



MINNESOTA
MUSEUM of
AMERICAN ART

MEDIA ALERT * FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The M presents a new installation by L.A.-based artist
Sherin Guirguis inspired by Egyptian feminist leader Doria Shafik**



St. Paul, MN, Sept.30, 2019: Minnesota Museum of American Art (the M) is proud to present *Sherin Guirguis: Here I Have Returned*, a new installation opening Thurs., Oct. 3 by Egypt-born, LA-based artist Sherin Guirguis. Building on her longtime interest in mining lost histories, her installation will fill the Henrietta Schmoll Rauenhorst Court with works inspired by Doria Shafik (1908-1975), a largely forgotten writer and leader of the Egyptian feminist movement. Among her many achievements, in 1951, Shafik organized a "Feminist Congress" of 1,500 women at the American University in Cairo and stormed the gates of Parliament demanding that women be given the right to vote and to hold public office. The title of the exhibition, "Here I Have Returned," comes from a poem Shafik wrote about returning home to Egypt after studying for several years in France. Likewise, it speaks to Guirguis's own search to remain connected with her artistic and cultural roots in Egypt.



Acting as artist, researcher, and historian, Guirguis's work recovers and safeguards the significance and legacy of this groundbreaking figure. Her installation at the M will include hand-cut paintings on paper, a video, and sculpture, merging several broad themes within her body of work, including an interest in architectural design, craft traditions, language, and poetry. This exhibition will provide dynamic views within the museum and from the intersecting Lowertown St. Paul Skyway corridor above the gallery.

Here I Have Returned is a new presentation of an earlier body of work that was exhibited at the Craft and Folk Art Museum in LA (2018) and at the American University in Cairo (2019). Guirguis received her MFA from University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Her work has been exhibited across the United States, Europe, and the Middle East in venues including the Museum of African Diaspora in San Francisco, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Sharjah Art Museum (UAE), the Venice Biennale (2015) and the Desert X Biennial in Palm Springs, CA (2017). She is currently an Associate Professor in the Practice of Fine Art at the Roski School of Art and Design at the University of Southern California.

This exhibition is made possible thanks to support by Nancy and Steve Apfelbacher and Ani (Backa) Apfelbacher and Kurt Apfelbacher.

Key Dates:

- **OPENING RECEPTION:** Thurs., Oct. 3, 5 – 7:30 p.m. * Remarks at 6:30
Admission is free * RSVP requested
- **ARTIST TALK:** Sat., Oct. 5, 11:30 a.m. - Free * RSVP requested

ALSO OPENING: **Partners In Action: A Community Exhibition** opens this week at the same time in the M's Josephine Adele Ford Center for Creativity. The opening reception is Thurs., Oct. 3, 5 – 7:30 p.m.; remarks at 5:30 p.m. On view from Oct. 3 – 27, 2019, this showcase of community-made work is the culmination of a months-long creative partnership of the M with several local organizations and their communities, working with M teaching artists Witt Siasoco (at Createch, a program offered by St. Paul Public Libraries), Nicole M. Smith and Larry Waddell (at Hallie Q. Brown Community Center), and Hlee Lee-Kron (with Hmong Museum at Hmong Elders Center). **For details:** mmaa.org/partnersinaction.

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Minnesota Museum of American Art is one of the oldest visual arts organizations in Minnesota, with roots stretching back to the 19th century. Based in St. Paul, the M currently holds more than 5,000 artworks that showcase the unique voices of American artists, guided by the belief that art should reflect the constantly shifting landscape that defines the American experience. The M just opened its new museum facility in the Historic Pioneer Endicott in December 2018 and will expand further, with additional permanent collection galleries which are scheduled to open in 2021.

Free Admission * Address: 350 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN, 55101

Hours: Monday & Tuesday – Closed

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 11 – 5 | Thursday, 11 – 8

Image credit (above): Sherin Guirguis, *Storming Parliament II*, 2018. Hand-cut paper, ink, and acrylic paint. 76 x 20.5 in. Courtesy of Panic Studio, Los Angeles and the artist.