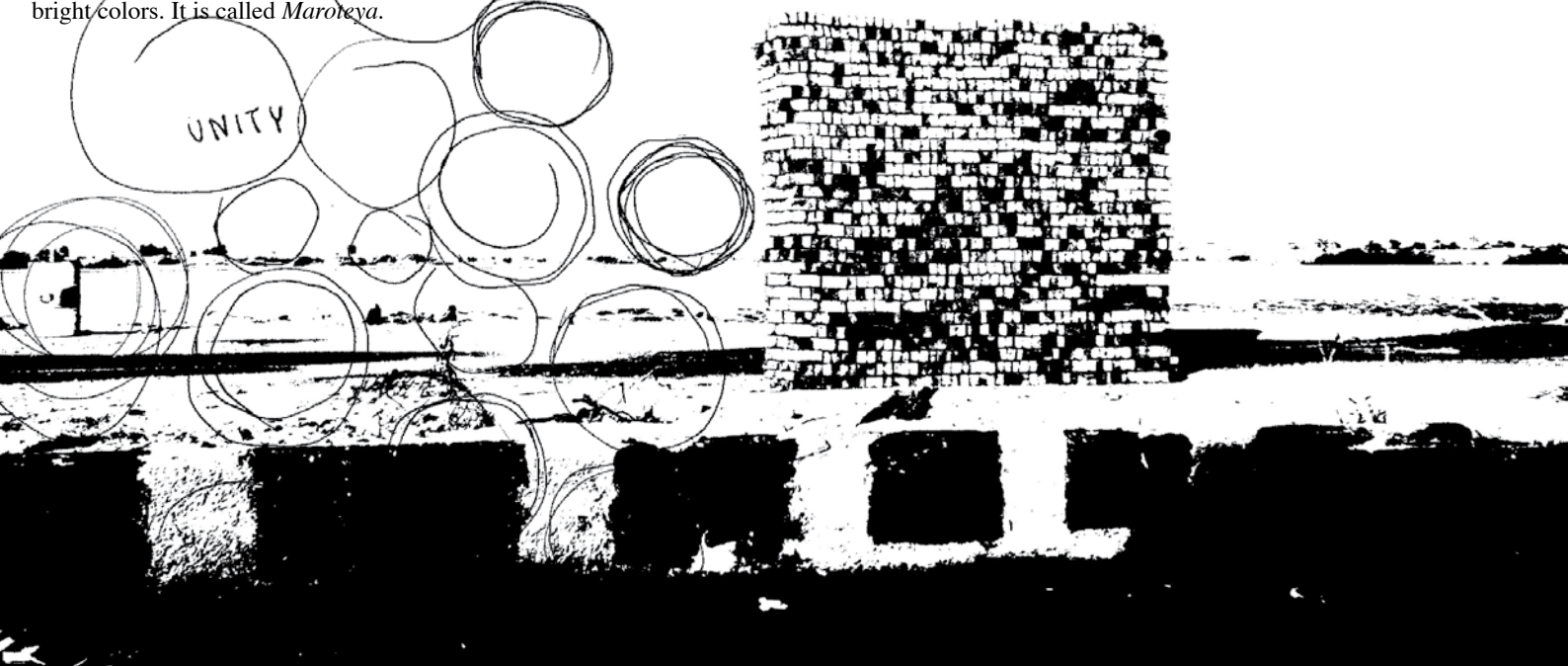
- On the way back we see lots of kites over the sea. We make a stop at the seaside to enter the resort. We have to pass the reception in the incredible huge hall. It's all empty. The receptionist wants to charge us 50EP each for using their beach. We say we just want to take a look. Long walk through the huge completely empty holiday complex with a guy following us. On the beach there is a group of Germans doing kite surfing. We meet an instructor Mohamed - he is a very nice guy and tells us we could

have a quick swim. The water is beautiful or I was feeling very anxious about swimming. Well, it is one of most beautiful beaches and waters I had ever visited. Thinking about conversation with F. Thomas - before 73 and the war with Israel this was militarized zone so only monks had a permission to go to the sea. Now the access for them is closed with the resorts.

- on the way back to Cairo we are passing through a huge suburban area built on agricultural fields. Houses are all unfinished blocks built in a modular way out of bricks. Some of the balconies are painted in very bright colors. It is called *Maroteya*.

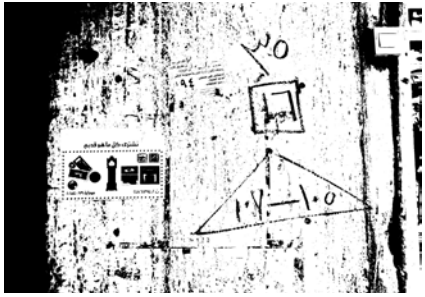
- our driver Said is so nice - he always says money is not a problem - but we always give him more than he was expecting. He leaves us at Falaki square. We go to *Horreya* for a beer.

- dinner at the flat - Peter is cooking a risotto - we have it with the Italian wine he brought. Stay until late talking. He asks me if Father Thomas liked me - I say - Yes, and I liked him very much - He said - No, not in that way.



Sunday · June 08 · 2008

- get up very early 6h dehydrated and can't sleep again.



- on the entrance of my building there is a blue chalk tag just as on all the other buildings / Peter says that he read somewhere that this is some kind of superstition that Egyptians do

- *shahada* sticker on the car / very popular here, almost impossible to see in Europe

~~-10h - Meeting with Yordanka~~ - coordinator of Sawa workshops at Townhouse - she calls to reschedule the meeting for tomorrow morning

- very hot outside / I start to say hello to an old lady who has an improvised kiosk in the front of her building next to the CIC

- work in studio

- 15h calligraphy lesson - my professor seems to be very happy with our classes / we finished all the alphabet in *rocaa*

- go to the flat try to sleep but unsuccessfully - too tired to sleep

- Peter arrives - gives me a massage -

- rest, shower / go to openings first CIC after Townhouse

- we meet Hana who talks about a garbage neighborhood where all the garbage collectors actually live and recycle waste - it's near the City of The Dead and Citadelle / *find out more about that*

- On the way to Townhouse we hear very strong thunders and as soon as we arrive there starts it to rain. It's like a miracle. All the kids start whistling very loud and running around. The people are not hiding from the rain. It's kind of celebration.

- Upstairs in Townhouse there is an exhibition of photographs with Arabic calligraphy. One of writings on the truck says *'Maat al kalam'* - Words are dead or there is nothing more to say.

- go for sweets and mango juice to *Groppi*

- pass by studio to see the news about today's earthquake in Greece

- go home sleep

Tasks:

Monday · June 09 · 2008

- get up early but had a good sleep / do washing / coffee with Peter

- go to studio / meeting with Yordanka / we set up to do a mapping workshop with working children or contribute to their children book project with Sawa Generation /

- a chalk drawings story ?

- Arabic lesson with Sayonara / she laughs at *galabeyya* I am wearing and tells it is the house garment of a common woman

- clean the studio / prepare for the travel tomorrow

- crochet plastic bag on the terrace / Peter doing a big aquarelle / Mohammed is also there / we all contribute to Peter's drawing /

- after 4 go out with Peter to ~~some new neighborhood or~~ War Panorama of '73 / present from the Korean Government / strange place /

- go Khan el Khalili / mint lemonade at Fishawi / Peter buying a hat and *galabeyya* / long chat with a shop owner / go for stuffed pigeons (*hamama mashi*)

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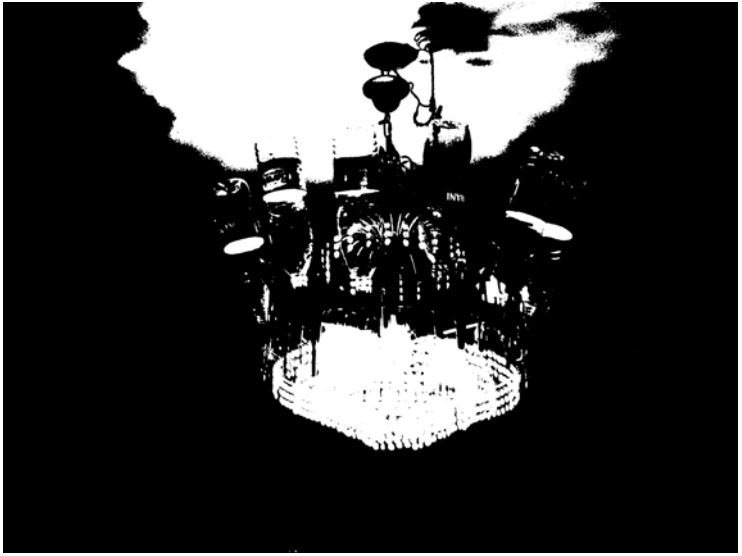
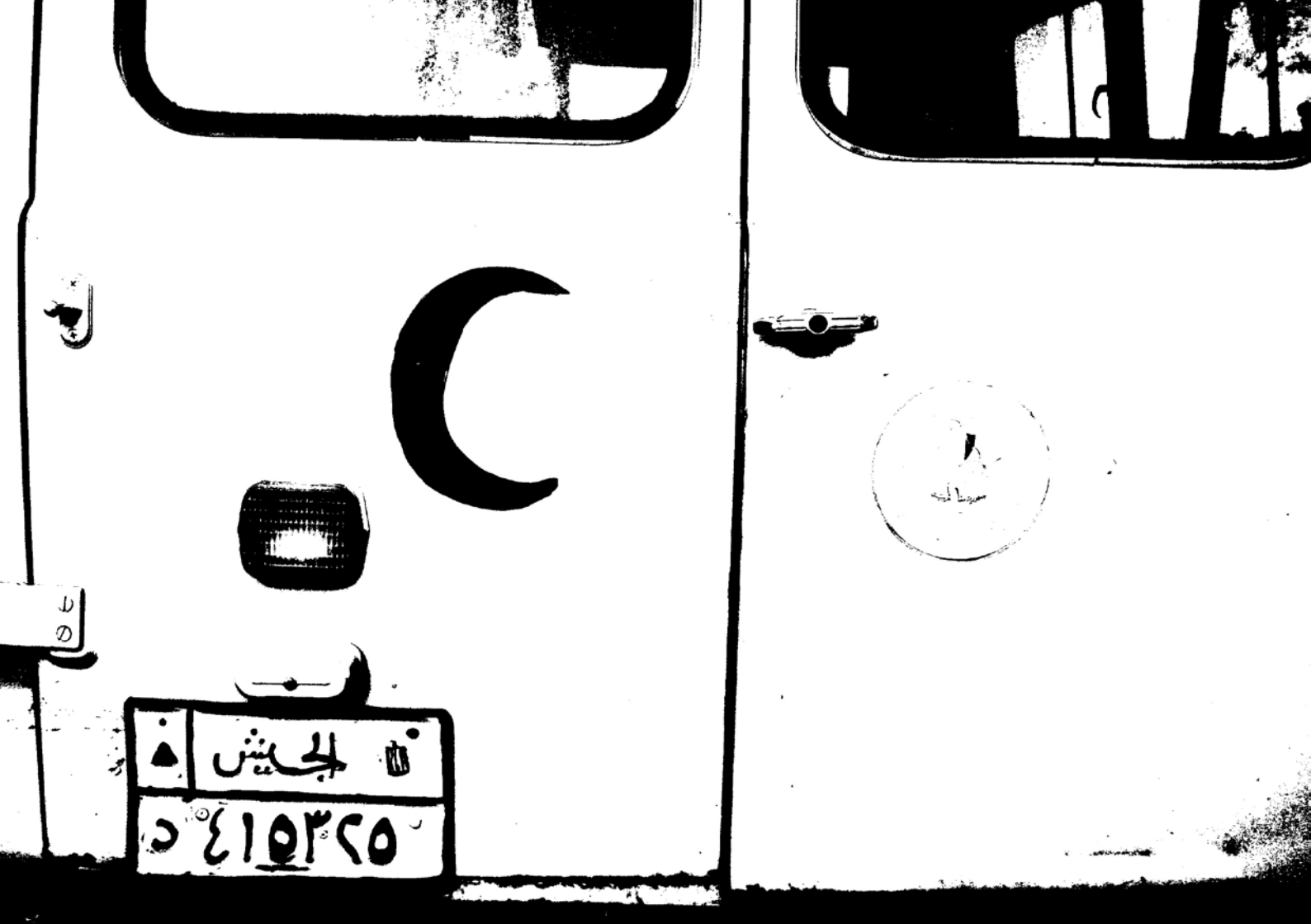
- Peter makes the chandelier out of plastic bottles / *very nice*

- I finish the Cairo plastic bag / put the handles and pack in it for tomorrow's travel



Tasks:
- ~~new rope~~
- presents K&B
- directions and phones
- cane sticks & ink
- embroidery ? / chalk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Tuesday • June 10 • 2008

- get up early / morning breeze / nice / a bit tired

- finish works and tide up the studio

- go airport -> Athens

- go to the cash machine to get some money but realize that my credit card is not in the wallet (*!!tarjeta de credito retirda*) what a mess. For the moment I find myself standing on the pavement thinking what to do while some boys from the improvised tricycle are shouting something to me, not too nice I would say. I have no other than to take a taxi and cancel my credit card on the way to the airport.

- traffic jam on the way to the airport / I also realize that I had calculated time badly and I'm arriving one hour later that I was planning /strange logo attracts my attention / can't understand it at all / just after, I realize it is some black bird in the front of the sun / and it's a greek company - it says something about metaphors (?)

