

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 27, 2018



**University Galleries of Illinois State University is pleased to present *Basim Magdy: To Hypnotize Them With Forgetfulness* from October 26 through December 16, 2018.**

- October 24 through October 30: Basim Magdy’s Instagram takeover
- Friday, October 26, from 5 to 7pm: Opening reception
- Tuesday, October 30 at noon: Panel discussion with artist Basim Magdy, film scholar Bruce Jenkins, and curator/director Kendra Paitz
- Saturday, November 10 at 1pm: Exhibition tour and workshop co-presented with the Children’s Discovery Museum
- K-12 field trip program, curator-led tours, and workshops available by appointment throughout the exhibition

***To Hypnotize Them With Forgetfulness*** presents six films, a photographic installation, and a newly commissioned text-based work by Egyptian artist Basim Magdy. The exhibition focuses on the artist’s process-based experiments with altering analog film and writing absurd storylines. Educated as a painter in Cairo, Magdy began to shift his focus more toward working with photographs and manipulating film in 2011. He explains that he could use film as “a tool to communicate ideas related to loss, destruction, confusion, and the apocalypse.” His endless transformations include “pickling” the film in household solutions; placing a kaleidoscope in front of the lens; and utilizing masks, light leaks, and double exposures. The resulting painterly distortions of image and color are vibrant, unexpected, and hypnotic. Magdy then composes improbable narratives—often about future aspirations, failure, and the repetition of history—which are added as both voiceovers and captions. Strangely haunting and darkly humorous, the works create, in the artist’s words, “a visually different version of reality” and a “narrative that has no beginning and no end.”

The exhibition’s title is quoted from *The Dent* (2014), a 19-minute Super 16mm film transferred to HD video that demonstrates the range of the artist’s poetic and ambiguous writing. Amidst imagery of dilapidated Modern infrastructure, Classical marble sculptures, a spectral marching band, and an all-seeing elephant, a story of collective failure unfolds in a fictional small town where the residents unrealistically dream of hosting the Olympics. Additional works include *The Everyday Ritual of Solitude Hatching Monkeys*, a 2014 film that was inspired by Magdy’s father’s short stories, and a related 2017 photographic work, *We’re All Victims of Our Own Adopted Fantasies Here (reprise)*. Among the other selected films are: *No Shooting Stars* (2016); *The Many Colors of the Sky Radiate Forgetfulness* (2014); *Crystal Ball* (2013); and *Thirteen Essential Rules for Understanding the World* (2011).

Magdy will take over University Galleries’ Instagram account for a week during the course of the exhibition. He also invites visitors to take their own photographs and videos within the exhibition to “create their own narratives or parodies, tell love stories, express how the work makes them feel, or simply to add filters, stickers, or digital doodles.” Please share your creations with us on Instagram using #DearBasim and mentioning @universitygalleriesisu and @Basim.Magdy.

Magdy’s work has been exhibited at New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Beirut Art Center, Beirut; MAXXI National Museum of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Arts, Rome; D-CAF Festival, Cairo; Arnolfini, Bristol, England; Jeu de Paume, Paris; and Castello di Rivoli, Torino, Italy; and has been included in the *Sharjah Biennial*, *Istanbul Biennial*, *Lubumbashi Biennial*, and *Seoul Biennial*. His work is included in the collections of Museum of Modern Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Louis Vuitton Foundation, Paris; Deutsche Bank Collection, Germany; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates; Castello di Rivoli, Torino; and Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar; among others. Magdy was the 2016 Deutsche Bank “Artist of

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the Year” and has been awarded the Abraaj Art Prize, Dubai, and the NEW:VISION award at the CPH:DOX Film Festival, Copenhagen. In 2012, he was shortlisted for the Future Generation Art Prize at the Pinchuk Art Center, Kiev. Magdy lives and works in Basel, Switzerland. He is represented by artSümer, Istanbul; Gypsum Gallery, Cairo; and hunt kastner, Prague.

An 80-page exhibition catalogue featuring texts by film scholar Bruce Jenkins and exhibition curator Kendra Paitz will be published in 2019.

*Basim Magdy: To Hypnotize Them With Forgetfulness* is organized by University Galleries’ Director and Chief Curator Kendra Paitz and is sponsored in part by grants from the Illinois Arts Council Agency and the Alice and Fannie Fell Trust.

All events are free and open to the public. Contact [gallery@ilstu.edu](mailto:gallery@ilstu.edu) or 309.438.5487 to schedule exhibition tours.

### **Events**

- **October 24 through October 30**  
Follow Basim Magdy’s takeover of University Galleries’ Instagram account at [universitygalleriesisu](https://www.instagram.com/universitygalleriesisu).
- **Friday, October 26, from 5 to 7pm**  
Public reception with the artist
- **October 28 through December 14**  
Free curator-led tours and workshops are available by appointment throughout the exhibition. Contact [gallery@ilstu.edu](mailto:gallery@ilstu.edu) or 309.438.5487.
- **Tuesday, October 30 at noon**  
Panel discussion featuring artist Basim Magdy, film scholar Bruce Jenkins, and exhibition curator Kendra Paitz.
- **Saturday, November 10 at 1pm**  
Exhibition tour and workshop co-presented with the Children’s Discovery Museum. Participants (ages 7-10) will meet at the CDM, come to University Galleries for an exhibition tour, and return to the CDM for an exhibition-related artmaking activity. Registration is required for this free program at [childrensdiscoverymuseum.net](http://childrensdiscoverymuseum.net). This program is made possible by an Illinois Prairie Community Foundation—Mirza Arts and Culture grant awarded to the CDM.

*University Galleries is located at Uptown Station at the corner of Beaufort and Broadway streets. Parking is available directly above in the Uptown Station parking deck, and the first hour is free, as well as any time after 5:01pm. If you need special accommodations to participate in any event, please contact University Galleries at 309.438.5487 or [gallery@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:gallery@IllinoisState.edu). All events at University Galleries are free and open to the public.*

*For more information, visit [galleries.IllinoisState.edu](http://galleries.IllinoisState.edu) or call 309.438.5487. Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Sign up to receive emails by clicking the Newsletter link on our website.*