

SENSING CAIRO

Azza Ezzat

contribution in Disembodied Territories workshop

<https://disembodiedterritories.com/Sensing-Cairo>

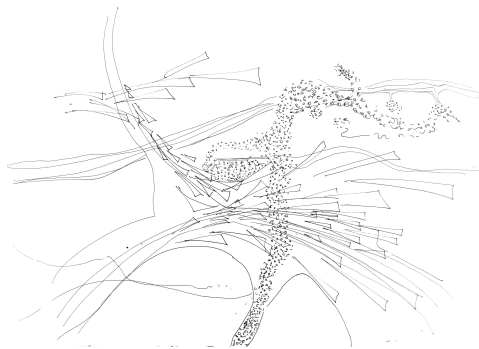
Between the formal governmental city and the informal community's reactions, I search for hidden cities that are built by impressions, memories and perceptions. Through the work, a new imagined map is emerged from gained impressions and derivations.

My contribution pivots mainly around understanding space and creating possible methods of engaging with and configuring that space, in an attempt to experiment and expand the ways through which my experience of the city as a citizen overlaps and informs my artistic interest and concerns.

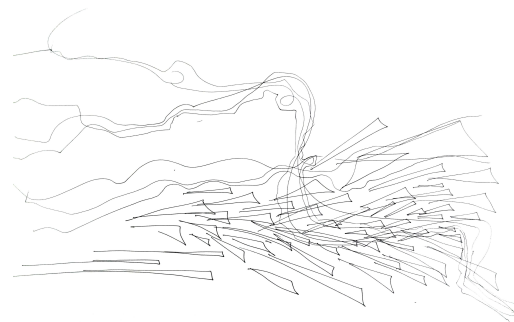


Azza Ezzat, Nasr City Bridges, 50×50cm, pen and ink on paper, 2019

During the COVID curfew, we witnessed the current rabid and destructive reconstruction taking place all over Cairo, centred mainly around building and expanding a massive network of highways and causeways all over the city. Many people started complaining that Cairo will be reduced to nothing else than one endless highway and a gigantic bridge.

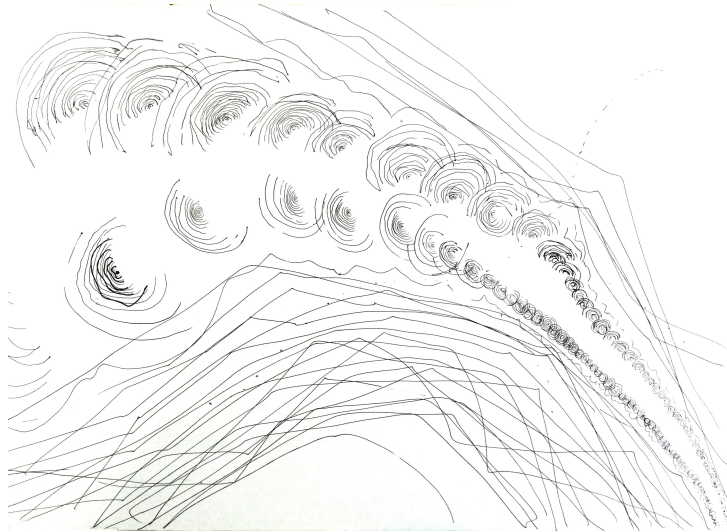


Azza Ezzat, Under the bridge study, Nasr City Bridges
pen on paper, 42×29 cm, 2020



Azza Ezzat, Above the bridge study, Nasr City Bridges,
pen on paper, 42×29 cm, 2020

It is noticeable that the new planning aims to facilitate the flow of vehicles over the bridge and put traffic under the bridge, pedestrians, vehicles and bicycles, as a second priority.

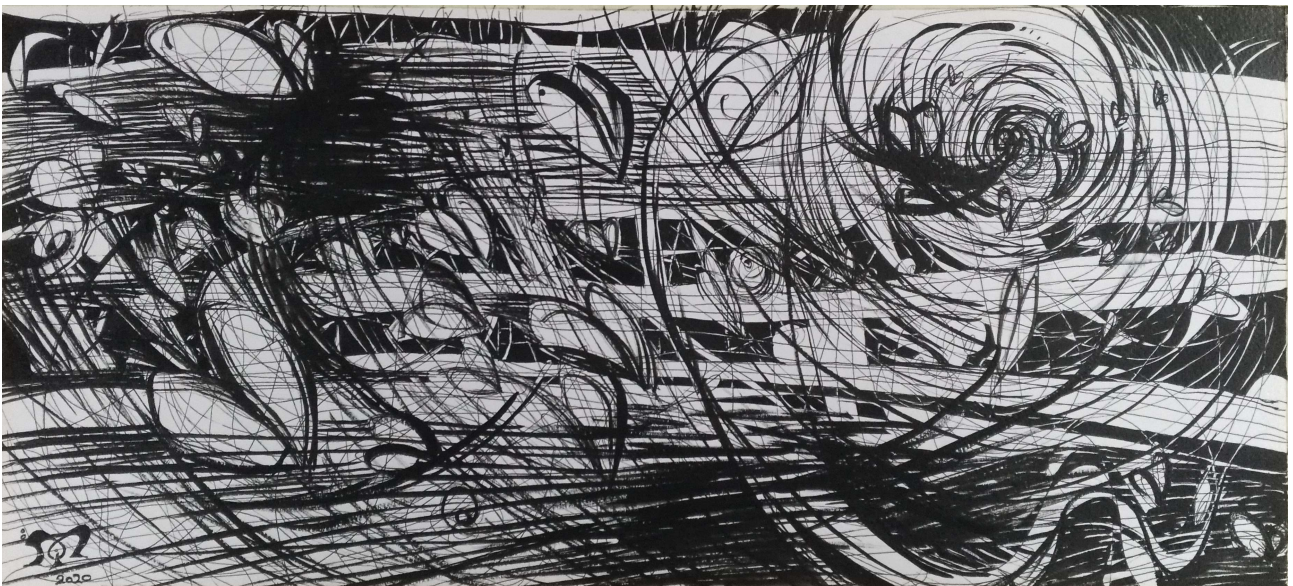


Lighting Flicker Study, Nasr City Roads, pen on paper, 42×29 cm, 2019

Stemming from my desire to try and navigate the urban reality, I have begun to retrace the roads I used to walk and cycle on. Then try to notice the noncore elements that have changed.

One of these elements was the luminous flux of renewed streets' lightings. They have changed the light from yellow to white, which makes an unusual flicker on pedestrians' eyes.

The second element was trees' disappearance. almost all of the trees have been cut. No more shade on the roads. Cairo turned to be grayer than before, asphalt roads and buildings



Azza Ezzat, Shadowless roads- Nasr City roads, pen and ink on paper, 55×25 cm



Aza Ezzat is a Cairo based visual artist. She is interested in urban observations and detecting human traces in the built environment. Between the formal city, monopolized by government planning, and the informal reactions of different communities of inhabitants, Ezzat searches for hidden cities that are built by impressions, memories and perceptions. Through the work of retracing those different visions, a new map of the city, emerges from the multiplicity of layers not seen before.