

# Alexandria

(re)activating common urban imaginaries



Last week, we unveiled a captivating art showcase featuring works by 30 talented artists at three different spaces, in the city of Alexandria, Egypt.

**B'sarya for Arts Presents**

**Exhibition** ندوات **Live Performances** عروض حية **Symposium** معرض

**يساريا للفنون تقدم**

**الإسكندرية**  
1-8  
June  
2023

**بَحْثًا عَنِ  
مَنْظُور**

**٨-١  
يونيو  
٢٠٢٣**

**In Lieu of A Prism**

Exhibition Curated by Marwa Benhalim

قيم المعرض مروة بن حليم

©Nada Ezzeldin

Last stop for the project was the showcase in **Alexandria** from **June 1** until **June 8, 2023**.

**In Lieu Of A Prism - Showcase in Alexandria, Egypt, 1 - 8 June 2023**

**B'sarya for Arts, Institut français d'Egypte à Alexandrie, 6 Bab Sharq**

Curated by Marwa Benhalim

*In Lieu Of A Prism* originated from the the artistic outcomes of both residencies *Caravan: Thinking with Alexandria* and *School for Sonic Memory*.

The exhibition was accompanied by a public program of talks, walking tours, live performances and conferences from June 1st until June 8th, 2023, at B'sarya for Arts, Institut français d'Egypte à Alexandrie, and 6 Bab Sharq

[More information here](#)

## Alexandrian Echoes: A Dialogue



Symposium organized at the **Institut français d’Egypte à Alexandrie**, June 8 2023.

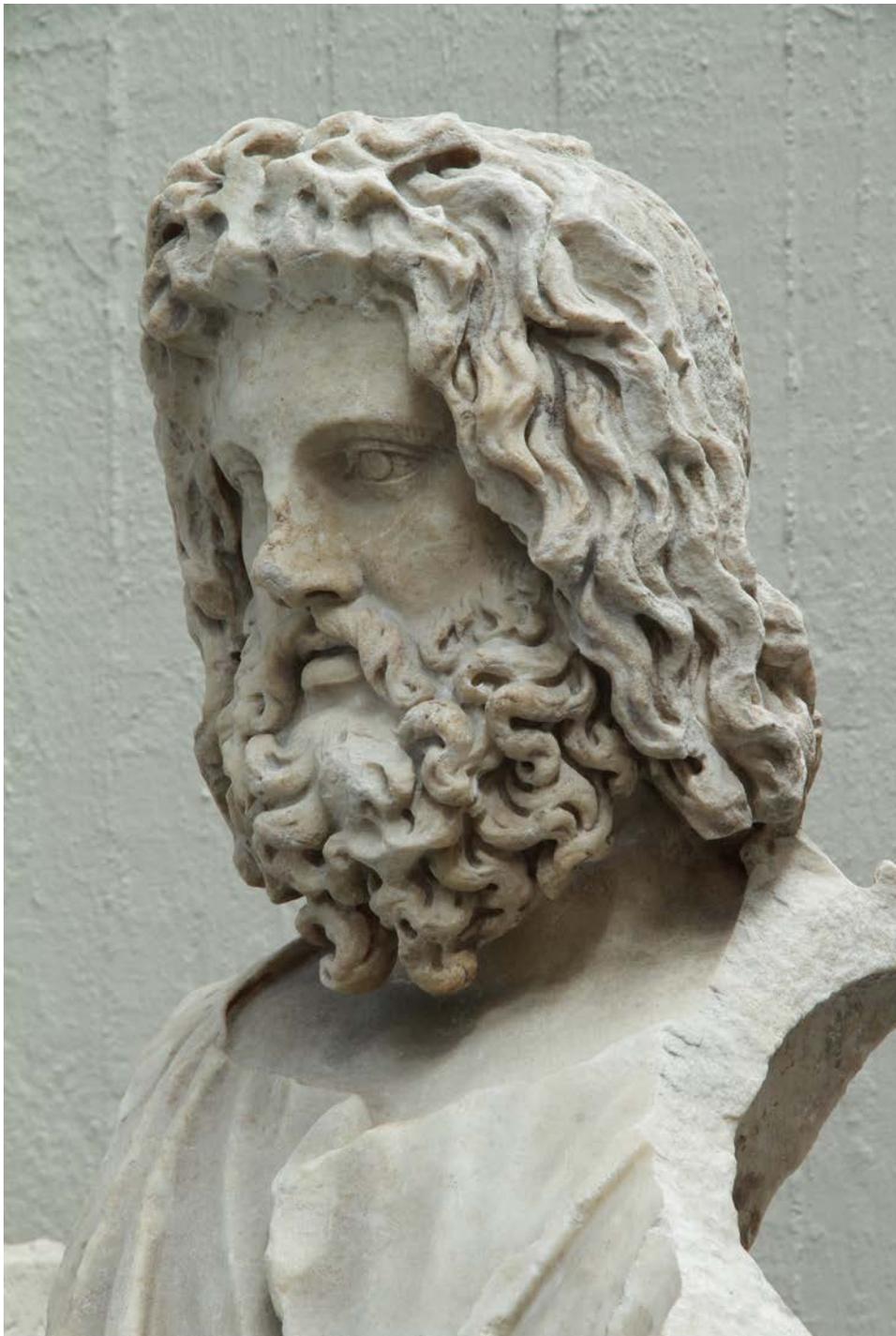
The ambition of the project “Alexandria: (re)activating common urban imaginaries” was to ‘think with Alexandria’ in order to create new ideas at the intersection of heritage, cultural innovation and the development of (Mediterranean and European) metropolises.