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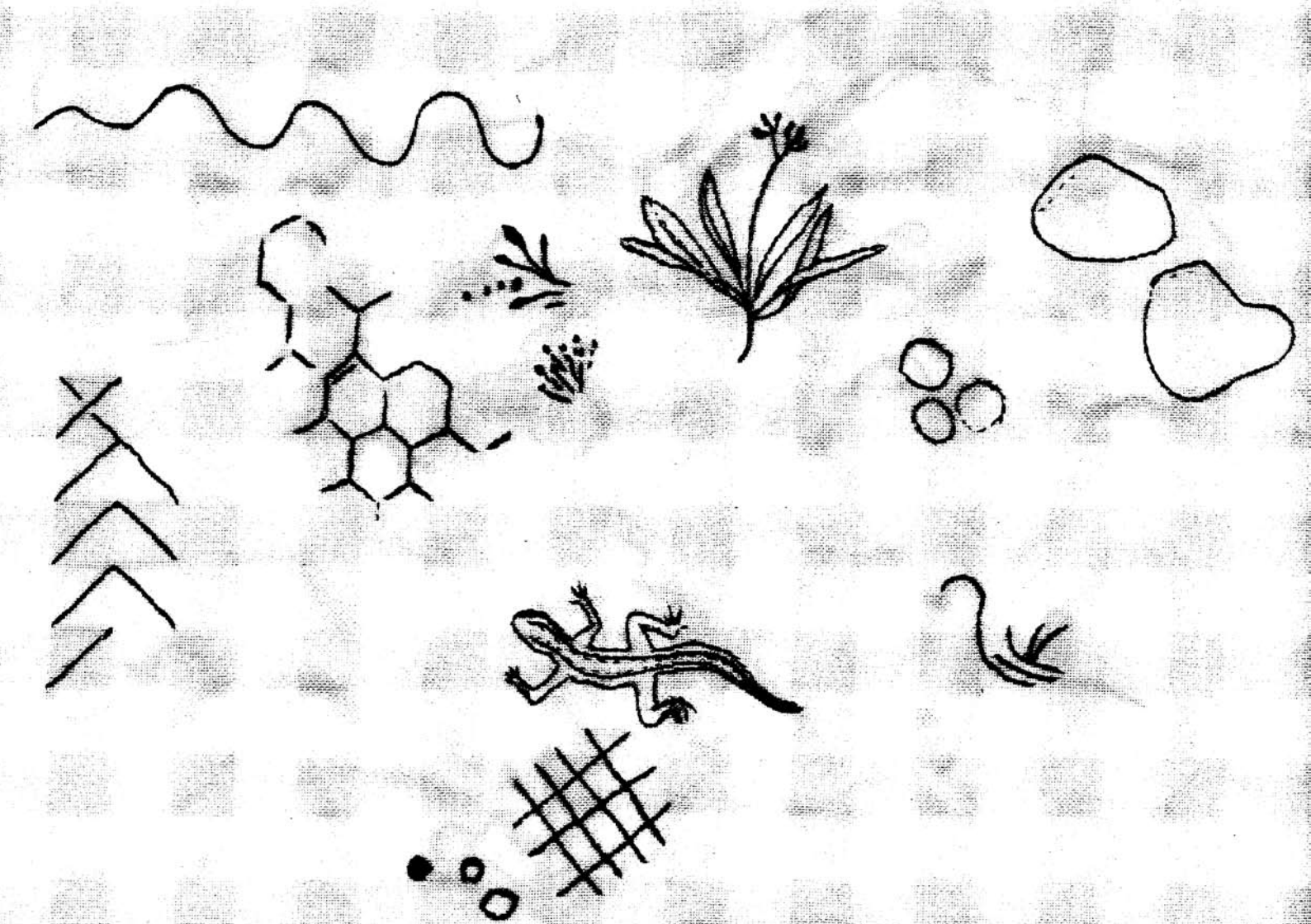
-

Tasks:

Questions for the day:
- What unexpected happened today?
- details
- What was the strongest experience of the day?
- Image, drawing, story...



Part II *Arriving again*

	June		July		
Monday		23	30	07	14
Tuesday		24	01	08	
Wednesday		25	02	09	
Thursday	19	26	03	10	
Friday	20	27	04	11	
Saturday	21	28	05	12	
Sunday	22	29	06	13	

Thursday · June 19 · 2008

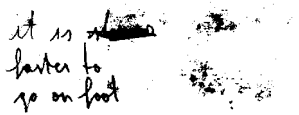
- no visa problems arriving to Cairo / just had to buy a stamp

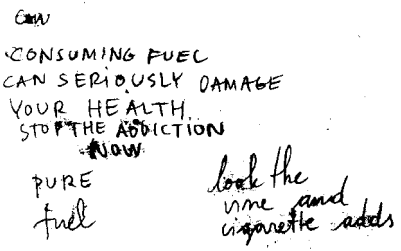
- arriving from the airport go strait to the studio / Taxi driver accepts another customer, middle aged man, English speaking, so we talk during the ride. He explains he's into some business with stones in Egypt. When he gets off at his hotel the taxi driver tells me - This mister no good - he born England but he no national, he Israel - no good, you very good, you beautiful... *How many bibi?* - He wants to know how many children I have. Me not in the mood for this kind of conversation. He continues talking about his family, Egypt, etc. /

- arriving to CIC - kind of tractor coming towards me creating a big cloud of white smokearound - people gesticulating to move away - I put my scarf over the face and go inside the cloud to get to the CIC / there a package from my mother arrived / everybody says I got dark tan /

- meet people / work in studio

- schedule meetings and classes for the coming days ----





Economy:

- > IN

from whom?	*for what?*	*how?*	*eur.*	*how much?*
HANGAR	residency fee	borrow from 3rd person	200euro	1.640EP
HANGAR	residency fee	left in wallet		100EP
my mother	left over	sent with a package		120EP
TOTAL:				**1.860EP**

< - OUT (daily expenses)

Type:	*Item:*	*Specification:*	*No.:*	*Price:*
government tax	egyptian visa stamp	stamp/ i was said I cant get it on the border	1 month	90EP
transportation	taxi from the airport	Airport-Tahreer Sq. / after negotiating the price	1	70EP
alimentation	water + milk		2 x 11	8EP
TOTAL:				**168EP**

+ TOTAL IN:		**+ 1.860EP**
	today expences	**- 168EP**
+ ACTUAL BALANCE:		**+ 1.692EP**

Tasks:

- start economic balance

Questions for the day:

- What unexpected happened today?

- details

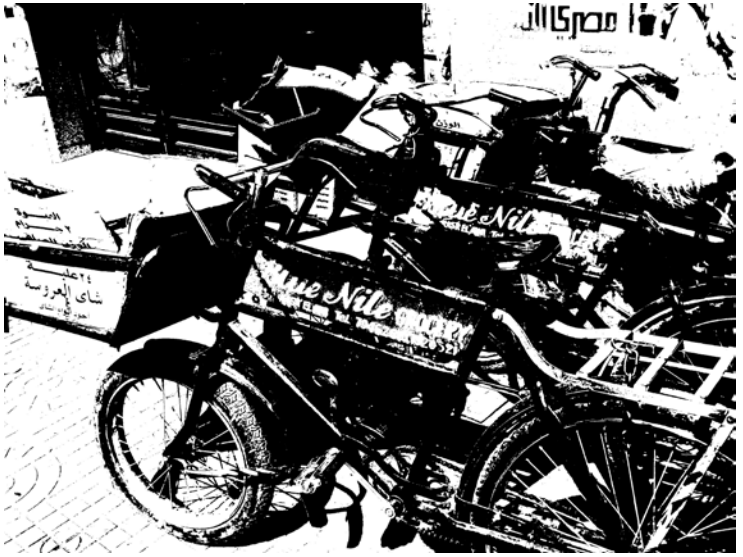
- What was the strongest experience of the day?

- Image, drawing, story...

Friday · June 20 · 2008

- got up early 6:30 / do washing / read newspaper

- Baraka water is bottled by Nestle



- do grocery shopping (plums 6EP, water DASANI 2EP, 2 fruit yogurts, 1 plain yogurt, biscuits Hob-Nobs, 15EP, TOTAL : 23EP)

- assuming that not having a credit card gives me difficulties to get cash I have to take better evidence of all my expenses / from now on I will try to make an evidence of all my payments.

- come to CIC / Meet with Peio Agguire. Few years ago he was currating an exhibition where we (Rotor) were to take part in. Nothing happened at the end as the gallery space ran by *Caixa* suddenly shut down.

- Heath says he's got the rice but he can not eat it

- I go buy cigarette papers at Talaat Harb

- coming back a man on Talaat Harb Square tells me - Hi I remember you, you've been passing here often a week ago. Where have you disappeared? I told you that you walk like an Egyptian when crossing the street. You close your eyes and pray to god. When I answer to a usual question where are you from - I say Yugoslavia, Serbia, he says his nickname is Tito.

Cairo Integration Diary

- I pick up a nice wooden cage on the way back - people gesticulating in the mode of wondering and laughing at me - What do you need it for?

- 19h CIC - panel discussion with a critical writing workshop / It already started when I arrive. My bottle of water disappeared and I got very thirsty. Unbearably hot in the hall where the discussion is going on. Water gets so precious.

- dinner at Estoril / nobody drinks wine here, it's too expensive - In the 50ies during the revolution all wine industries were burnt and destroyed because they were related to foreign capital - owned mostly by British... It makes me think about the roots of Egyptian nationalism... To order an alcoholic drink in a bar you have to be sitting on the table, this is the general rule. Leaving the restaurant I go out with a cigarette, I would never do it before when I was trying to integrate, now I think it's so obvious I am different. Three young guys following me and trying to establish a conversation - I don't speak English - I say in English - it makes them laugh.

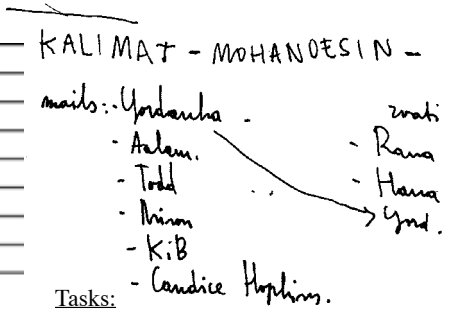
- 23.30 go home sleep / just falling asleep my phone rings - from another side I can hear an Arabic music, than the line breaks. Trying to get to sleep again a door bell wakes me up. I go to the door but nobody answers. Very tired I go to sleep again.

Economy:

< - OUT (daily expenses)

Type:	*Item:*	*Specification:*	*No.:*	*Price:*
alimentation	plums		1/2kg	6EP
alimentation	water	Dasani (Coca-Cola)	1l	2EP
alimentation	fruit yogurt		2	4EP
alimentation	plain yogurt		1	0.50EP
alimentation	cookies	Hob-Nobs	1 box	8EP
addiction	cigarette filters	2 GIZA / 1 ZIG-ZAG	3	9EP
addiction	cigarettes	MERIT	1	7EP
alimentation	dish + drink	dinner at Estoril eggplant tomato rice + beer Stela + tip	1	50EP
TOTAL:				**86.50EP**

+ TOTAL IN:		**+ 1.860EP**
	previous expenses	**-168EP**
	day expenses	**-86.50EP**
- TOTAL OUT:		**-254.50EP**
+ ACTUAL BALANCE:		**+ 1.609,50EP**



Tasks:
- mails
- resolve money
- air collage
- survival guide for passing to new era ?
- Arabic homework
- bottle sleeve design
- plastic bag page
- Egyptian visa is waiting at Mugamma
- resolve Spanish passport

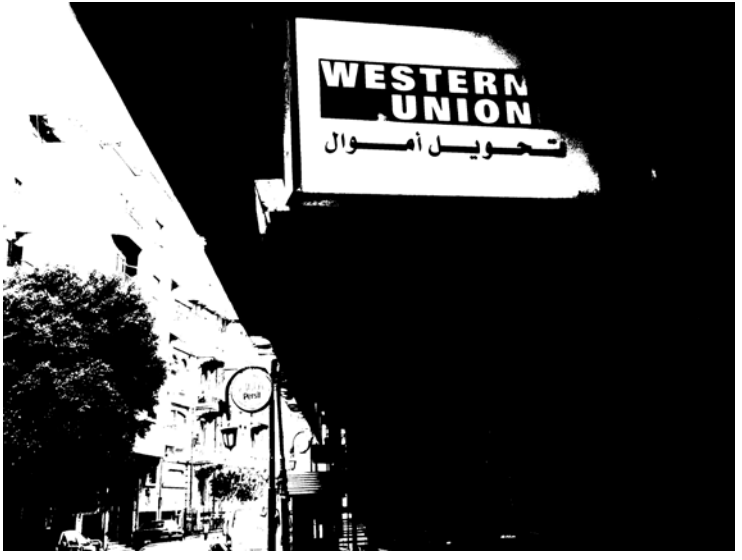
Saturday · June 21 · 2008

- start to collect versions of extended bicycles

- 10h calligraphy lesson

- ~~look for the Western Union to do money transfer~~ - closed today /

- on the way to the Arab lesson I enter a shop to buy a bottle of water, but realize I don't have my wallet on me. A seller, young girl says - Never mind, just take it. Surprised I accept the water as a generous gift.



- Nasser tells me that Mohammed got fired while I was out because he talks too much and goes not work enough. What a shame, I liked Mohammed.

- coming back to the CIC - there is a photography workshop on the roof - they take me as a model for the portrait exercise. -

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- I want to leave the CIC but Nasser who was just few minutes ago around had disappeared. I hear the last prayer just starting. When the prayer finishes Nasser shows up soon and I can go home.

