"The Role of Arts in Citizenship Education? The Role of Citizenship Education in Arts!"

Prepared by: Astrid Thews
Reviewed by: Heba El-Cheikh
Presented by: Reem Khedr
Mahatat for contemporary art

- Mahatat is a Cairo-based entity for art in public space, community art and capacity building for emerging artists and cultural operators.
- Art has a value in itself.
Our Main Argument

• Which role citizenship education can play in art and art education?
• After we briefly look at the use of art in development and citizenship education, we will shift perspective and look at the role of the principles of citizenship and citizenship education in arts.
The Context of Art and Culture in Egypt

• Centralization of art in Egypt.

• Art Sectors:
  - The governmental sector
  - The independent sector
  - The commercial sector
Art in Civil Society in Egypt

• Many international civil society and development organizations request spreading a certain specific message or working with workshop participants on a specific message or theme when approaching independent entities or artists.

• There is recognition that art can be "useful", it can be "used" in order to deliver a specific message in a fun and playful way. Art then is seen as mere tool.

• As Mahatat we have collaborated with civil society organizations in this regard as well as with local artists.
Art in Civil Society in Egypt (cont.)

• Undoubtedly, art can be a useful tool in order to deliver a specific message in a campaign against sexual harassment for example in a creative way.

• That might work very well, if the collective community level is regarded and individuals foremost seen as members of a community.
Values of Citizenship and Citizenship Education in the Arts

• Which tools of informal education can be useful when holding an art workshop?

• Which participatory methods ensure that workshop participants are encouraged to develop their own works and live up to their potential?

• How can artists as trainers be supported in facilitating workshops based on principles of active citizenship and participation?

• How can we broaden access to cultural and artistic activities for citizens residing outside the capital?

• Which skills are needed in order to access both the governmental art sector and the independent art sector as a young artist?

• Which format of artistic events is inviting and open enough for "non-traditional" audiences to watch, interact, and form an opinion? Which frame of artistic events would attract a large audience that does not frequent art spaces?
Wonder Box Project

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmxK2rrGUmM
Thank you!

Facebook: Mahatat for contemporary art
Twitter: @MahatatEgypt
Website: www.mahatatcollective.com
Email: info@mahatatcollective.com