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## The Inauguration of the Egyptian Textile Gallery in NMEC



In celebration of the World Heritage Day, observed globally on April the 18<sup>th</sup> every year, and coinciding with the one-year anniversary of the inauguration of NMEC, and the transfer of the Royal Mummies in a historical grand parade witnessed by the world on April the 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021- in the presence of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities organized a suhur event on Monday, April the 18<sup>th</sup> 2022 at NMEC's outdoor venue.

The event was attended by a distinguished number of ministers, ambassadors, governmental and national officials, heads of foreign entities and parliamentary committees, writers, editors-in-chief of prominent Egyptian newspapers, and members of the Egyptian Federation of Tourist Chambers (ETF).

The ceremony was celebrated by remarkable Egyptian folkloric performances under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. The event came to celebrate the inauguration of the Egyptian Textile Gallery at NMEC,

Visitors with free entry permits are welcome during weekdays with an exception of weekends (Fridays & Saturdays), and public holidays.

### Tickets' prices

Visitor	200
Student	100

NMEC is open everyday during the week, including public holidays, from 9:00 AM till 5:00 PM and on Fridays from 9:00 AM till 5:00 PM, and from 6:00 PM till 9:00 PM.



which miraculously re-displays a unique collection of archaeological artifacts that tell the history of the Egyptian textile industry through various historical eras, which were previously exhibited in the Textile Museum located at Al-Moez Street. The exhibited collection includes nearly 650 artifacts, of which 250 were transferred from the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir, the Museum of Islamic Art in Bab Al-Khalq, the Muhammad Ali Palace Museum in Manial, the Agricultural Museum in Dokki, and NMEC's antiquities' storages. The total area of the Textile Gallery is 1000 square meters, that uniquely displays a collection using the latest display techniques, supported by two well-equipped interactive screens, and a lighting system appropriate to the nature of the displayed collection, along with mediative tools that enrich the visitors' navigating experience.

The Egyptian Textiles Gallery is divided into two spacious levels that display various collections of Egyptian textiles through the ages, beginning with the ancient Egyptian dynasties, the Greek, Roman, Coptic and Islamic eras with its various periods, including the Umayyad, Abbasid, Tulunid, Fatimid, Mamluk, and Ottoman periods. The displays on the first floor varied between defining the raw materials of fabrics such as; linen, and the tools used by the textile manufacturer, dyes of different colors, as well as a group of statues wearing different models of clothes, some beds, rugs and towels, in addition to a group of ornaments that were adorned by women on different stylistic appearances. Moreover, in a centralized stage at the gallery's ground floor, stands a collection of traditional clothing from different Egyptian governorates, which considered as a documentation of the most important Egyptian folkloric outfits from Upper Egypt, the Delta, Sinai and the Egyptian Oasis. In addition to a unique display of Al-Kaaba's *Kiswah* which dates back to the reign of King Farouk I, King of Egypt at the time. Interestingly, the displayed *Kiswah* is an original piece that once adorned the Kaaba.

On the other hand, the Gallery's second floor displays unique and valuable records of the personal tastes of the family of Muhammad Ali, including some dresses belonging to Queen Nariman, a portrait of Queen Nariman and King Farouk, along with a collection of jewelries of the Alawite Royal Family. In addition, the levels display an interesting collection of outfits of "al Qamashaji" or the Postilion; the person who jogs next to every horse during official rides, and his job was to clean and protect the carts while walking. He was remarkable of holding a bamboo stick in the morning, and a torch in the evening to light up the road.

## NMEC's Collection Storage



NMEC is one of the major museums that recently opened its doors in Egypt, and is considered as one of the museums that kept pace with scientific and technological progress in international museums, in terms of construction, display, and storage. For instance, NMEC houses 11 storages in which the museum's antiquities are safely preserved according to its materials in containers, cupboards and shelves specially designed to maintain them in appropriate manners, and to use them later, whether for display, research and study, maintenance and restoration, or for inventory purposes, delivery and receipt procedures. NMEC's team of scientists have been keen since its inauguration to receive appropriate training, both in Egypt and abroad, in order to gain sufficient experience in the field, and to achieve both the museum's mission and its vision.

## A symposium on the “Visions of Major Egyptian Museums in the Twenty-First Century”



A symposium on the “Visions of Major Egyptian Museums in the Twenty-First Century ” in celebration of the “International Museum Day”, NMEC, in collaboration with Bibliotheca Alexandria, organized on Thursday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of May, 2022 a symposium entitled; “The Visions of Major Egyptian Museums in the Twenty-First Century”. This event comes in light of the pivotal role played by NMEC to enrich the cultural perspectives of Egyptians and achieve sustainable development for the surrounding community, through the deliverance of well-designed activities and cultural events. It is evident that conducting such symposiums encourage the exchange of thoughtful dialogues between museum professionals on the future visions of major Egyptian museums in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as well as it enhances intellectual communication among the members of society, and ensures the vitality of preserving our cultural heritage.