Cairo Integration Diary

Economy:

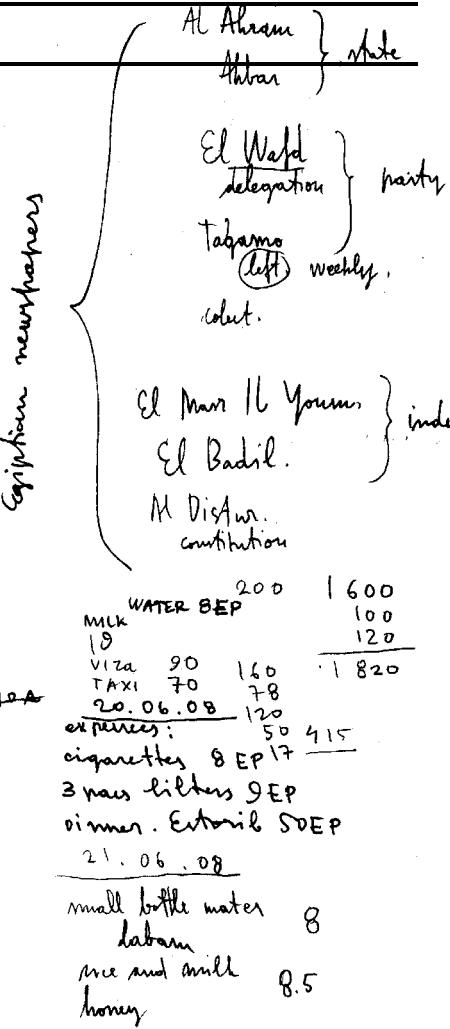
< - OUT (daily expenses)

Type:	*Item:*	*Specification:*	*No.:*	*Price:*
alimentation	milk + water small		1l + 1/2l	8EP
alimentation	honey	milk shop next door	1(200g)	5EP
alimentation	milk rice	milk shop next door	1	1.50EP
alimentation	plain yogurt	milk shop next door	1	1.50EP
work material	cutter		1	7EP
work material	ruler		1	1EP
work material	chalk	white	1	0.60EP
service	calligraphy lesson		2h	50EP
alimentation	water small		1	free
service	Arab lesson	forgot the wallet	2	--
TOTAL:				**194.60EP**

+ TOTAL IN:		**+ 1.860EP**
	- previous expenses	**- 254.50**
	- day expenses	**- 194.60EP**
- TOTAL OUT:		**- 449.10EP**
+ ACTUAL BALANCE:		**+ 1.160,40EP**

Studio:
- air collage

Tasks:
- check Western Union tomorrow
- Esp. Passport
- Egypt visa end of the week
- write wedding dress story



Sunday • June 22 • 2008

- wake up / write a story

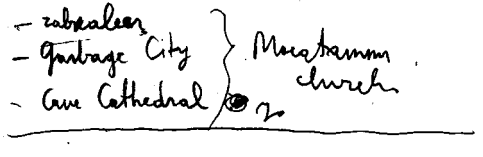
- throw the garbage but keep the bag - collect another orange bag on the way to CIC

- arrange mapping workshop for children with Yordanka for next Saturday

- passing by the cash machines I start to wander what is this thing used for / -

- start a new plastic bag - now with a certificate

Tasks:



ANA
INTA
INTI
HUWWA
HIYYA
EHNA
INTU
HUMMA

certificado de la bolsa:

1	- de tabaco -	1	strong / marfil
2	- agua / leche	2	soft / transparent
3	- found street	1	small / orange
4	- plums & water	2	soft / green
5	- veined in mail soaps	1	strong white printed
6	chalk	1	small white strong
7	soaps / mail	1	smal pink / blue stars
8	2. bt water	1	white transparent

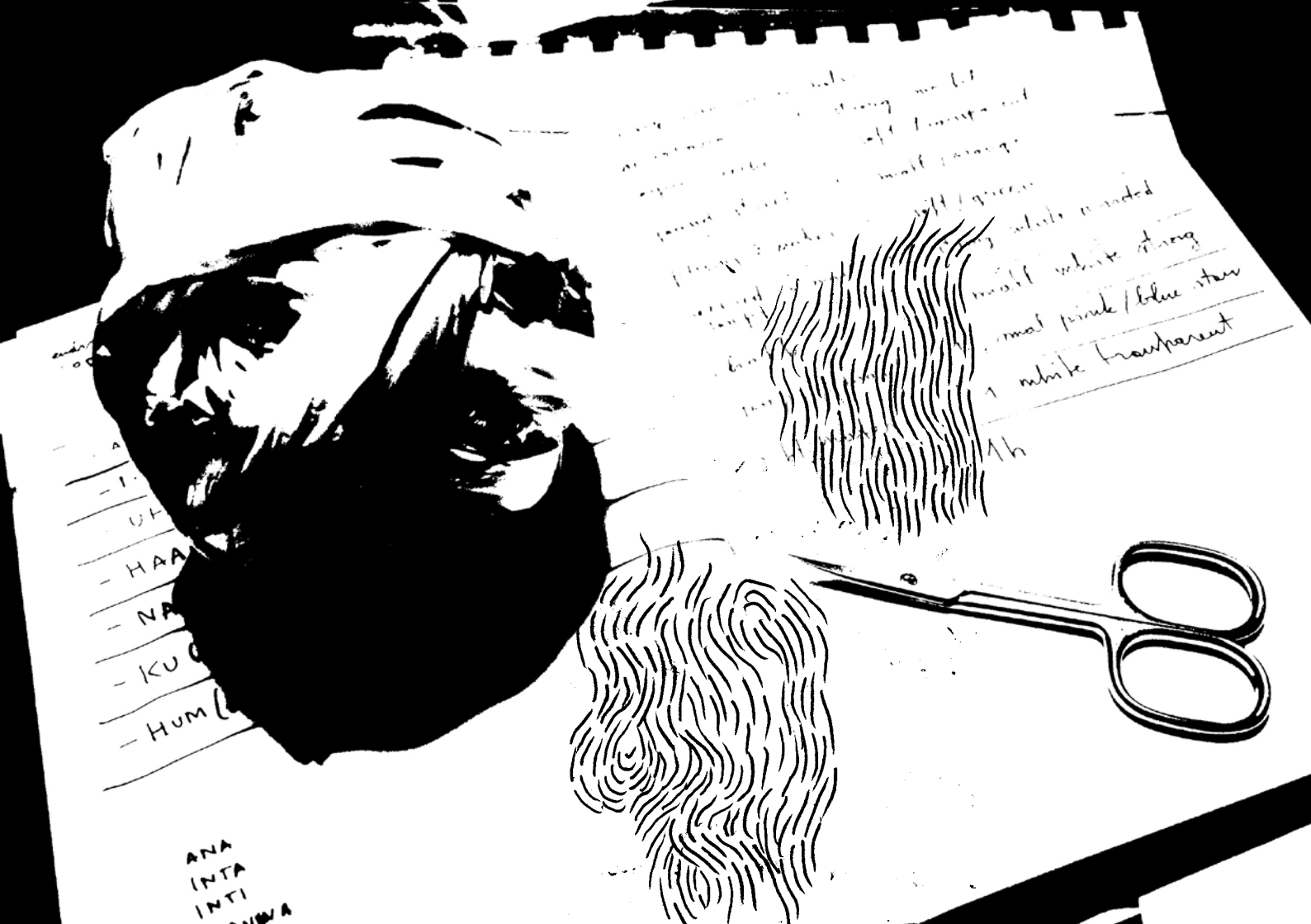
1h / dont look at the match.

- good for sand barbies
- daily meditation

Economy:

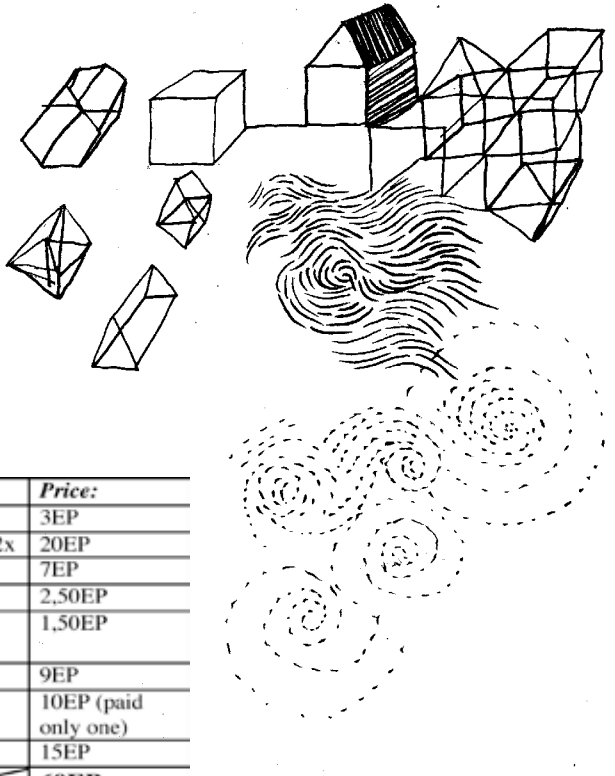
< - OUT (daily expenses)

Type:	*Item:*	*Specification:*	*No.:*	*Price:*
alimentation	water bottle small	Aquafina (PEPSI)	2	2,50EP
TOTAL:				**2,50EP**


- HAA
- NA
- KU
- HUM
ANA
INTA
INTI

Monday · June 23 · 2008

- collage terra
- collage agua - poner imagenes mas calidad
- collage aire - layer dibujo



- start to store waste in used packaging / now I need every plastic bag for the crochet /

- Garret skype /

- get a fan for the studio /

- 11-12h meeting with Ahmed Naser - Instituto Cervantes

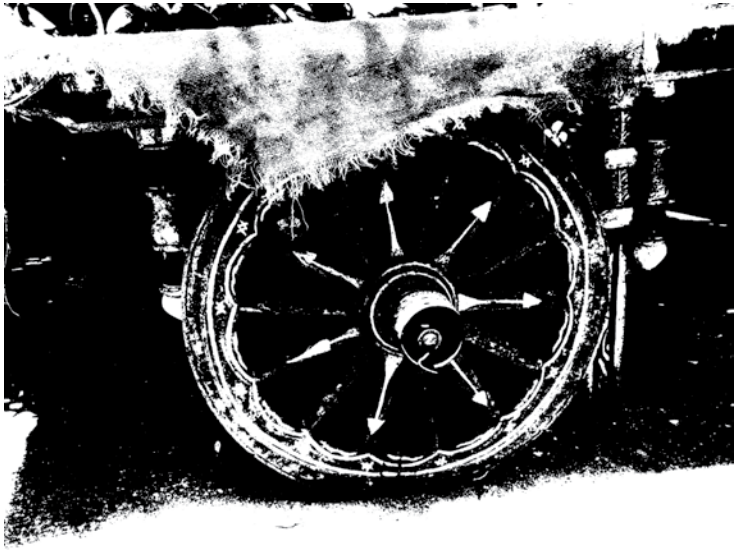
- entering supermarket at Dokki but just to look the asortment of products - not buy anything - get some food at the end as I got hungry /

Economy:

< - OUT (daily expenses)

Type:	*Item:*	*Specification:*	*No.:*	*Price:*
alimentation	water bottle small	Dasani (Coca-Cola)	2	3EP
transport	taxi	Qasr Al Aini - Cervantes	both way 2x	20EP
hygiene	compresses	Always	1	7EP
alimentation	cookies	bakery	200g	2,50EP
alimentation	tomatoes + cucumbers + onion	street carriage	1kg	1,50EP
alimentation	white cheese + semola	super		9EP
alimentation	beer	Stela	2	10EP (paid only one)
alimentation	burger	Hardeys	1	15EP
TOTAL:				**69EP**

- wooden carriage wheel - also a symbol on the gypsy flag / next to it two men carrying pneumatics



- coming back from Cervantes and my key is not in my bag! Aleya says that if I don't find it they will have to change all the locks.

- found the keys in the secret compartment of my bag

< - OUT - give away

What ?:	*To whom ?*	
Schengen book	Instituto Cervantes	
Schengen book	Samir	
keys (studio + flat)	disappeared	found

- 16h meeting at Townhouse to prepare a Saturday mapping workshop with Sawa kids. There is a meeting with four instructors and coordinators / nice people. There is about 40 children in a group from all different nationalities, they explain and show me the ID cards that the kids were doing for themselves. There is a self-portrait drawing in the square, name, place and date of birth on each ID card. So I could get to know the kids better. Some of them are very nice drawings. There are two girls who had drawn themselves in identical way dressed in red and with a blond hair. I liked very much the self portrait of the Iraqi kid. It is very well drawn, he seems to be very talented and sensitive. We discuss our next workshop that I should lead. The idea is to make a mapping experiment following a trajectory that each kid takes to arrive to Townhouse from their homes. It starts with a rope game where every kid has a rope that presents his trajectory. All the ropes are tied to the center that represents the Townhouse. When all the kids manage to place themselves on the map outlined on the floor holding the end of the rope they have to draw their trajectory on the floor with a chalk explaining the most important points that they can remember on the way.

- meet Samir - Sch. book, Peio, ~~Shahira~~

Tasks:

- plastic bag certificate - make new plastic bags with all the evidence for what the bags were previously used for / calculate the price of the bag
- economy planning - try to programme it
-Ahmed Ali swimming pools - call
- finish Arab homework - speak arabi
- practice calligraphy
- manual covers TMA

Tuesday • June 24 • 2008

- get up / tidy up the flat - throw away lots of papers / do Arabic

- now chickens eating around the garbage - exchange 50eur / fan in the exchange office is called *National Sky*

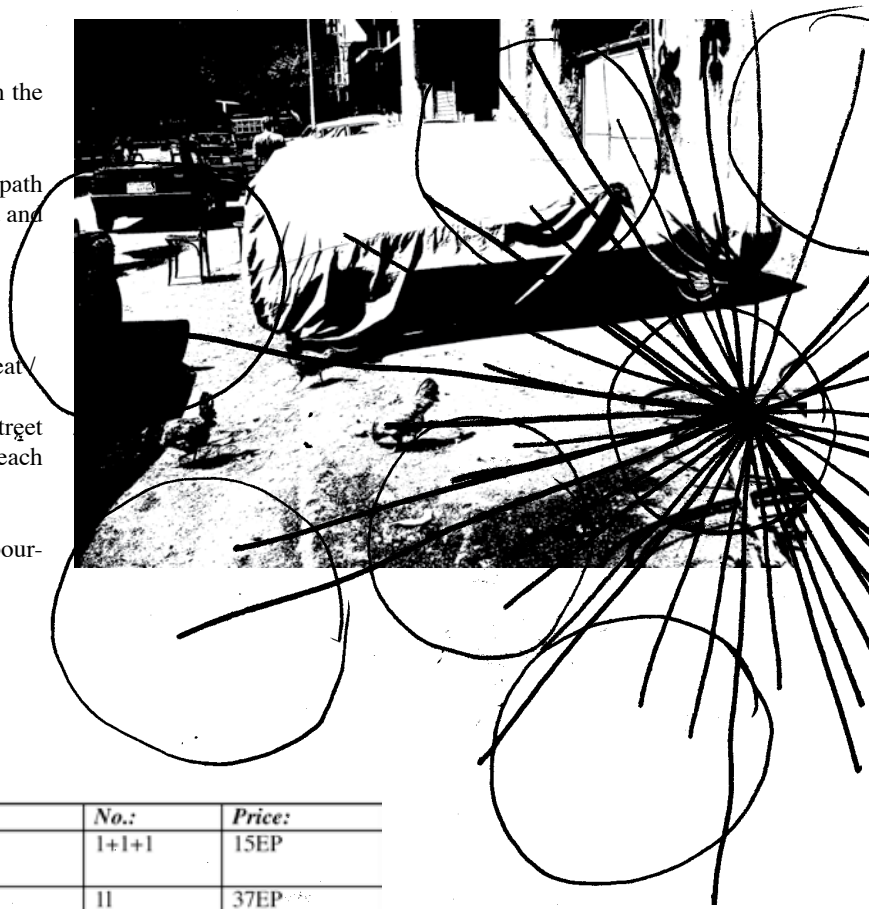
- left a bag of cashews on the table - when came back ants made a path that is passing over my computer to the cashew bag - had to move it and through away the cashews

- finish and upload air collage

- go out / extended bike carrying ice - looks almost unreal on this heat /

- getting home late evening I see a basket weavers working on the street in front of a small workshop. Thinking to ask them if they could teach me how to do it some in the upcoming days.

