PRESS RELEASE

LAUNCH OF THE ART PROJECT “MUSHROOMING IN CAIRO AND BERLIN”

The German Embassy is proud to present the newest project of its Cairo-Berlin Series “Mushrooming in Cairo and Berlin” on 30 March, 2015, 11am in front of the German Embassy, 2, Berlin Street (off Hassan Sabri Street), Zamalek, Cairo.

In an effort to bring art to Berlin Street in front of the German Embassy in Cairo, where most people visiting the Embassy pass every day, German/Polish curator Kasha Bittner, who recently moved from Berlin to Cairo was tasked to create a project that engages the audience in a creative way.

She invited Egyptian artist Sarah Samy who now lives in Berlin, and German artist Yvonne Buchheim who resides in Cairo to join her on this “journey”.

Looking for a common theme to their work that would avoid familiar postcards motives, they soon decided to let themselves guide by mushrooms. As they started looking for these in their surroundings, they discovered mushrooms as very present in both of the cities and beyond.

Sarah Samy was inspired by the woods encircling Berlin and produced digitally manipulated or repeatedly repainted photos, drawings, and 3D objects, compounded into a whole, evoking the forest’s mysterious atmosphere and overwhelming nature.

Yvonne Buchheim became interested in the question of whether mushrooms exist as an object in Cairo, more exoticism than an actual biological species – her playful method triggers interactions with inhabitants but it is always the mushroom, not the artist, that people interact with.
“Mushrooming in Cairo and Berlin” has become a project between observation and astonishment, recognition and abstraction, reality and dream. We hope that they will inspire the audience to go on a hunt for their own personal mushroom hunting.

As mushrooms pop up everywhere, you can find the results of this project not only in the vitrines in front of the Embassy but also as video screenings inside the waiting room of the visa section and in the lobbies of the Goethe-Instituts in Downtown and Dokki.

"Mushrooming in Cairo and Berlin" is open to the public from 30 March to 23 April 2015:

- in **vitrines** in front of the German Embassy
  2, Berlin Street (off Hassan Sabri Street), Zamalek

- and as **video installations** in the
  Goethe-Institut Downtown 5, Sharia El-Bustan and
  Goethe-Institut Dokki,13, Sharia Hussein Wassef, Midan El-Missaha.

**For more information, please contact:**
Kasha Bittner (phone: 01011922372) or the press office of the German Embassy (**pr-11@kair.diplo.de**).

The project will be launched to the press and selected guests on 30 March, 11am in front of the embassy, followed by a small reception in the garden of the residence of the German Ambassador with the possibility to interview the curator, artist and embassy staff.