To this end it fostered a cooperation between historical and archaeological scholars on the one hand as well as artists and social entrepreneurs on the other. This resulted in scientific conferences, a caravan with residencies and showcases; and an exhibition that ambitiously combined history with art in order to better understand the image and reality of the city of Alexandria.

[More information here](#)

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**Discover one artwork from the exhibition  
"Alexandria: Past Futures": Marble bust of  
Sarapis**



Marble bust of Sarapis, found in Rome, 2nd century AD, H. 58 cm, Royal Museum of Mariemont, inv. B. 158.

After more than 3 months of public exhibition, "Alexandria: Past Futures" closed its doors on May 8 at **Mucem, Marseille** with more than **68 000 visitors**.

This marble sculpture depicts a bearded god with curly hair, wearing a cloak and whose head was once topped with a grain basket called 'calathos'. These elements identify Sarapis, a "new" god who appeared in Egypt during the Ptolemaic period. The latter would hardly be anything other than the Hellenised version of Osiris-Apis, one of the main gods of Memphis, the ancient capital of the pharaohs.

It was in Alexandria, under the first Ptolemies, in the 3rd century BC, that his image was shaped. Having become the great protective god of the Lagid capital, Sarapis became part of a recomposed divine family in which he was associated with Isis, his wife, both accompanied by their son Harpocrates, thus forming a protective triad for the Ptolemaic royal couple...

[Read more here](#)

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**A look back at the Caravan Showcase in Kunsthal Aarhus**



Installation view of Caravan: Thinking with Alexandria, Kunsthal Aarhus, 2023  
©Jacob Friis-Holm Nielsen. Courtesy of Kunsthal Aarhus.

**17 March 2023 - 10 April 2023**

On Friday 17 March, Caravan: Thinking with Alexandria opened at Kunsthal Aarhus in Denmark. The showcase comprised some of the video works, sound installations, sculptures and printed matter produced in connection with the "Caravan: Thinking with Alexandria" residency in 2022.

Collectively, the sixteen invited artists provided meditations on landscapes and belonging, archaeology and imagination, forced displacement and ecological disaster...

[More information here](#)

## Calendar

### In Lieu Of A Prism - Showcase

Alexandria, Egypt

**1 - 8 June 2023**

Opened on June 1st at Institut français d'Egypte à Alexandrie

Discover the full programme

### Alexandrian Echoes: A dialogue

Institut français d'Egypte à Alexandrie, Alexandria, Egypt

**8 June 2023**

Discover the full programme

### Final Conference

Brussels, Belgium

Fall 2023

To be announced

Mucem

Bozar

MARIE MONT

Point



Co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union



ONASSIS STEGI

Kunsthal Aarhus

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