-22.30 meet with Hana in the Winsdor Hotel. Waste recycling neighbourhood. Stipend for the Iraqi kid. Cabarets.



Economy:

< - OUT (daily expenses)

Type:	*Item:*	*Specification:*	*No.:*	*Price:*
alimentation	cashews + guava juice small + bread baladi	Blue Nile	1+1+1	15EP
alimentation	wine white		1l	37EP
transportation	taxi	Qasr Al Aini - Cinema Diana	one way	6EP
TOTAL:				**58EP**

Tasks:

- plan mapping workshop with kids

Wednesday • June 25 • 2008

political slogans like a love messages

- 11h calligraphy lesson

- lunch at F.I. / *shay* + crochet at Munira Park

- I always forget the fear I feel leaving the CIC building late at night. I always go out with a mobile phone in one hand and a knife on hand in my bag. There is lots of noises in the building and not so much light.

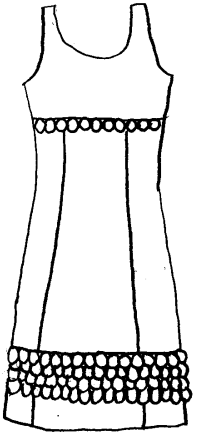
PHOTESKANDE } printers
012 216 9449

NIZINE

- image hids residence

- find Father Thomas
- waste land
- cross class communication

lux expensive products



- zvati za konvalidaciju
- zvati Hangar pare
- zvati printers
- Katalin - Red Sea
- Alexandria

< - OUT (daily expenses)

Type:	*Item:*	*Specification:*	*No.:*	*Price:*
service	calligraphy lesson	rocaa	1	50EP
communication	phone charger			20EP
alimentation	lunch	F.I. Rest.	1	37EP
ticket	park		1	1EP
alimentation	shay	MUNIRA park	1	2EP
TOTAL:				**110EP**

Tasks:
- call Embassy - money transfer
- call printers

Thursday · June 26 · 2008

- since I arrived from Greece I changed a bit my relation towards the city. I can't wear long skirts and trousers any more - it became too hot. So I go out in summer dresses. The problem is that it attracts too much attention on the street.

- lunch at French Institute and coffee in the park / do crochet

- send a mail to Hana and Yordanka to put them in contact about the Iraqi refugee child stipend

- sent an e-mail to Aalam cairian friend of Dubravka to get more info about *The Garbage City*. He directed me to his friend Ermin artist who is living in Cairo. Look for information about Zabbaleen on Internet. They are mostly Christian Coptics immigrated to Cairo 50 years ago - dedicated to collection of garbage. Muslims consider this kind of work dirty and beneath their honour. They recycle 75% of the quantity they collect. There is a Recycle Factory in the Garbage City neighborhood where they are living and bringing garbage. Also the biggest Christian Church is situated there - *The Cave Cathedral* - good excuse to visit the neighbourhood.

- 16h calligraphy lesson

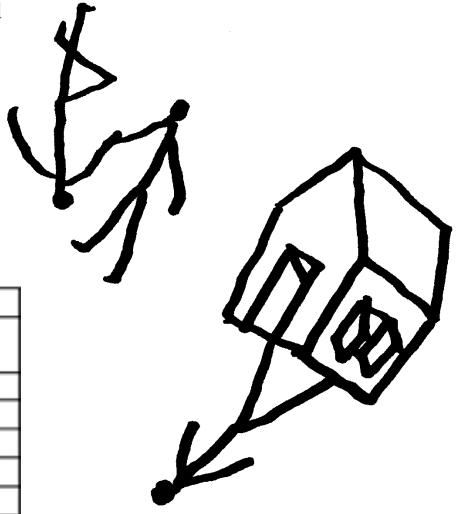
- ~~18h meet with Albert and Fran on skype to see what they are preparing~~

- 20h Arab lesson - need to confirm

- in the evening I go to The Greek Club - there is gathering because Maya is leaving tomorrow. Next to me sits a girl whose name is Nermine. She tells me that my bag looks like zabbaleen. In the course of a conversation we find out that she was the one I was directed to through Aalam.

Studio:
- finish terrae collage - upload

Tasks:



< - OUT (daily expenses)

Type:	*Item:*	*Specification:*	*No.:*	*Price:*
alimentation	greek salad + wine + entrance fee	Greek Club	1	50EP
alimentation	plat du jour + lemon juice	F.I	1	45EP
fee	entrance to the park	MUNIRA Park	1	1EP
alimentation	water		1	2EP
alimentation	sunflower seeds	boy selling in the park	1	1EP
service	calligraphy lesson	Essam	1	50EP
TOTAL:				**149EP**

Friday · June 27 · 2008

- wake up too early - Arabic lesson with Syonara at 12h and Moroccan hammam after - Syonara complains she can't go to hammam because she looks so untidy. Finally both too tired, we cancel it.

- go to studio shortly

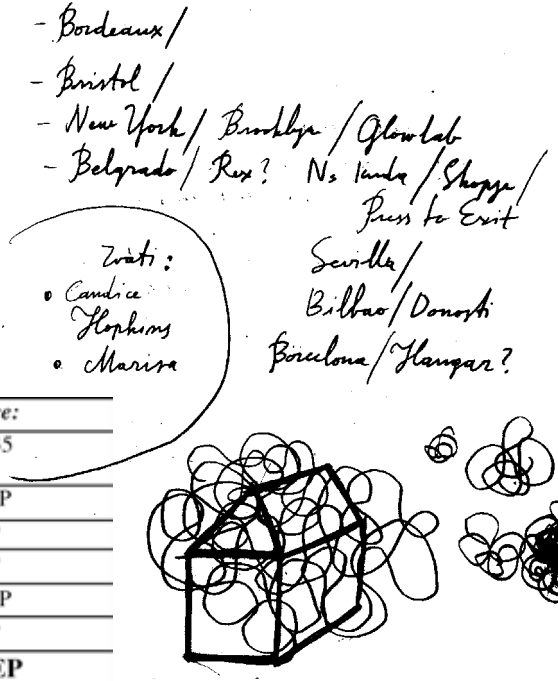
- go to the flat - sleep for 4h ----

- pay attention to how Egyptian bad English speakers talk - it is possible to understand the logic of the Arabic language. They won't use propositions. They would simply say - I want do this - there is no propositions in Arabic - later things get complicated with verbs and possessives.

- concert at *Genaina* - Al Azhar Park - a band is called *Veccia*. Three guys playing electronic music. Enjoyed the concert. Only that I am used to see this kind of concerts in less formal atmosphere, where it's possible to have a drink and dance, not in a sitting amphitheater. Talking with people after the concert I ask Mahmout what does it mean in Arabic - *Ana mish shana* - a sentence some how stayed in my head. Mahmoud said - Nothing really, it could be I am not what you see. Some new people take me home in the car. They ask me how I like Egyptians. I say -Very nice people. They look at me not untrustworthy - Everything else but exactly nice... During the drive we see two men on the street with their trousers pulled down - Yeah, nice people - some of them say. A girl sitting next to me, Nihal also notice that my bag looks like a Zabbaleen make. She calls her friend who works with a NGO to see when she will be visiting The Recycling Factory so I could join her. It will be during this or the next week. She says she will call me.

Studio:

Tasks:



< - OUT (daily expenses)

Type:	*Item:*	*Specification:*	*No.:*	*Price:*
alimentation	Hob-Nobs + fruit yogurts + tuna + sardines	Blue Nile		41.35
transportation	taxi to Al Azhar		1	15EP
fee	entrance - Al Azhar Park		1	5EP
alimentation	ice-coffee	Palace Al Azhar	1	8EP
fee	entrance - concert	Veccia	1	15EP
extra	tobacco	Marlboro Light	1	8EP
TOTAL:				**50EP**

Saturday · June 28 · 2008

- get up early go to studio / take materials for the workshop

- workshop with Sawa Children in the Townhouse gallery hall / Before the children arrive we draw the outlines of the city with a chalk on the floor, distributing the neighborhoods in circles in the huge 15x 15 meters space. As they are arriving children are asked to place themselves in the areas they are coming from and draw places that they like in their neighborhood. Afterwards they are asked to connect different parts of the city with metro lines, highways, bridges, etc. Very enthusiastic atmosphere. A lunch break starts but the food is not arriving - a bit of disorganization...

- exhausted after the workshop with the kids / too hot outside / more extended bicycles

- go out / For the first time a taxi driver asks me for less money than I was offering. Surprised I find that a guy with whom I was going home with a car yesterday evening is doing a story-telling show that is about to start. He is endlessly talking and making people laugh lots. I didn't realize yesterday he was so funny...

< - OUT (daily expenses)

Type:	*Item:*	*Specification:*	*No.:*	*Price:*
transportation	taxi	talaat harb - cic	2	10EP
alimentation	lemonade	Townhouse coffe shop	1	1,50EP
extra	pack of cigarettes	Marlboro	1	8EP
transportation	taxi	Munira - Dokki	2 ways	25EP
alimentation	spring rolls + glass of wine	Bulls Eye	1	50EP
TOTAL:				**94,50**

Studio:

Tasks:

مؤسسة أنس
الوجود
التعليمية
مكتبة المعادى
نادى المعادى
مؤسسة
أنس الوجود

Sunday · June 29 · 2008

- to call somebodeys attention on the streets people here (mostly men) produce some sound as - sssssssss, sssssssss, or ks, ks

- lunch French Institute / Meet a woman, German curator on the way. We have lunch together during which she explains the exhibitions she is curating . She is waiting for her boyfriend, by the time he arrives we had already finished with lunch. A taxi driver took him to the French Embassy instead of the Institute, it is in another part of town. They invite me to the screening of The Football Championship finale this evening at Götte Institute garden / *maybe I'll go* /

- do plastic bag crochet after lunch in the park

- all day trying to get the ants out of my hard drive - I don't know why they liked it so much ---

- garden party at The Göette Institute to watch the football match / I find football so boring. Trying to understand what is so interesting about it. People are getting more excited as the match is advancing. I leave before it finishes. Go Out to the square, enter Cilantro, an occidental king of self-service bar. A 'too nice waiter' starts annoying me. He offers his help so much that he is always blocking my way. I ask him kindly if he could leave me alone. Have a quiche and juice, read a newspaper in English not so easy to find in my neighborhood.

- shopping workshop
- children parlament
- make a party next weekend

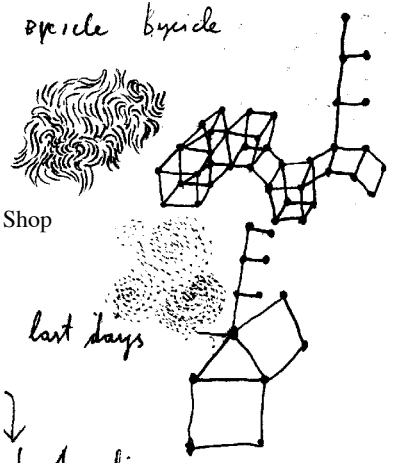
- go Alex
- red sea
- zabbaleen
-

Studio:
- work on air collage
- plastic bag certificate

- moroccan spa
- swimming pool

- bycycles bycicle bycicle
-

Tasks:
- Abbassiyya
- Zabbaleen / Cave Church
- Zamalek / Zabbaleen Recycled Crafts Shop
- go Alex



Nedelya:
- update diary last days
- college agya

utorak 1. juli

< - OUT (daily expenses)

Type:	*Item:*	*Specification:*	*No.:*	*Price:*
alimentation	biscuits + lemon juice + coffee	F.I.	1	25EP
transportation	taxi	3 rides	3	25EP
alimentation	quiche + guava juice	Cilantro	1	12EP
TOTAL:				**62EP**

Monday · June 30 · 2008

- leave home 10.10 go to an exchange office, and get cash to pay lessons I was owing and go to the lesson that starts at 10.30. On the stairs my mobile phone rings, it's Syonara - Where are you? You had to be here at 10 - she is nervous. Seems like I confused the time - I apologise and propose - Let's cancel this lesson, but she insists that I come and do half of the lesson and another time do 3 hours. It becomes a discussion. Next lesson will be with a new professor that Syonara recommended. She arranges the first meeting and makes up the price It will be 50EP for two hours. She also explains how she started to gets so many students thanks to the book that Edit brought her. The book became so popular so it gave her lot's of jobs as an Arabic tutor. Now it's sold out in the book-stores.

- keep collecting different models of extended bicycles and cars

-16h - meeting in Townhouse / children parliament ?

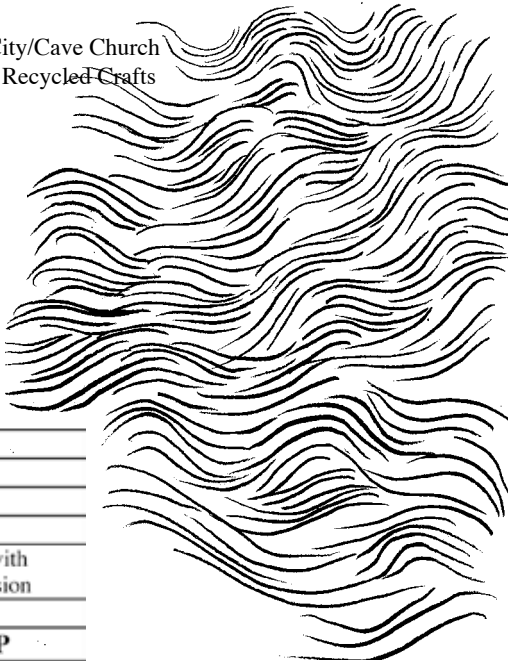
- bump in to leadership workshop - Ibrahim said I could come / Interesting proposals but I do not have a good chemistry with the instructors... Getting a bit bored I start to weave plastic bags for crochet. The instructor asks me if I could stop doing it - ... Katalin is also there laughing all the time - we are like naughty pupils /

- I forgot my white scarf somewhere - it's like my uniform here

- getting back home buy some food and a bottle of wine in a specialized shop / Alcohol beverages always comes in a black bags, maybe not to transparent its content , as if it is something embarrassing.

