Dear Reader,

The AUC Press would like to wish you a happy and healthy 2011!

I am very pleased to announce the recent publication of some exceptional books from our latest AUC Press catalog—a wonderful way indeed to start off the new year.

The most significant among them is the much-awaited attractively illustrated volume *Twentieth-Century Egyptian Art: The Private Collection of Sherwet Shafei* by Mona Abaza. For the first time, one of Cairo’s most reputable private art gallery owners and a great promoter of Egypt’s modern art heritage, Sherwet Shafei, opens her doors to display many of the masterpieces of last century’s art scene in Egypt.

Also in the arts category, *Film in the Middle East and North Africa: Creative Dissidence* is a unique volume of essays edited by Josef Gugler that offers a comprehensive overview of filmmaking throughout the region, from Morocco to Iran, and looks at important films produced outside the national cinemas.

*Understanding Cairo: The Logic of a City Out of Control* by David Sims is an important book that tries to make sense of Egypt’s capital—an urban giant. American economist and urban planner Sims argues that the chaotic metropolis that is Cairo, with more than twenty million inhabitants, can in fact be considered a kind of success story.

Readers who wish to learn more about the state of the Arab media today
will no doubt find veteran journalist Lawrence Pintak’s new book *The New Arab Journalist: Mission and Identity in a Time of Turmoil* very interesting.

The author, former director of the Kamal Adham Center at AUC, explores how journalists in the Arab world are still under siege as governments fight to control the message.

Finally, following previous editions in this rapidly growing collection on the Sound and Light shows of Egypt, *Wonders of the Horus Temple: The Sound and Light of Edfu*, introduced by Zahi Hawass, is a new, full-color presentation of the spectacular show of music, historical narration, and lights and images, accompanied by over 60 color images and the complete script of the show.

Later this month, starting January 26, the AUC Press will be present with very major publications at the Cairo International Book Fair in Nasr City. A number of AUC Press authors will be attending the fair and presenting their books at signing sessions. We will be posting further details about our activities during the CIBF on the AUC Press Web site and on Facebook over the coming weeks. Join us there!

Mark Linz, Director
The AUC Press
Cairo – New York

**Book of the Month** – Available at the AUC Press Bookstores

*Twentieth-Century Egyptian Art: The Private Collection of Sherwet Shafei*

By Mona Abaza

With Collector’s Notes by Sherwet Shafei

For the last forty years, Sherwet Shafei, the prominent Cairo art gallery owner of Safar Khan Art Gallery in Zamalek, devoted her professional career to modern and contemporary art. She has played a pivotal role in promoting and creating a market for modern Egyptian art.

Through a series of interviews with Shafei, Abaza retraces the trends and examines the contributions of various figure heads of Egyptian and Arab art on the local and international scene and also highlights the gallery owner’s private collection that comprises 250 paintings and sculptures by early pioneers such as Mahmoud Saïd and Ragheb Ayad as well as later figures like Hamed Nada and Youssef Sida. To read more and order the book, [click here](#).
New AUC Press Books – Available at the AUC Press Bookstores

**Understanding Cairo: The Logic of a City Out of Control**
By David Sims
Foreword by Janet Abu-Lughod

“All fans of Cairo will … welcome this new path-breaking book by David Sims, original in its arguments and richly documented with detailed data never before accessible to the general reader,” writes American sociologist Janet Abu-Lughod, in her foreword. “It is clearly a major addition to the voluminous literature about Cairo,… it far exceeds the studies that preceded it, both in posing more analytic questions and in its access to details.” Sims examines Cairo in its Egyptian context, the history of modern Cairo, the real-estate bonanza of this ever-expanding megacity, the capital’s traffic management, desert development, and Greater Cairo—Cairo’s “serendipity.” The volume comes with an extensive bibliography and notes, 20 maps and over 60 illustrations, as well as tables, a glossary of Arabic terms with English translation, and a list of the referenced abbreviations and acronyms. To read more about the book and order it, click here.

**Film in the Middle East and North Africa: Creative Dissidence**
Edited by Josef Gugler

“Images and voices from the Middle East and the Maghreb are little seen and heard abroad,” opines Gugler in his introduction. “The lack of public interest parallels a dearth of scholarly attention, with the notable exceptions of Iran and Israel.” Gugler stresses the importance of bringing films from this part of the world to a Western audience as they “demonstrate commonalities and differences across a region that is all too often subject to unwarranted generalizations.” “[Fiction films] bring foreign settings alive in images, sound, characters, and story” to an audience that may “start out with negative views of other societies and cultures.”

Contributed by twenty scholars, the book’s country essays that present the region’s major national cinemas in their economic, political, and cultural contexts, are complemented by in-depth discussions of eighteen films that have been selected for both their excellence and their critical
The new Aboudi Bookstore in Luxor opens on January 20. Click here to download the invitation.

engagement with pressing current issues in countries such as Iran, Afghanistan, Palestine, and Israel.

To read more about the book and order, click here.

More new AUC Press books

AUC Press Authors and Books in the News

Ahmad Hamid: Exponent of ‘The New Modern’
Interview with the author of Hassan Fathy and Continuity in Islamic Arts and Architecture: The Birth of a New Modern (AUC Press, 2010), Obelisque, Winter 2010

Hassan Fathy
By AUC Press author Ahmad Hamid, Obelisque, Winter 2010

Interview by Al Ahram Hebdo with 2010 Naguib Mahfouz award winner Miral El-Tahawy and review about her book Brooklyn Heights
« La culture dans les grandes villes me paraît comme vivant sur les cadavres des êtres humains », 22-28 December, 2010
C’est le dépaysement et l’exil sur la terre d’Amérique que dépeint Miral Al-Tahawy dans son nouveau roman Brooklyn Heights, 24-30 November, 2010

An honorable tribute to architect Hassan Fathy
Lisa Kaaki reviews Ahmad Hamid’s Hassan Fathy and Continuity in Islamic Arts and Architecture: The Birth of a New Modern, Arab News, December 15, 2010

Gaza: Book explores vibrant, diverse graffiti-art scene in war-torn strip
Los Angeles Times, Alexandra Sandels, December 13, 2010
The Journal of Palestine Studies, Vol 40, no. 1 (Autumn 2010), p. 102, Toufic Haddad
Voyage photographique dans la terre des pharaons
Review of Sandro Vannini's photography exhibition, Watani, December 12, 2010

Miral El-Tahawy wins Naguib Mahfouz award for Brooklyn Heights
Al Ahram Online, Mary Mourad, December 11, 2010

Travel Journals – Yemen by AUC Press author Richard Hoath
The Rhet Herring, Issue 9 Fall 2010

Tomb of A Hero: The Saad Zaghloul Mausoleum
By AUC Press author Lesley Lababidi, Obelisque, Winter 2010

Abd al-Karim Kocsenda, United Arab Emirates, December 2010

Le Bouquiniste - Palais égyptiens et villas 1808 – 1960

Never bettered, never better
Interview with director of Chicago House Ray Johnson who makes reference to AUC Press archaeology publications
Al Ahram Weekly, by Jill Kamil, December 1, 2010

The Complete Review looks at Khairy Shalaby’s The Time-Travels of the Man Who Sold Pickles and Sweets (AUC Press, 2009)

Counterpunch reviews Yousef Al-Mohameed’s Munira’s Bottle (AUC Press, 2010)