



Adelita Husni-Bey
After the Finish Line (film still), 2015
Video, color, sound, 12'39", English with Arabic subtitles
Courtesy of the artist and Laveronica arte contemporanea

ADELITA HUSNI-BEY

A Wave in the Well

21.10.16 – 30.01.17



Attributed to Felix Bonfils
Avenue of the Ram-Headed Sphinxes, Luxor, Egypt, Circa 1875-85
Albumen print
The Fouad Debbas Collection / Sursock Museum

THE HUMAN SCALE

Archeological Photographs from The Fouad Debbas Collection

21.10.16 – 30.01.17

The Sursock Museum is pleased to present two new exhibitions: *A Wave in the Well*, a solo show by Italian-Libyan artist Adelita Husni-Bey, and *The Human Scale*, an exhibition of archeological photographs from The Fouad Debbas Collection.

Both exhibitions will open on Thursday 20 October 2016 from 18:00 to 21:00. They will be on view until 30 January 2017.

Adelita Husni-Bey A Wave in the Well

Opening on Thursday 20 October 2016, 18:00 to 21:00

On view until 30 January 2017

Twin Galleries, GF

Stemming from research and in-depth interactions with people, Adelita Husni-Bey's process-based work questions and makes visible the legislative, pedagogical, and economic structures that frame daily life.

A Wave in the Well presents existing work as well as new work produced in collaboration with the youth-led organization NAHNOO and members of the public.

Produced during a year-long residency in San Francisco, the video *After the Finish Line* explores the psychological and physical aspects of competitive culture.

The video installation *Ard* looks at the often tense and uneven encounter between redevelopment plans and local residents, in this case in the informal neighborhoods of Gezirat al-Qursaya and Ramlet Boulaq in Cairo.

About the artist

Adelita Husni-Bey is an educator and artist based in New York. Her practice involves workshops and filmmaking on and around urban spaces and the complexities of collectivity. She participated in *Undiscovered Worlds*, the New York High Line, 2015; *Really Useful Knowledge*, Reina Sofia Museum, 2014; *Utopia for Sale?*, MAXXI Museum, 2014; and *Playing Truant*, Gasworks, 2012, among other group exhibitions. She recently produced a film with a group of young athletes at the Kadist Foundation in San Francisco as part of the solo exhibition *Movement Break*, and is currently developing a Visible Prize nominated project, the "Convention on the Use of Space," a publicly drafted legal document on the commons and the allocation of space in cities. She is a 2016 recipient of the Graham Foundation grant and a 2012 Whitney Independent Study Program fellow.

Film Screening and Artist Talk

Thursday 20 October, 19:00 to 20:00. Auditorium, Level -2.

To mark the opening of *A Wave in the Well*, Adelita Husni-Bey's film *Postcards from the Desert Island* (2011) will be screened on Thursday 20 October at 19:00 in the auditorium. The screening will be followed by a conversation between the artist and the Sursock Museum's Head of Programs and Exhibitions Nora Razian



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The Human Scale

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Opening on Thursday 20 October 2016, 18:00 to 21:00

On view until 30 January 2017

The Fouad Debbas Collection Gallery, Level 1

What the eye sees, photography attempts to reproduce. It responds to our common desire to tour the world “from the comfort of one’s armchair.” In the second half of the 19th century, photographic expeditions to Egypt multiplied, with a view to making an inventory of the Orient.

If sketches made in situ previously sufficed, photography came to be appreciated for its capacities to document, illustrate, and depict monuments and their decors with great precision. Photography thus became a precious tool for archeologists and scientists.

Often, the monumental quality of a site can only be grasped through the inclusion of a human figure. Man is there simply to indicate scale. Yet he inhabits these otherwise lifeless images that seem frozen in an ancient time, just like the ruins they depict.

Photographers frequently turn to the same assistants or travel companions to “populate” their expertly-composed stagings. The positioning of the human figures is rarely left to chance; they are either clearly visible, standing with their backs

against columns, seated with their head in their hands, or nearly hidden, squatting next to a rock or springing out from the shadows. Sometimes, the photographer is himself the figure. Would you be able to recognize him?