Tasks:
- Abbassiyya
- Zabbaleen/Garbage City/Cave Church
- Zamalek - Zabbaleen Recycled Crafts
- go Alex -

Studio:
- work on air collage



< - OUT (daily expenses)

Type:	*Item:*	*Specification:*	*No.:*	*Price:*
alimentation	limes	street truck	1	4EP
alimentation	lunch at F.I. garden	plait d'jour+lemonade	1	42EP
extra	red wine	Sheherezade	1	37EP
transportation	taxi	talaat harb - home	1	5EP+with discussion
alimentation	water+ yogurt+tobacco	mango yogurt Juhana so good	-	20EP
TOTAL:				**108EP**

Tuesday · July 01 · 2008

- throw waste pack

- arrive to CIC - ants attacked my hard drive again / struggling to take them out of it, with ants also some green plastic pieces are coming out - thanks god its still working

- 12h meeting with Edit and Aleya to discuss the ending of my residency -

- go Townhouse / getting annoyed with a people making commentaries and talking to me on the street - how is your Arabic? - can I help you ? I start to ignore it ... / in TH some not too interesting event / visit Elke and Wautter / making jokes with Ibrahim ..

- go to new bar *Le Bistro* with Graham and Katalin - there is more people there. Graham says he was working on a *baladi* bars map and was waiting for a sponsorship from Heiniken / the case is that both Egyptian beers Stella and Sakkara are owned by Heiniken...

- arrange with Katalin to go to Sinai maybe on Saturday evening...

< - OUT (daily expenses)

Type:	*Item:*	*Specification:*	*No.:*	*Price:*
alimentation	2 sandwiches (tameyya + babaganu)	Kaza chain	2	3EP
extra	bear	Stella	2	30EP
alimentation	fried shrimps	Midan Falaki (so good place)	1	19,50EP
transportation	taxi drive	Midan Falaki - home	1	5EP
alimentation	water	Hyat	1	3EP
TOTAL:				**60,50EP**

- trying to find out how people are coping with this heat / Graham says he wets all his clothes /

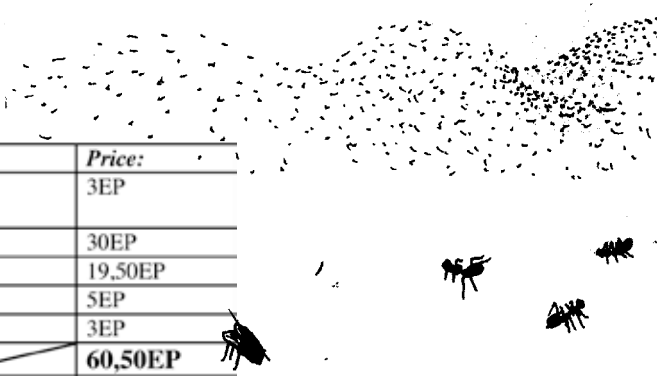
- at the end of the night decision to walk or take a taxi depends on if I prefer to get hassled with annoying commentaries during all the way home or have discussion with a taxi driver. I go buy a quarter of fried shrimps with *tahini* so good on Falaki Square and take a taxi.

Studio:

- work on air collage

Tasks:

- Abbassiyya
- Zabbaleen - Garbage City - Cave Church
- Zamalek - Zabbaleen Recycled Crafts



جهينة
حليب
طبيعي

Wednesday · July 02 · 2008

- wake up without cigarettes - maybe I could quit smoking today ?

- go out early - arrive to studio /

- do mails / admin / air collage /

- Essam arrives / I completely forgot we had a calligraphy lesson today / he brings some books with 'free calligraphy' - very nice / we have a nice 3 hours lesson combining *rocaa* very strict and free improvised calligraphy - every time *rocaa* comes out wrong I say - It's free calligraphy..

- when Essam arrived he was calling my name in the front of the door. Now I remembered that Mohammed and Nasser would also do the same. I would have to answer and saying - Yes, why don't you come in? I think there must be some rule where a man can't enter the space where a women is alone or something similar. Also during the last lesson when the call for the prayer starts Essam tells me - I have to go to the toilette. Essam tells me also if I want to come to work with him . He started to go to the Pharaon City and write names in Arabic calligraphy for tourists. He needs somebody who speaks English. It will be next week.

- Hangar and CIC finally all agreed about changing the dates of my residency - I will leave earlier and should come back for two weeks in the early October. Now it's only left to change the ticket.

- call e-Bookers, they direct me to EgyptAir - in EgyptAir nobody answers - go out to find some tourist agency -

- arrange to meet with Mayada for a *shay* afterwards - she will explain me more about Sinai - she just came back few days ago

- troubles to find an exchange office / in tourist agency they direct me to go to the EgyptAir Office - it is in Nile Hilton / I go there / subterranean passages under Tahrir Square / you never know on which part of a huge square you are going to appear / in The Nile Hilton Bank the system just went down so I can't change money / In EgyptAir I am told it's more expensive to change the ticket than to buy another one / I make a reservation / hungry now / sit at the Nile Hilton terrace / waiters charged me more and they don't want to accept euros / go to another bank to change money / I enter the bank but its almost empty, through a half open door I see all the bank employees in suits without shoes crawling on the floor / going back to the restaurant and a waiter tells me that he excuses but the bill is even more that he said before / than I get really angry and after protesting I pay less.

- central part of Tahrir Square is closed due to works / but seems as nobody was doing anything there for a long time /

- outside unbearable heat / waiting for a long time to cross all the streets

- coming back to CIC / now it's too late to meet with Mayada / we'll talk tomorrow -

~~- 17.30 - studio visit / curatorial workshop~~ canceled

- chat with Laia / finish air collage

- go to screening late / watch Troubles with Harry second part / delicious food –

Cairo Integration Diary

• September.
• early october
• January 20.

① → nobody drinks wine here too expensive and in revolution all wine industries were burnt

② → pay attention how bad english speakers talk that helps to understand the logic of arabic language f.e. they must use propositions but on other hand verbs and possesives get complicating.

③ → Stella & SAKKARA owned by Heimiken

put new items in the bag certificate

call Nihal for the Recycling Factory

air collage
terrae collage
finish

practice caligraphy

Meet Mayada - Sinai
~~[illegible]~~ nan - Mohammed

fotocopy book -
buy batteries
change ticket - buy new one
refund ?

all baladi bars owned by Heimiken too.

BUKRA:
change money

personal / social
private / public

homework arabic
practice caligraphy

film screening
'asr al aini

call ~~[illegible]~~ مصر التيرن tomorrow or after tomorrow

insert drawings in the collage

where is my hod?

Tasks:
- Abbassiyya
- Zabbaleen
- Garbage City
- Cave Church
- Zamalek
- Zabbaleen Recycled Crafts
- go Alex -

< - OUT (daily expenses)

Type:	*Item:*	*Specification:*	*No.:*	*Price:*
alimentation	sandwich + wine at Nile Hilton			114EP
alimentation	food + film	Film & Food Night at Studio		30EP
alimentation	F.I.	biscuits + lemonade	1	25
TOTAL:				**169EP**

Studio:
- ~~work on air collage~~ finished

Thursday · July 03 · 2008

- get up too early again / I won't sleep with the air-conditioning any more / tired - go to studio /

- last Arabic lesson with Syonara / the new professor hasn't appeared so I decide to stop with Arabic lessons completely / it showed up that I am owning to S. 5 lessons instead of 4 as I thought / as I don't have enough money on me we arrange to meet another day

- my fathers birthday / but I forgot to call him

- on the way to studio I decide to try this cactuses - a seller says its called *thinn* / even a policeman comes to say how good they are

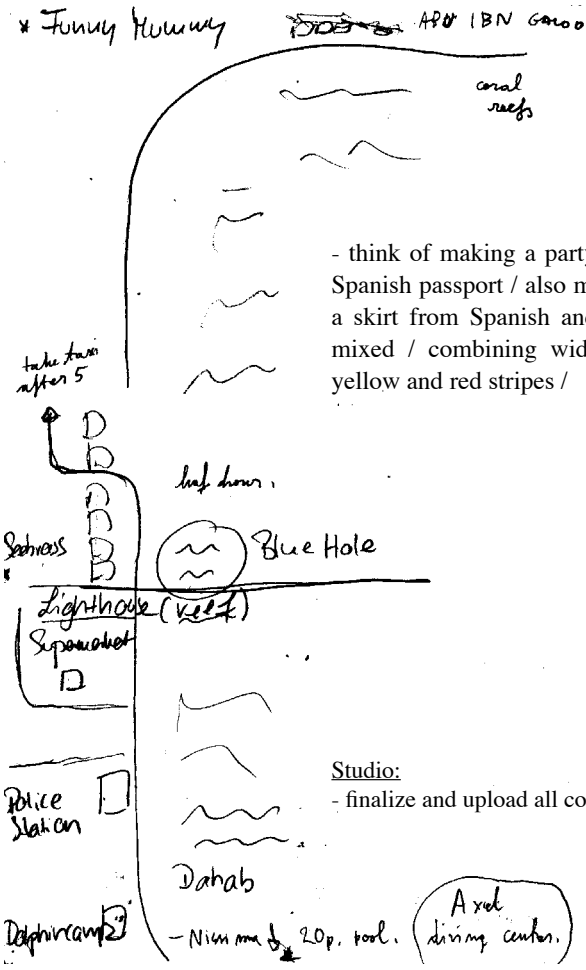
- scan images / *shay* with Mayada - she gives me all the information about Sinai and Dahab - planning to go maybe on Saturday evening

- try to take a short nap on the balcony before Essam arrives / exhausted from not sleeping enough

- calligraphy lesson (what time?) 15.30h / write whole words finally / very nice

- ~~leadership workshop at Townhouse and projections~~ skip / too tired

- work on terrae collage in the studio / talk with printers / they say it could be printed on Saturday / internet going off and on / not possible to upload collages -go home / stay at home all evening / cook dinner



- think of making a party for getting a Spanish passport / also make a dress or a skirt from Spanish and Catalan flag mixed / combining wide and narrow yellow and red stripes /

Studio:
- finalize and upload all collages

Cairo Integration Diary

^^^
mountains
(beduin)
contact

Dolfin Camp.

eating places
- Ali Baba
(Dahab)
- Sea Brass

Diario / draw / hand write
en la bolsa de plastico
- poner atencion en las notas
tipo calidad de producto
tiempo de consumición
- añadir categoria
traching empresas
pagina web cadena

~~moolen~~
white room

new bags

Blue nile	white printed
gibna badli	—||—
found	blue
tomatoes	yellow
found in flat	yellow strong
manantial de salud	white printed
bilfeha	white printed

water cigarettes	white plane

Tasks:
- Abbassiyya
- Zabbaleen - Garbage City - Cave Church
- Zamalek - Zabbaleen Recycled Crafts
- go Alex
- my father's birthday - call

funny
Mummy

test dive in the pool.

snorkling LX

!!!
boat trip.
all day
including lunch

diving $
snorkling

30 euro

Friday · July 04 · 2008

- get up early

- throw garbage - writings on the way to the studio

- finish and upload all collages -

- go to French Institute

- drinking water pot on the street

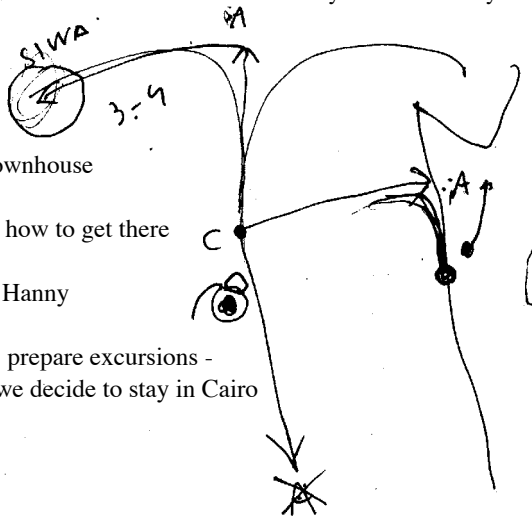
-17h preparation for Saturday's workshop / Townhouse

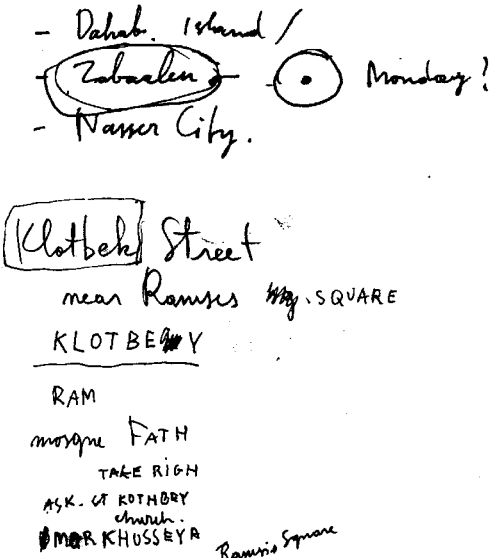
- found out out where the Coptic center is and how to get there

- meet Katalin on the roof / having *shay* with Hanny

- beer in Horeyya with Garham and Kataline - prepare excursions - Alexandria / Ain Sokhna / Asuan - at the end we decide to stay in Cairo and do excursions inside the city

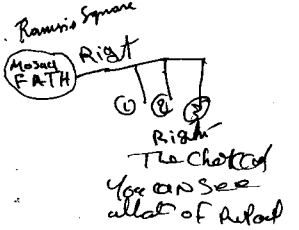
Tasks:
- Abbassiyya - Coptic community - Father Thomas
- Zabbaleen - Garbage City - Cave Church
- Zamalek - Zabbaleen Recycled Crafts
- go Alex
- ~~my fathers birthday - call~~

