

Cairo: Oscar Cueto

What did I take home from Cairo?

A great book about graffiti with the title „Walk Talk“, pillows with printed paintings of the orientalist Deutsch, coffee, cotton fabric, colorful fabrics, mirrors, brochures, a few great stories to record for my Buffet Plus book, a small table and some works by Bassem Yousri (posters, stickers, pins).

The specifics of a residency at the Austrian Cultural Forum in Cairo

Of course, first of all you have the opportunity to visit one of the oldest cities in the world. But you also experience different types of control mechanisms and how artists try to outsmart them. They are very experienced in forms of resistance to control. There are many interests to be experienced, both internally and externally, such as resistance to what comes from outside and at the same time how easily transnational companies from industrialized countries succeed in extending the colonial system. As in many poor countries, the plastic and junk products of these international companies are everywhere. Instability and inequality make them vulnerable and an easy prey for predators.

Advice to give to the future candidates*

My recommendation is to hear, ask, eat and see as much as possible. I would stay away from governmental institutions. When artworks are limited by political interests, they become government propaganda.