## Regional Conference on use of AML/CFT in investigation of Art & Antiquities Criminality



NMEC hosted the first “Regional Conference on use of AML/CFT in Investigation of Art & Antiquities Criminality” from June 14 to 16 held under the patronage of the Egyptian Anti-Money Laundering Unit (AMLU), and organised by the EU Global Facility on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (EU GF-AML/CFT). The opening ceremony was attended by H.E. Dr. Khaled El-Anany; Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Egypt, H.E. Judge; Ahmed Said Khalil, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Anti-money Laundering & Countering Terrorist Financing Unit (EMLCU); H.E. Mr. Christian Berger, Ambassador of the European Union, Deputy Minister of Tourism and Antiquities for Tourism Affairs, Ms. Ghada Shalaby, the Supervisor of the General Administration of Recovered Antiquities, the Supervisor of the Department of International Cooperation, and the Ministry’s Legal Advisor, among other prominent names of specialized experts and academics in the field of heritage, and illicit trafficking of cultural property from around the world.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Khaled El-Anany, highlighted that illegal trade in cultural property is one of the most important challenges facing Egypt, like many countries of ancient civilizations in the world. He illustrated that in the past years, Egypt has taken numerous measures to identify, investigate and tackle this type of trafficking, and managed to repatriate looted artifacts from countries of the EU.

Perhaps one of the most prominent examples of successful repatriation cases was Egypt’s triumph in cooperating with law enforcement agencies in the United States of America, in repatriating the gilded coffin of Nefertiti; currently displayed at the Core Exhibition Gallery of NMEC.

## NMEC: A Forum For Official Delegations At Al-Fustat

NMEC continues to receive the visits of a number of international dignitaries, government officials and public figures from Egypt and the whole world since its grand opening. Among these visits were; the Ministers of Finance and Economy from the Maldives, the President of the Central Bank of Indonesia, the President of the World Bank Group, members of the Group's Board of Directors, and a delegation of the World Bank's Executive Directors.



NMEC as well received a delegation of Italian tourists arriving from Milan Malpensa Airport, who were keen to observe the museum exquisite collections. In addition, the museum received Thailand's Ambassador to Cairo; H.E. Puttaporn Ewtoksan and his accompanying delegation, as well as H.E. the Omani Ambassador in Cairo and the Sultanate's permanent representative to the Arab League; Abdullah bin Nasser Al-Rahbi, along with H.E. Mohammed Al Zubair, the Former Advisor to His Majesty The Sultan for Economic Planning Affairs and the owner of Bait Al Zubair Museum; as well as Dr. Jumaa bin Ali Al Juma, Former Minister of Manpower.



Equally important, NMEC received a high-level delegation from the European Investment Bank (EIB), namely; Mr. Ambroise Fayolle, the Vice-President of the (EIB); Mr. Adrien de Bassompierre, the Senior Advisor to the Vice-President of the (EIB); Ms. Catherine Collin, the Managerial Adviser at EIB Global; and Ms. Kristina Pelekanova, the coordinator of the United Nations Climate Change Conference. NMEC also welcomed the Mexican Ambassador to Cairo, H.E. José Octavio Tripp; H.E. Jaime Nualart, the Cultural Secretary of the International Italian-Latin American Organisation (IILA); and Mr. Edward Fragoso, Responsible for the Cultural and Economic Affairs. Furthermore, NMEC received a Brazilian official delegation that included Bruno Dantas, the Vice-President of the Brazilian Federal Court of Accounts, Ms. Manuela Faria, Advisor to the Vice-President of the Federal Court of Accounts of Brazil; and Mr. Mario Almeida, a Diplomat at the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Relations.

And to conclude, NMEC welcomed a French delegation from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, namely; Mr Matthieu Peyraud, Director for Culture, Education, Research & Networking Coordination at the Ministry; Stephanie Sala, Head of the Human and Social Sciences Department at the Culture and Archeology Unit of the French Foreign Ministry; and Mr. Hervé Barbaret, the CEO of Agence France Muséums.

## NMEC Hosted the Final Round of the World Squash Championship for Men and Women

NMEC hosted the final round of the World Squash Championship for men and women, which took place in Egypt from May 17 to 22, in the glass court located in the museum's outer venue. The tournament was held with the participation of 128 squash players from around the world, under the auspices of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.



The museum's theater witnessed the closing ceremony of the tournament, with a performance by Lebanese singer Carole Samaha, who released a song for this occasion under the title "We are the Kings of the Game". While the final match was attended by H. E. Dr. Ashraf Sobhi, Minister of Youth and Sports; Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim, CEO of NMEC; Assem Khalifa, President of the Egyptian Squash Federation; Amr el-Sonbaty, President of Heliopolis Club; Hussein Abaza, CEO and Managing Director of the Commercial International Bank; Hussein Abaza and Maged Sherif, CEO and Managing Director of SODIC. The museum's hosting of the tournament is the best promotion for tourism to Egypt, pointing out that the coming period will witness many events that express the Egyptian identity and reflect the features of the intellectual movement in the Egyptian society.