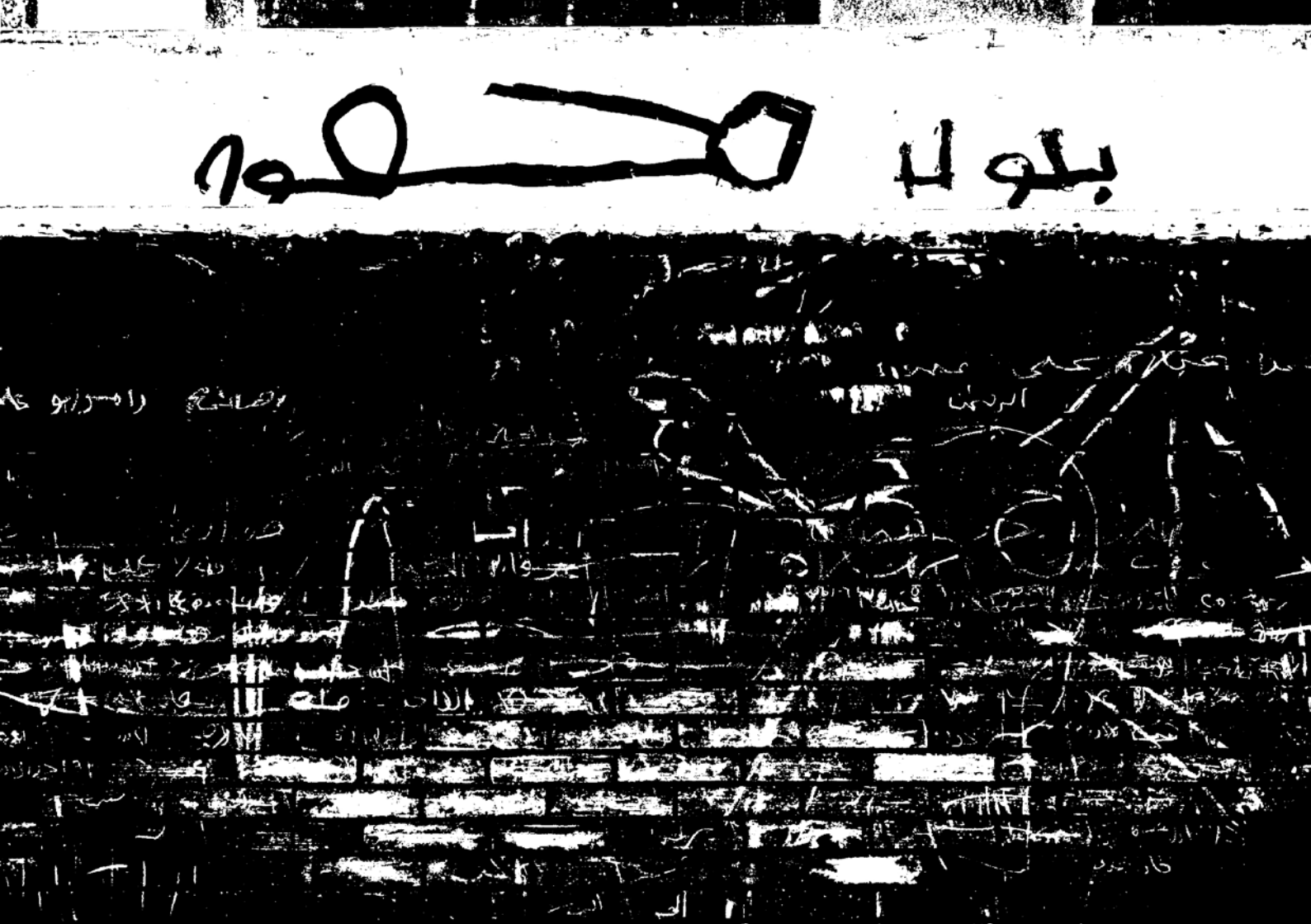




< - OUT (daily expenses)

Type:	*Item:*	*Specification:*	*No.:*	*Price:*
alimentation	lunch at F.I	biscuits + lemonade	1	34EP
extra	tobacco	Marlboro light	2	16EP
transportation	taxi	to Talaat Harb	2 both way	10EP
extra	beer	Stella	3	30EP
TOTAL:				**90EP**




بلول

Saturday · July 04 · 2008

- get up too early 5.50AM - nice fresh air outside / cars already on the street but not many / different birds coming to my balcony / try to sleep again but unsuccessfully

- go to studio 8.30

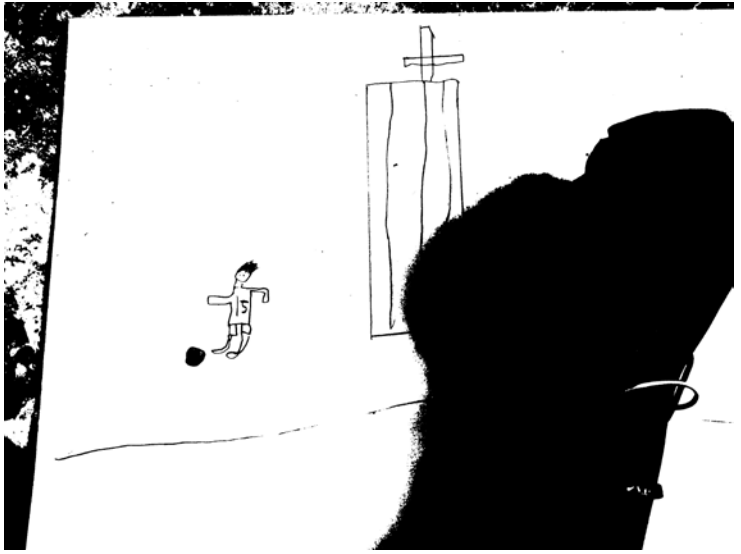
- find an exchange office / breakfast at Filfela

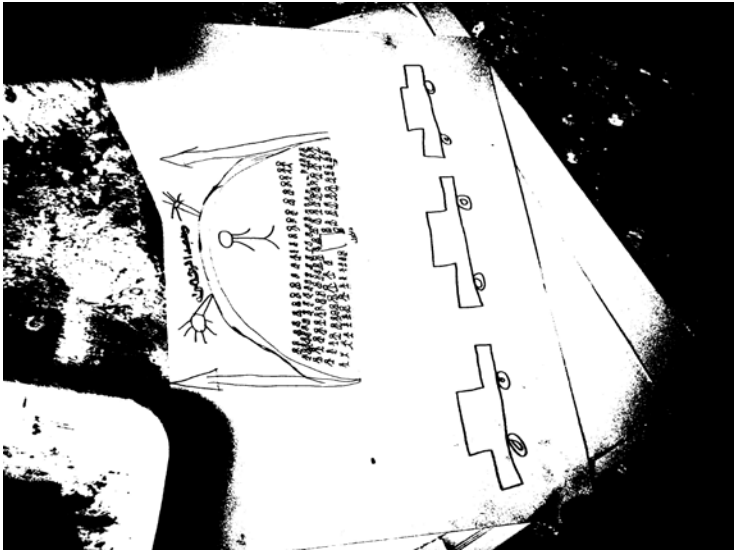
- 10.30 workshop with children about colors at Townhouse / children draw what they can see through the window / a boy next to me draws geometrical shapes in different colors / so I learn names for geometrical shapes with him / two other boys sitting next to each other draw, one a church and another a mosque - leave earlier due to exhaustion

- back home / shower and rest / do, undo, do crochet bag / call EgyptAir - no refunding on the second part of the ticket / call printers - after more than one week of arrangements they communicate me that they can't do an A1 size prints !

- go to CIC / read on the balcony / do Arabic / draw /

- shades in CIC street





dibujos rupestres
hacer algo y dibujar lo después

- another veiled car

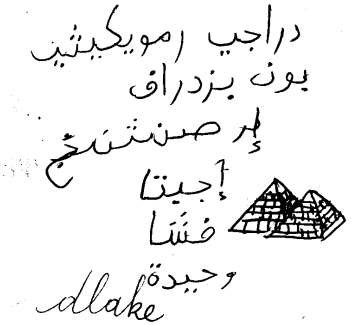
- 18.30 go to Syonara's / Pay last five lessons I was owing. She says that she would like to do an exchange of a lesson for a drawing of her daughter Balqiz and asks if I could do the portrait right now. I don't have any material with me but she takes out an aquarelle block and the charcoal pencil. Nice to draw portraits, I haven't done it for so long. Kids moving lots and she insists on having more details. She looks to find photographs of them so I could finish the drawing at home. In family albums Syonara is wearing *higab* on all images and there is no any good pictures of the children. Finally I take pictures with my camera. Her husband has a long talk on the phone. Seems as he is repeating some prayer lots of times. When he hangs up he starts to examine me on what I believe. I kind of get confused. At the end wanting to pay for the lessons I've been owing I realize that I forgot money in the studio. Will pay 300EP that I got now and owe her 180EP still

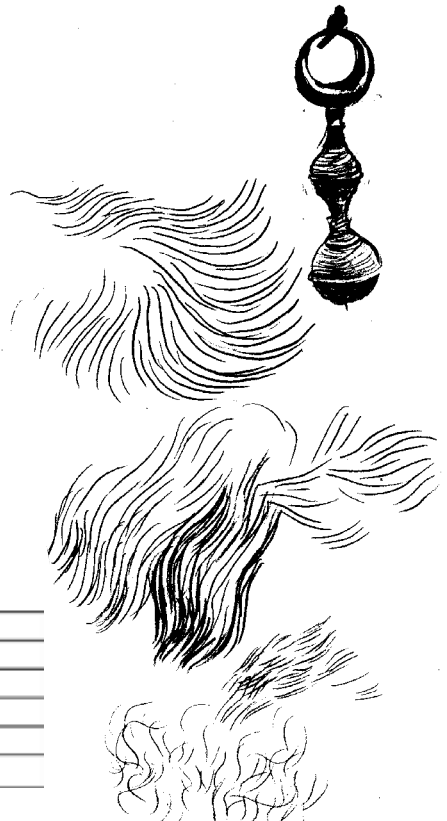
- stay at home - do some crochet

Studio:
- ask Peter to send images to print for Father Thomas
- send mails to bcn friends for phone numbers

Tasks:
- Abbassiyya - Coptic community - letter to Father Thomas
- Zabbaleen - Garbage City - Cave Church
- Zamalek - Zabbaleen Recycled Crafts
- Dahab island - tomorrow - talk with Kataline and Graham to organise the excursion

Owning:
- to Syonara 180EP





< - OUT (daily expenses)

Type:	*Item:*	*Specification:*	*No.:*	*Price:*
alimentation	cheese+tomato+chocolate			10EP
extra	tobacco	Merit	1	8EP
service	Arabic classes	with Syonara	5	300EP
TOTAL:				**318EP**

Sunday · July 06 · 2008

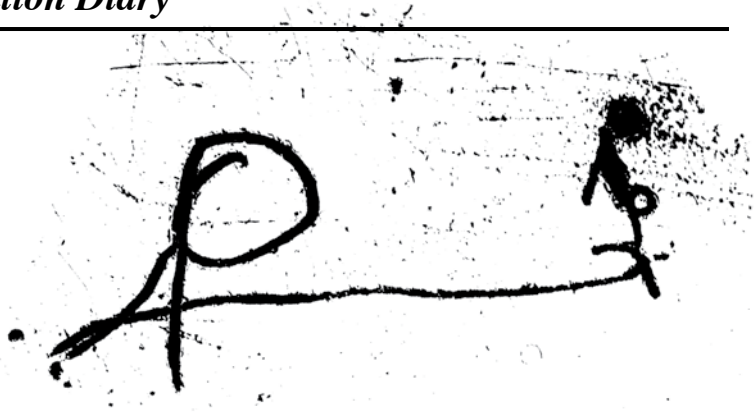
- get up early but not too much 7.45 - go to the bridge at Corniche where Katalin and Graham will pick me up to go to Dahab Island

- nice abstract painting on public phone box on the way

- crossing to the island with Coca-Cola *feluca* that operates as the main connection to the island for pedestrians - cars can't go there.

- Dahab means Golden - it is also called Agricultural island and indeed it is filled with agricultural fields, lots of domestic animals and shanty houses. Main transportation through the island are donkeys. There is distribution of water supply by canals for agricultural and domestic use. Electricity seems to be scarce but lots of animal faecal is dried on the roofs all over and used as a main fuel for warming water and cooking. People produce food enough to cover their needs and also sell outside on the main land. If there is a big catastrophe in the city, shortage of food maybe Dahab people could be the only survive.

- there is a bridge passing across the island without any connection to the island - the only thing is that it creates a good shade for people and animals / people are gathering there to do the washing, occasionally go swimming...