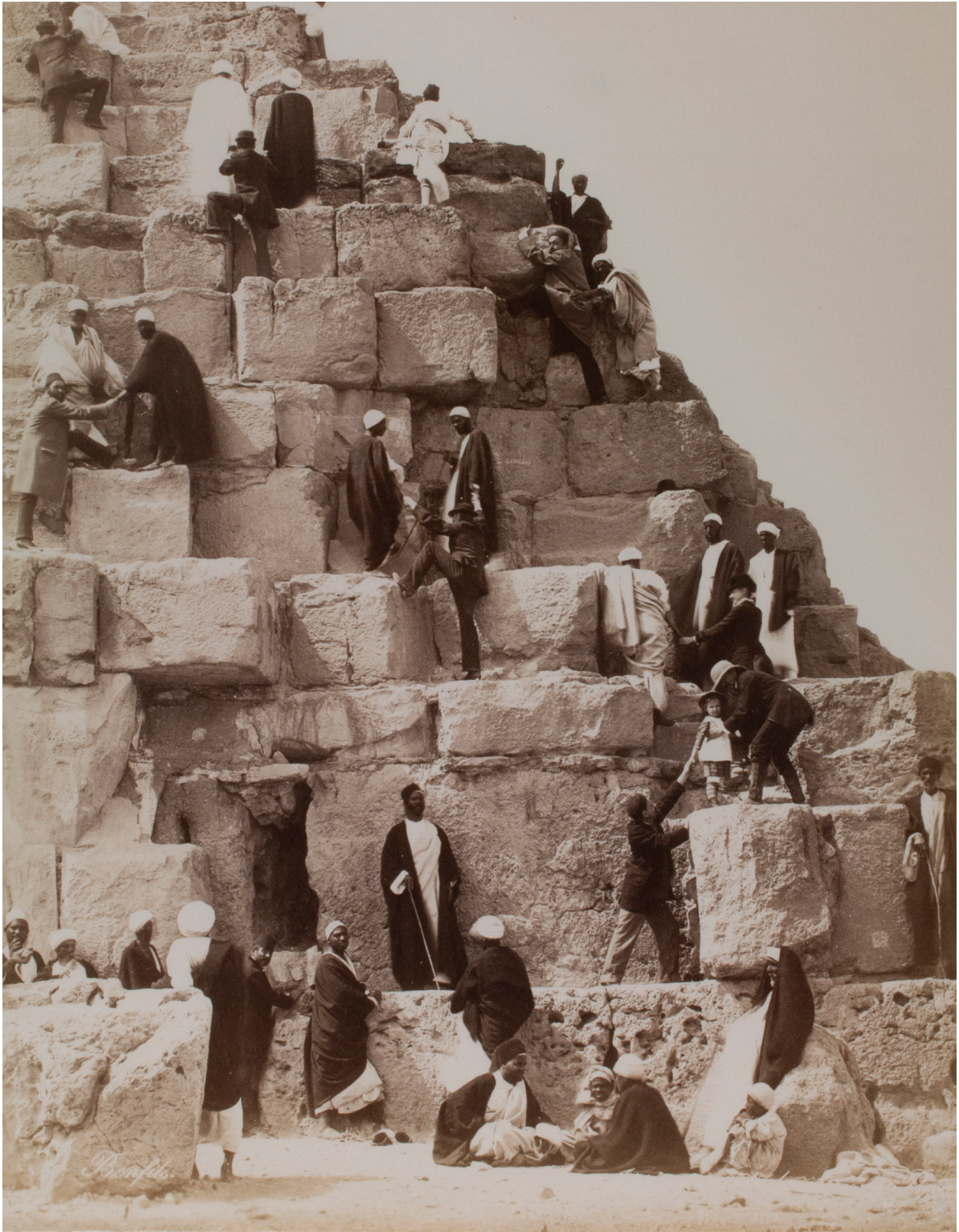
About The Fouad Debbas Collection

The Fouad Debbas Collection is a photographic collection comprising over 30,000 images from the Middle East – namely Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, and Turkey – from 1830 till the 1960s. It was built over the course of two decades by Fouad César Debbas (1930-2001), who was an ardent believer in the importance of collecting and preserving images as a means of safeguarding cultural heritage.

Housed in the Sursock Museum, the Collection consists of photographs, postcards, and stereoscopic views, in addition to loose albumen prints, etchings, and books, all of which relate to the region. The collection, Orientalist in character and replete with commercial clichés, forms an important part of the Sursock Museum’s collection, highlighting photography’s key role in the development of modern art in Lebanon.



Bonfils Studio
The Great Sphinx of Giza, Egypt, Circa 1880-95
Albumen print from Mansell's album, 22 x 28 cm
The Fouad Debbas Collection / Sursock Museum



Bonfils Studio
Climbing the Great Pyramid of Cheops, Giza, Egypt, Circa 1880-95
Albumen print
The Fouad Debbas Collection / Surssock Museum

ABOUT THE SURSOCK MUSEUM

Mission

Through our collection, archives, exhibitions, and public programs, we aim to produce knowledge on art practices in the region and explore work that reflects on our contemporary moment. Our goal is

to support local art production, to provide a platform for encounter and experimentation with art and ideas, and to inform and challenge different audiences in new and unexpected ways.

Opening Hours

Open daily from 10:00 to 18:00

Late opening on Thursdays from 12:00 to 21:00

Closed on Tuesdays

Admission to the Sursock Museum is free of charge.

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The Sursock Museum by night
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