The tournament ended with the Egyptian player Ali Farag winning the Men's World Championship and the Egyptian Nour el-Sherbiny winning the Women's World Championship, which qualifies them to the CIB PSA World Tour finals set to be hosted in Cairo next June, which brings together world champions of all League Championships.





Within the framework of the cultural activities conducted by NMEC, the museum hosted a series of recreational and educational workshops, which aim to raise the heritage, artistic and cultural awareness of the museum's visitors of all age groups, and confirm the positive message adopted by the museum as an institution that aims primarily to support young people, develop their capabilities, and enhance their belonging to the civilization and the heritage of their country.



For instance, NMEC released its summer program with a workshop entitled; "Pharaonic Paintings on Leathers" designed specifically for the People of Determination; NMEC's main target group, which emphasizes the institution's prominent role of integrating people with disabilities in the museum's social agenda. It is worth-mentioning that the workshop was held in cooperation with The World Disability Union (WDU), and Egypt's Presidential Initiative of "Misr Tastate'a".

Another workshop was conducted on the "Art of Traditional Jewelries", which provided NMEC's participants an opportunity to learn the principles of designing jewelry from the Egyptian folklore in a contemporary way. On the other hand, NMEC conducted two cultural workshops on "Egyptian Inscriptions" that introduced the arts and methods of sculpting on different materials, where the artists explained the stages of sculpting on copper, as well as performing direct manual sculpting on both clay and stone.

# WORKSHOPS

An additional workshop designed by NMEC's Team on the "Traditional Art of Embroidery", conducted in collaboration with the Egyptian Clothing Bank and ALMAH Project, where visitors were introduced to the craft of embroidery and its principles in ancient Egypt.

And to emphasize NMEC's role in promoting environmental sustainability, several workshops on "Processes of Upcycling" were conducted for children from age 5 to 12, introducing them to the importance of environment for the well-being of humans, the methods of preserving the natural resources, as well as practices of environmental sustainability. For instance, the workshops provided the young participants with an opportunity to develop their practical skills, visual and kinesthetic senses, through producing artworks made of plastic bottles, in which they have creatively learned methods of creating more practical, valuable and aesthetically appealing products.

On the other hand, a workshop on "Botanical Illustration in Ancient Egyptian Art" was conducted, where participants have examined the methods of depicting florals and plantations in ancient Egyptian art, as they drew sketches of diverse botanicals in Egyptian art, typical to those illustrated on the walls of ancient temples.



As for the Egyptian governorates, NMEC organized a series of workshops that celebrated the artistic and cultural scene of the city of Alexandria, introducing its history and its hallmark fusion of cultures and artforms. The event included workshops on the arts of mosaic, pottery, and wooden boats' miniature. The event as well celebrated the life and melodies of Alexandria's iconic singer and composer, Sayed Darwish.

NMEC, on the other hand, held a heritage workshop on "Papyrus Making and Related Arts", with the participation of the most famous artists of the papyrus industry and in

collaboration with NMEC's Restoration and Conservation Center. The workshop introduced methods of designing symbols of ancient Egypt on papyrus.

While the Restoration and Conservation Center provided an interactive scientific workshop on the manufacture of inks that ancient Egyptians used to write, and ways to prepare them from natural materials. Another workshop that witnessed a remarkable interaction among NMEC's visitors was conducted on the "Art of Macramé", one of the most authentic forms of weaving arts that appeared in the 13th century by Arab weavers, and was spread after that in Spain, Italy and England, whose presence in turn gives the place an authentic and attractive appearance.

Lastly, and for photography enthusiasts, NMEC organized a workshop on photography, which targeted age groups of 16 and above. The workshop introduced the basics of photography through theoretical explanation and practical application. It also provided its participants with an overall view of the type's cameras, lenses and their uses, photography modes and many more.

## Hysteria Log – Min Fat Ademo Tah



NMEC hosted a theatrical concert titled (Hysteria Log – Min Fat Ademo Tah), which is a modern theatrical vision of the art of monologue in a lyrical and representative form inspired by the artistic legacy of Egyptian Cinema in a lyrical representation, led by Professor Dr. Mohammed Abdelkader. It is evident that Egyptian Cinema was famous for monologues during the 1960s and the 1970s of the last century, as it aims to provide fun, criticism, advice and wisdom, in order to evaluate public behavior in a purposeful comic framework. As for the audience, they expressed their great happiness with such event, as well as the role of NMEC to spread culture, knowledge, and awareness.



## NMEC's Collection

Mashrabiyas, for instance, are one of the most important architectural elements that have been made to allow the passage of sunlight into the building, providing the elements of light. The world celebrates annually on May 16<sup>th</sup>, "the International Day of Light". NMEC celebrates "Light" in its displayed collections, through addressing its significance during the Islamic dynasties, as the organization of light in Islamic architecture was one of the most important artistic and cultural manifestations in these eras.

### NEWSLETTER TEAM

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