- there were some women on the street making *tameya* (falafel) and frying it on the fire. On the next corner two boys were playing making *tameya* out of mud

- do some cave drawings around

Cairo Integration Diary

- children we meet on the street are very respectful and are not annoying strangers as lots of them do on the main land. There is a development plan for the island where all the houses are going to be knocked down and the new luxury area of Cairo is going to be built

- Dahab wall drawings / drawing with Dahab kids

- there is a kid fishing but he doesn't have any bait - he doesn't manage to fish anything for a long time while we are having a snack break / another catches with his hands a small fish and explains this is a bait for fishing after we have been drawing fishes on the wall

Cairo Integration Diary

- arriving to CIC sun burnt and with a headache / trying to find another printer who would do plotters / Edit gives me the contact of Fuji / talk with an person in Fuji - woman says to come along with a cd / copy files / two CD destroyed /

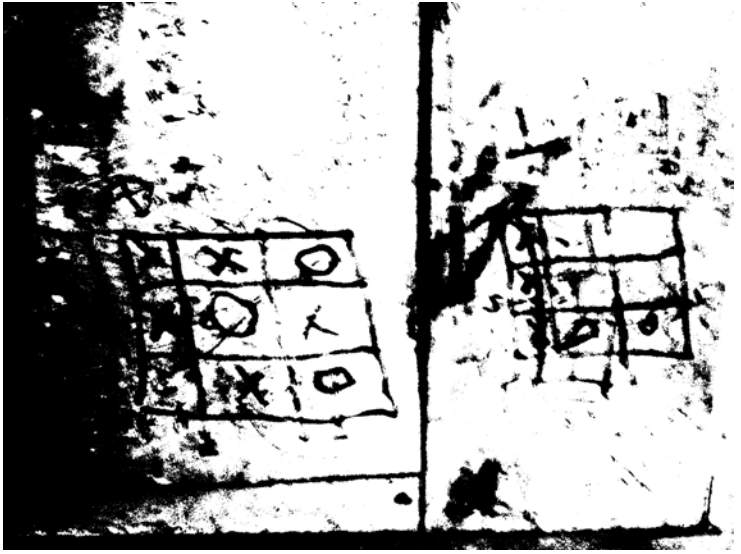
- make a DVD finally and go to the address / taxi driver leaves me in the wrong place / long walk in busy street under the sun / people send me in different directions / finally take another taxi / getting off the taxi go to the pharmacy-take Paracetamols on the spot / in fuji they only do photographic prints / but they tell me that in Xerox on Dokki Square they do plotters /

- take another Taxi / he doesn't have an idea where the D. Square is / i am asking people through the window / finally i get off the taxi just to get rid of him / some people says its 500m walking distance -go walking / want to ask them for a lighter but cant find my cigarettes -a man gives me one Egyptian / too strong -I throw it away /

- in Xerox a man installing local network and Photoshop / finally he cant open DVD so i have to download the files / he says in 1h it will be ready / go to EgyptAir at Carlton Hotel to buy a ticket / already shut down / go to the hotel terrace for a coffee / full of older men smoking *shisha* / draw /

- x/o drawings on the kiosk -go back to Xerox pick up the prints / taxi to the Anastasias opening at Townhouse / its already too late / at Tahrir bridge i realize that the man in the shop hasn't given me the change 50EP / i say to taxi driver to turn back / big traffic jam / he cant find the direction I am saying / get off and continue walking / at Xerox a man convinces me he did gave me the change / but i don't have it / cant do anything / finally go to the opening / exhausted / Graham says - one big thing for a day is enough - and he is right

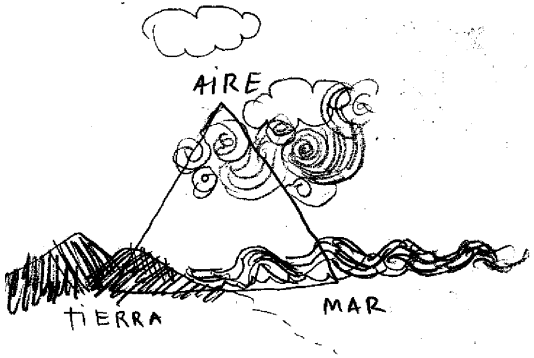
- dinner at Greek Club / call Ermin to arrange going to Recycling factory in the next days / I leave early as usual -arriving home i realize i forgot to give money to Graham and Karlin



Cairo Integration Diary

Tasks:
- send mails to bcn friends for phone numbers
- buy ticket to Barcelona
- Abbassiyya -Coptic community -letter to Father Thomas
- Zabbaleen -Garbage City -Cave Church
- Zamalek -Zabbaleen Recycled Crafts
- make photos of Syonara's children and another for father Thomas
- make a drawing of S. children in exchange for one lesson that we agreed
- write and send a letter to F. Thomas concerning solar panels

Owing:
-20EP Graham &Katalin
-180EP Syonara



Monday · July 07 · 2008

- get up with a morning prayer that is around 5h - forcing myself to sleep more but it doesn't work

- go to studio early / old woman that says hello to me is in her habitual place as usual/ she always seems very happy to see me / someday I should talk to her

- do admin / tired / my grandmother rings me up - she says she thinks I am working too hard and that I should take it more easy / go buy CD's to copy images for printing the photos (for F. Thomas and S. children) / back to CIC / select and upload Cairo images / make CD and go to find a photo shop / in the shop where I was told to go there is a woman covered in black *nigab* with gloves / she is turned back to me so we communicate trough a big mirror in her front / I reckon she is disturbed with my short skirt and very unkindly she tells that they don't work with CD's and doesn't know who else does it. She kind of kicks me out.

- on the street I also notice people especially veiled women push me and look at me in quite a bad way when I am in a skirt / also my white scarf seem to result confusing in combination with short skirt

- fruits and vegetables rot very fast under the sun

- leave CD in another shop very near / it will be finished tomorrow

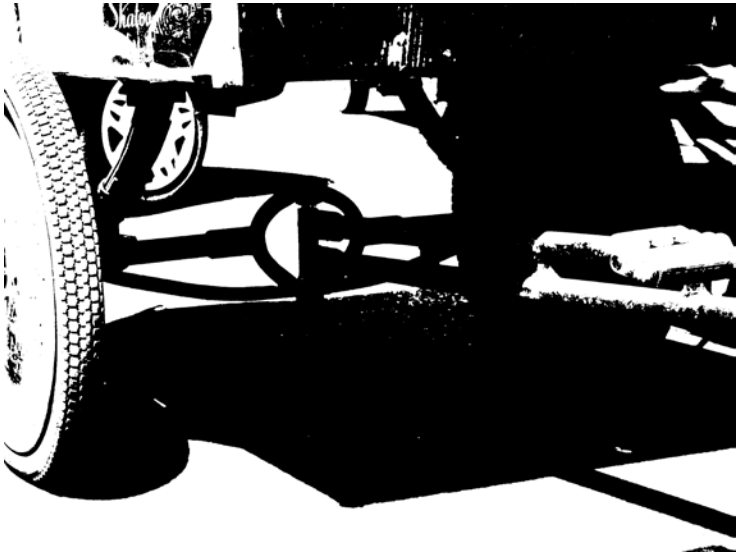
- exhausted / go for a good lunch to F.I. / Waiter asks me if last Friday I had taken by mistake a manager's pack of cigarettes while paying - and he is right - I find an extra box of cigarettes in my bag. I insist on giving money for the tobacco but the manager refuses. He seems very kind and I seem to have become a faithful customer.

- go home - sleep for few hours / finally sleeping repairs me quite well

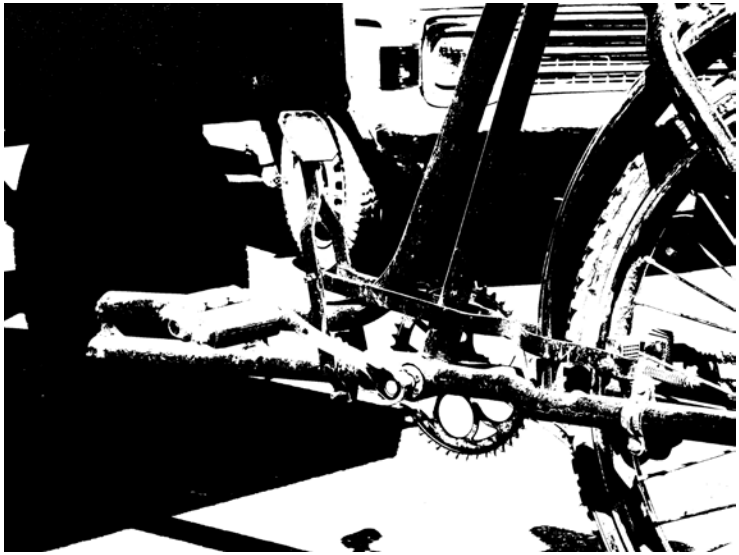
- back to studio / work in the evening / stay alone in the building as usual / already used to the strange noises of doors moved by the air and the bird's and insect's chanting coming from the thick dark trees outside /

- on the way home buy water and cigarettes / It's the same guy as very early this morning attending me in the kiosk. Now I understand why he is always sleepy in the mornings. Before I take out my green wallet he is already making some joke about it. He always gives me a plastic bag that matches something I am wearing /

Cairo Integration Diary



- at home I find one sleeping pill on the floor / decide to take the quarter hoping to have a good sleep finally this night /



- extended bicycle / details

Tasks:
- send mails to bcn friends for phone numbers
- buy ticket to Barcelona
- Zabbaleen - Garbage City - Cave Church
- Zamalek - Zabbaleen Recycled Crafts
- make photos of Syonara's children and another for father Thomas
- make a drawing of S. children in exchange for one lesson that we agreed
- write and send a letter to F. Thomas concerning solar panels - Abbassiyya
- Coptic community
- clean flat and studio

Economy:
Owning:
- 20EP Graham &Katalin
- 180EP Syonara

... I come and live in
Bruxelles
Bristol
Marseille

Tuesday · July 08 · 2008

- get up at reasonable time 7.30 / write / tidy up the flat a bit / throw garbage / undo plastic bag to take out the ugly yellow - anyhow this bag didn't come from my own consumption - i found it in the flat /

- go out / there is a man maneuvering an improvised elevator made of a basket and a rope - suspending it down to the grocery store underneath the building / I think that is how he shops / too complicated to take a picture as my hands are occupied with boxes of garbage /

- some people on the street dismantling photocopy machine - they must be Zabaaleen /

- go to tourist agency to buy a ticket to Barcelona / the man who is attending me is typing letter by letter with one finger / at the end he gives me some cake /

- studio / write / ants making paths trough my desk to the yogurt bottle that I just emptied

- go for a lunch but my eyes are bigger than my stomach / I order the whole *plait d'jour* and realize I am not hungry and above all don't carry enough cash on me - everything resolves as I am honorable costumer now - fish is delicious and I will pay next time

- back home to take more cash / go exchange office and photo-lab to take prints

- men of all ages walking on the street holding each others with hands

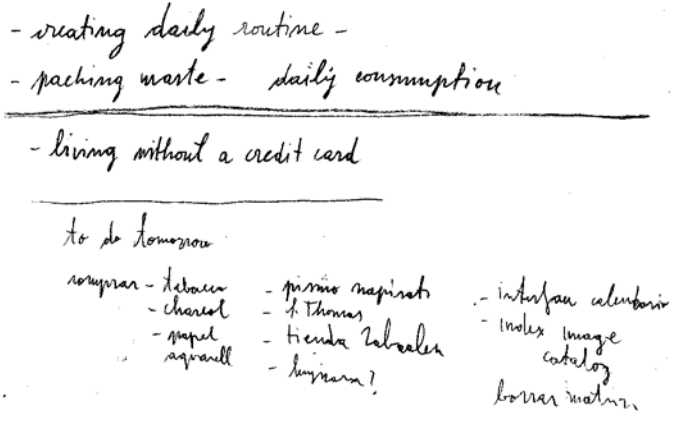
- back to CIC again / meet Katalin in the hall - she is about to have a meeting with Edit

- work in studio - after a while Katalin arrives in quite a bad mood / the meeting upset her / we talk about organising a party together if she also is going to leave this weekend

- go home / do plastic bag / read

- Essam calls to change the time of tomorrow's lesson /

Tasks:
- send mails to bcn friends for phone numbers
- buy ticket to Barcelona
- Zabbaleen - Garbage City - Cave Church
- Zamalek - Zabbaleen Recycled Crafts
- make a drawing of S. children in exchange for one lesson that we agreed
- write and send a letter to F. Thomas concerning solar panels - Abbassiyya
- Coptic community
- clean flat and studio



Owning:
-20EP Graham & Katalin
-180EP Syonara

Questions for the day:
- What unexpected happened today?
- details
- What was the strongest experience of the day?
- Image, drawing, story....

Wednesday · July 09 · 2008

- get up late 9.50

- arrive to studio / no internet / write letter (paper) to F. Thomas

- admin /

- go Klotbey street - The Coptic Center / Neighborhood full of shops with office materials / buy some presents / go to Coptic Center to leave the letter for F. Thomas

- go to Zamalek - Recycling Craft Shop / buy more presents

-F.I lunch / *galettes* / pay back 8EP

- calligraphy lesson / We write parts of Koran. Essam gets very serious and respective. He says it's better not to smoke while writing it. Afterwards he sticks the paper with Koran writings on the wall.

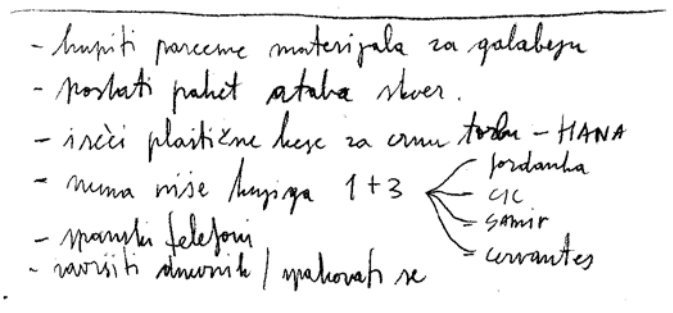
- Ibrahimovic calls to visit me in studio. After few minutes Hana calls as well to invite for a drink at her place. I'm too tired from being in the studio, cancel Ibrahimovic for some other day and go to Hana's. Chat with a few beers. She fills a holes in my knowledge about situation on Middle East. Explain how locals are protecting from summer heat. They keep the windows completely shut during all the day and leave the fans working. In the night they open the windows. Occasionally there is a breeze from the Nile. Also they wet themselves a lot. She calls her 'dealer' to order more beer. Skinny, red haired guy shows up soon, the one I am seeing everyday passing by the juice shop in 'Asr al Aini. He is one of the persons that I find pleasant and would always say hello to on the way.

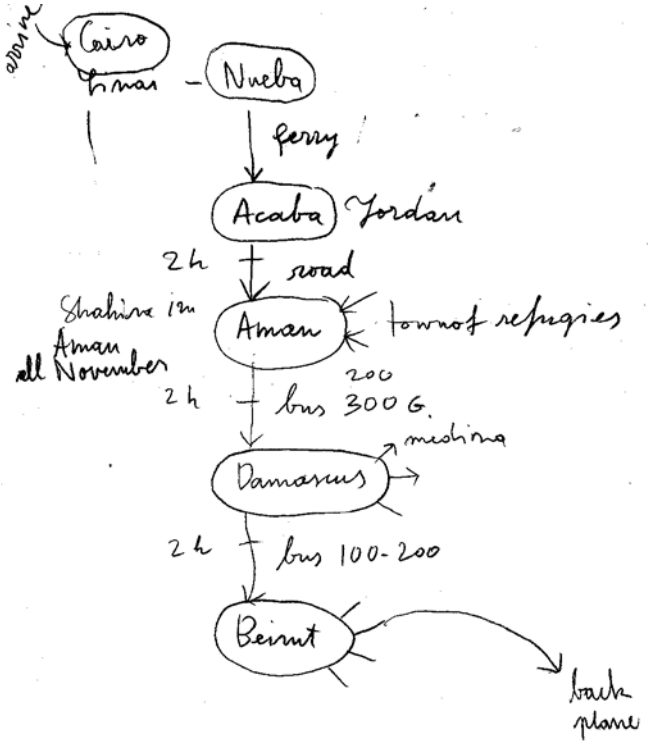
- from Hana's window a view on the roof terraces / lot's of families living there in improvised houses built on the roofs /

Tasks:
-Zabbaleen - Garbage City - Cave Church

- make a drawing of S. children in exchange for one lesson that we agreed

Economy:
Owning:
-20EP Graham & Katalin
-180EP Syonara





escribir mails: - Ramon Bellavina /
- Yane Calovski /
- cervantes /

CAIRO. 09.07.2008

DEAR FATHER THOMAS,

IT WAS A GREAT PLESURE TO VISIT S. PAULS MONASTERY AND MEET WITH YOU.

