

Hassan Khan at Downtown Contemporary Arts Festival Cairo

March 20, 2014 Thomas Büsch



Detail from *The Twist* (2013), stainless steel sculpture, 322 x 13 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Chantal Crousel.

Hassan Khan has never before presented such a large number of works in Egypt as he will at Downtown Contemporary Arts Festival Cairo on Kodak Passageway.

Downtown Contemporary Arts Festival (D-CAF) is Egypt's only international multi-disciplinary contemporary arts festival that takes place over three weeks in March-April each year, at multiple sites in Downtown Cairo.

One of the main purposes of D-CAF is the revival and reclamation of Downtown Cairo as a vibrant cultural centre, capitalising on its unique architectural and social heritage. D-CAF also seeks to expose a wider section of Cairo's population to the diversity of contemporary arts production and Downtown's eclectic working population facilitates this desire. The festival also benefits from the fact that many of Cairo's major independent cultural institutions are based in Downtown, and thus the festival builds on the existing cultural communities that these institutions have been creating over

the last decade.

One of the key aims of the D-CAF project is to engage the general public in contemporary art and the urban landscape.



A glass object photographed as a way of collecting the world around it (2013) Photographic Print. 40 x 40 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Chantal Crousel.

The selections of works by Hassan Khan in his exhibition at Kodak Passageway span Khan's diverse artistic practice.

Text based works (some presented here in Arabic for the first time) charged with myth, dreams, calculation and chance are juxtaposed with enigmatic yet storied sculptural forms. Popular shaabi musical compositions are broken down, analyzed, and re-synthesized in automated improvisations, playing on strains of the archival, and the collective conscious. Portraiture makes an about face, reframing notions of identity, performance, and power.

The exhibition is sited in what had been unutilized storefronts alongside the Kodak passageway in Downtown Cairo, designed and curated by CLUSTER to present a procession of exhibition spaces, interjecting the artist's oeuvre amidst the public and pedestrian activities of the arcade.

Kodak Passageway, Cairo

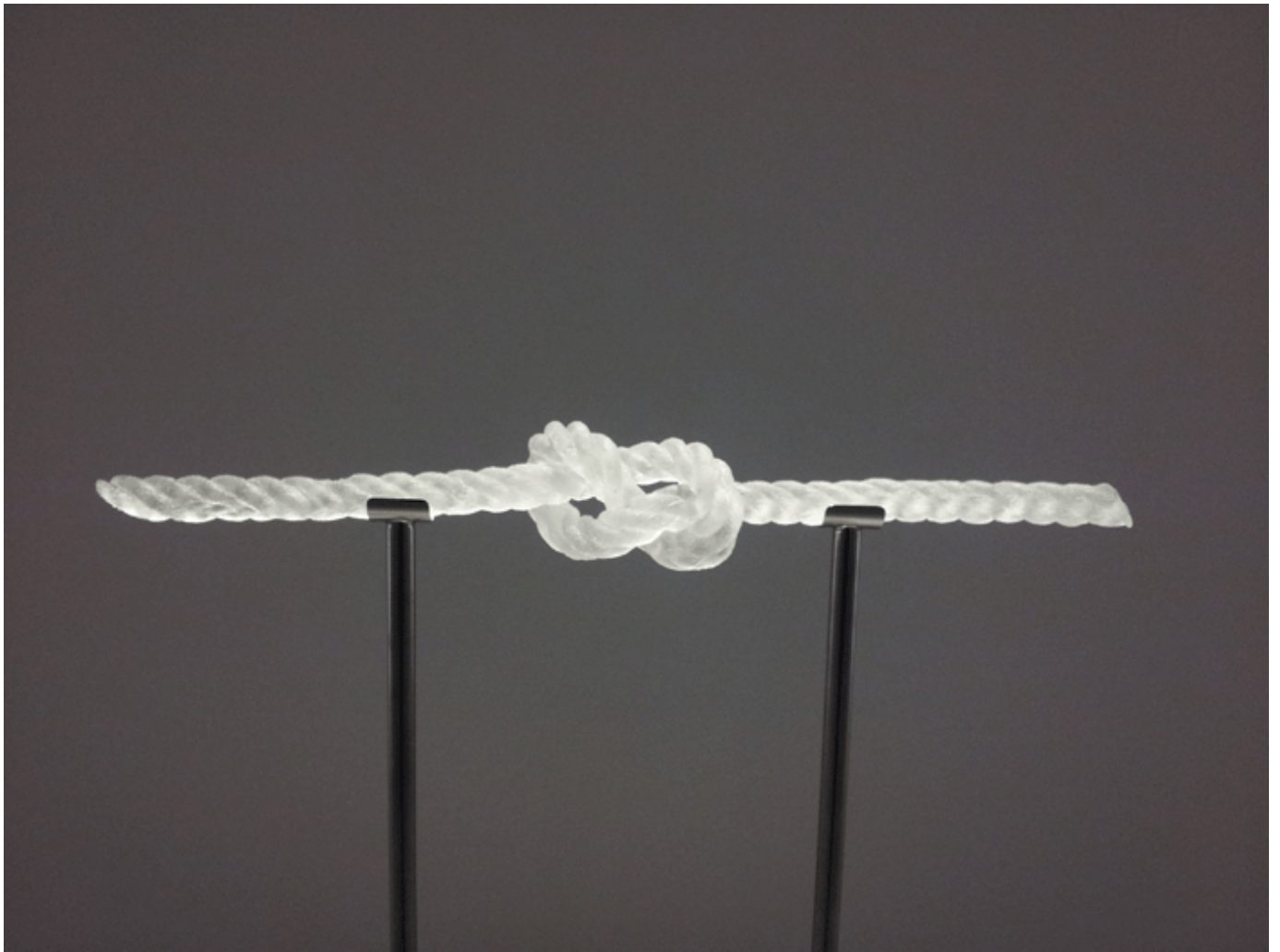
March 30 – April 26 2014

Exhibition and parallel events
of **Downtown Contemporary Arts**
Festival Cairo

المتوتر!! نظرت إلى لمياء في تلك اللحظة فاستدارت
بوجهها بعناية رقيقة ولكنها لم تستطيع أن تخفي
ضحكتها الساخرة. حسناً إن إمبراطورية الدكتور
صديق المكونة من المدارس الخاصة ، والأكاديميات
الوهمية وشركات النقل لا تخفي حقيقة أنه جاهل
متأنق ومتصابي!! ولكن هذا لم يمنعه من رفض طلبي
لمضاعفة راتي، وقد فعل هذا باستخفاف وعلي
مرأى ومسمع الجميع! كل شيء قد اكتسبته اختفى
مع لفتته البسيطة والمتغترسة. هذا الرجل يتظاهر
فقط باحترام الآخرين من أجل مصالحه ولأسبابه
الشخصية. هل لا يدرك من يتعامل معه؟ هل لا
يعلم نوعية الشخص الجالس أمامه؟ كنا فجأة اثنين
من الوحوش ينظرون إلى بعضهم البعض عبر الغرفة
بتوجس. فهو كان الوحش الذي يمكن أن يستند

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Mystery (2011), narrative text written by the artist on vintage
paper torn from pulp novellas. 13 pages 11×16 cm each.
Courtesy of the artist.



The Knot (2012), Glass Sculpture on Stainless Steel base. Photo by Anders Sune Berg. Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Chantal Crousel.