CONCERNING THE TALK WE HAD ABOUT USING SOLAR PANELS FOR ENERGY SUPPLY FOR THE MONASTERY COMPLEX, WE WILL NEED SOME MORE DATES IN ORDER TO MAKE THE NECESSERY CALCULATIONS.

WE WOULD HAVE TO KNOW:

- THE QUANTITY OF OIL YOU ARE CONSUMING FOR THE POWER GENERATOR IN ONE DAY, (OR ONE WEEK, MONTH...)

IF YOU SEND THIS INFORMATION TO PETER HE WILL BE ABLE TO TELL YOU HOW BIG SURFACE OF SOLAR PANELS YOU WILL NEED FOR THE ALL COMPLEX.

HIS DIRECTION IS FOLLOWING:

PETER LANG, PROFESSOR, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SANTA CHIARA CENTER
VIA SAN GIULIANO 6
CASTIGLION FLORENTINO. (AR) 52[illegible]
ITALY

Thursday · July 10 · 2008

- get up very late 11.50 / put washing / while waiting do crochet / tiding up / very hot day today

- leave Essams free-calligraphy book to photocopy

- mother and son in the kiosk next to CIC that were always very very unpleasant with me, today for the first time charge me the normal price for a cigarette pack - 5 instead of 8 ginies /

- do admin at the balcony / no Internet connection in my studio

- Essam arrives / I ask if we could practice writing some proverbs. It take a while for him to understand what the word 'proverb' means. Syonara call on the phone so I ask her to try to explain it to him in Arabic. The fan blows paper with writings from the Koran from the wall to the table. Essam fixes it again, but it falls again. Leaving he puts this paper in his bag. As I noticed this I ask him if he wants to have this paper. He says that Allah's name can't be treated in such a way. It has to be always up, above everything. He agrees to give it back to me if I keep it together with my Koran eaten by worms.

- go Townhouse / get my flash drive from Arwa with more images from the mapping workshop / meet with Ibrahim / He keeps me company while I buy tobacco. Ibrahim is serious now - he talks about his work. We sit for a *shay*. I buy come nice flier from a small beggar girl.

- Meet with Katalin to go to the roof party at Yordanka's. Hana is arriving too as she is living next door. Pork sausages barbecue and lots of alcohol is served - it is kind of *haram* party. With a group of people we sit around a big bin filled with ice where the alcohol bottles were cooling in the way that people would sit around the fire. I exchange the chalk from Thames for a lighter that projects image of Sadam Hussein.

Tasks:
- Zabbaleen - Garbage City - Cave Church
- make a drawing of S. children in exchange for one lesson

Economy:
Owning:
-20EP Graham & Katalin
-180EP Syonara

Questions for the day:
- What unexpected happened today?
- details
- What was the strongest experience of the day? Image, drawing, story...

ROTOR
ROTOR
proverb
مسات الكلام
قناة النهر مغلق
قناة النهر مغلق
قناة النهر مغلق

Friday • July 11 • 2008

- Friday / lazy day / still surprises me it's already weekend / Sufi concert this evening?

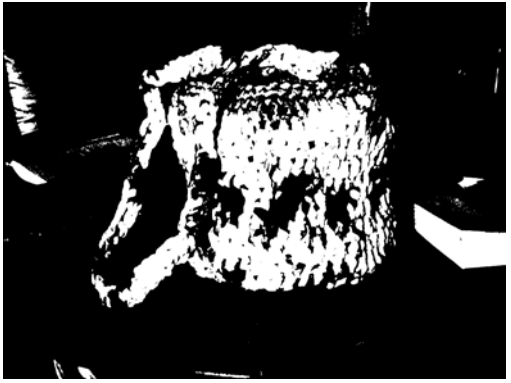
- rest / do portrait of S. daughter / S. calls she would like to pass by / she arrives / for the first time I see her outside of her home / she is wearing a long *galabeyya* and a scarf / my flat completely disorganized / not used to receive visits / nor was I spending time there during the day / the drawing is almost finished so she asks if I could finish it now / while I am finishing it she is having a passionate discussion on the mobile phone /

- go to Khan Al Khalili to see Sufi performance at Al Azhar Mosque - walk around as it's starting in half an hour / buy two girls *ghalabeyya* and a hand made note-book bounded with ultramarine leather / go to the bazaar for a *nana* / when I want to pay and leave a waiter tells me that the man who is charging went to wash his hands / I see him coming back with a dusty shabby praying carpet / he places himself just next to me and starts to prepare for the prayer / I see it's going to take a while so I get up and ask the first waiter to charge me / it's obvious he is indignant by my ignorance towards religion and charges me 6EP for a *shay* which is too much /

- arrive home - Ermine calls to go out - I'm too tired / / finish the second Cairian bag / go sleep /

Tasks:
- Zabbaleen - Garbage City - Cave Church
- make a drawing of S. children in exchange for one lesson that we agreed

Serial product is transformed in to the raw material subverting the capitalist chain of production consuming.



- tidy up house / washing / modify girls *galabeyyas* /

- go CIC

- go buy third pair of white Egyptian sneakers 15EP

- see a car crash for the first time

- meet with Amado in Horreya / he works with Sudanese kids refugees / preparing to leave meet Yehya / join his table for a while / a guy next to me M.Hawary offers himself to go to Zabbaleen area tomorrow with me / we arrange the meeting /

- I see curious wall drawing on the way back - after Shahira says it means 'jump and kill yourself' meaningless frustrated expression

- go home try to sleep / but go out to the internet and recharge my mobile that just run out of credit /

- on the street a red haired man asks me if I need something - I said - Yes, a Vodafone card 10ginies / he sends a young guy for a card and offers me a seat / we talk / he asks me if I could bring him a bottle of Vodka when I come back in October - It will be after the Ramadan and he will be desiring alcohol... - a young fellow comes back on the bicycle - there is no phone card in none of the shops around /

Tasks:
-Zabbaleen - Garbage City - Cave Church

Owning:
- none

Sunday · July 13 · 2008

- get up late

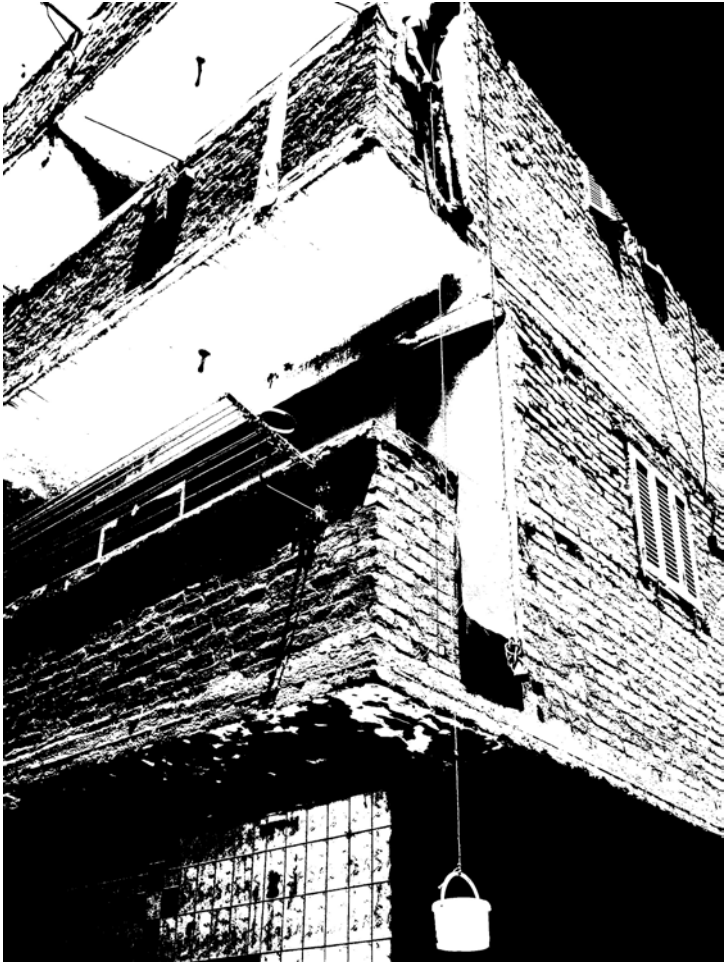
- go CIC / call M.Harawi to meet at 13 PM for a coffee at Horreya

- go Ataba square to send a package / plastic bag to my mother in Belgrade

- go Falaki / late to meet with M.Harawi / taxi driver doesn't know where Falaki Square is / he leaves me at Talaat Harb - he doesn't have change from 10EP and wants to take all of it / I leave him one guini take my 10 back and leave / now I have to go walking and I am late to meet with M. Harawi / he is shouting after me and people starts gathering around / a policeman arrives / finally a policeman takes my side and tells him to change 10 ginies - he asks all the people around - finnaly takes the change / now when he has the change he wants to take 5 ginies but the policeman says only 3 / i leave a winner /

- meet with M.Harrawi take a cab to go to Moqattam - Cave Cathedral / taxi driver agrees to wait one hour for usat the spot for 65 ginies /

- improvised elevator



PEPSI
Coca-Cola
PEPSI
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Coca-Cola

Cairo Integration Diary

- meet with Shahira and Nida on CIC terrace / they wanted to see my work because they are preparing some project and publication about the development of the city of Cairo

- update Spanish agenda / upload images /

- Mohammed brings me some *koshari* to eat and I was really hungry

- tide up and leave the studio

- go home / pack

- prepare Hana's bags for crochet on the airplane

- go out to Odeon terrace with Shahira

Tasks:
- ~~Zabbaleen / Garbage City / Cave Church~~

Dani 20/30

Barcelona estaniti stvari

14/Noz

banco - targeta! or
get money

Postal de S. Madrona

pasar la bandera cuando?

dormir. Mia
dionis
marchello ?

Heath llevar una casa (check-in)?

15/ Coclea

18/

19 H. leaves

Satana?

20/30 Dani

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Vahida Ramujkić
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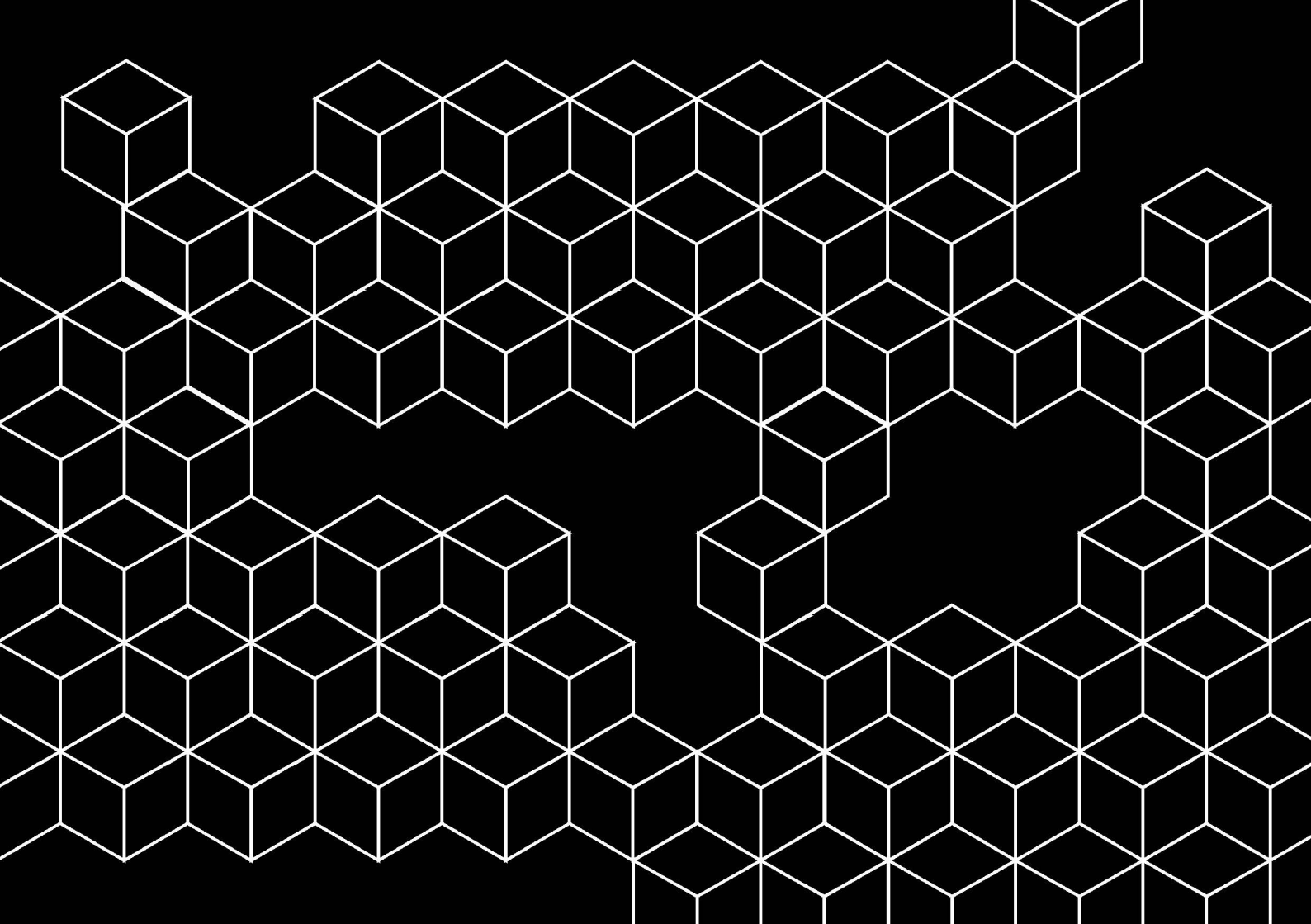
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