

LINA GEOUSHY

Shame Less: A Protest Against Sexual Violence

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Sexual violence is a pervasive universal problem. It is a widespread and serious problem in Egypt: the country has the second-highest figures in the world after Afghanistan. According to a 2013 United Nations study, "virtually all Egyptian women have been victims of sexual harassment," with 99.3 percent of the women surveyed in the study having been sexually harassed. According to the same study, 82.6 percent of the total female respondents did not feel safe or secure in the street. The simple act of standing in the street can expose women to harassment and abuse of all kinds. Although Egypt has had its "Me Too" moments, its effects have been transient. I have been verbally and sexually harassed in the streets, at home, and at work in Cairo, and I am enraged by the prevalence and normalization of

the problem, and this had led me to create this work. In this project, I am protesting in solidarity with other women against sexual violence. One of the underlying problems that prevent women from speaking up and reporting assault is victim-blaming and shaming. This response can cause ongoing and deep-rooted trauma. I want to spotlight the issue and fight the stigma around reporting assault. I think we need to ask ourselves whether well-meaning men are part of the problem. Do they contribute to it, or can they be counted on as allies in this struggle against sexual violence? This chapter of the project centers around Egyptian women's stories of sexual violence in different public and private spaces in Cairo.



عندي انا عندي انا عندي

Walking Home; I saw a man on the Street Walked
Towards me and Stopped my
Vigil. I just froze up and
Continued Walking Home.



و أنا في تانية جامعة ، مروة مع صاحبتى بنتمنى
في Metro الساعة ٤ الظهر



رجل كبير مع بنته اللي شكلها في ٤ ابتدائي
بيروها من المدرسة

خبيطين
حامد و مسك صدري

الناس ختلنا "سبوه انتوا كده بيثبتوا انكوا مش متربيين "

كنت آتوت شامه مآهده يخلق ماريسس ويقوم بالعزوه كالاعتصام

العزوه الجنيه لرا خصوصيتها ولده ان تقوم على الحب
والمتنظم ولكن لايسف كان زوجي لديكر المتنظم وللا
المقدمات التي تسبق العزوه



كرمت العزوه لأن آتام نفسيا جسديا وأهياه برغبتيه
جسديه وارتفاج في درجة الحرارة سه كثره الضغط النفسي

عزوه يدون متناسم تهم بالخصه

"Intimate relationships are private, and they should be based on mutual love and feelings. However, my ex-husband didn't consider the feelings and foreplay that preceded that. I used to be sleeping and he would take off my clothes and get intimate as if he is raping me. I hated sexual and intimate relationships because I got hurt emotionally and physically. I used to tremble and get feverish from the psychological and emotional pressure. It was devoid of feelings and happened against my will."

LINA GEOUSHY

Artist Bio

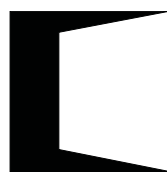
Lina Geoushy is an Egyptian social documentary photographer based between London and Cairo. She aims to tell stories that deconstruct and question the public's perception of the prevailing power of patriarchy. Her work largely explores gender, sociopolitical, and women empowerment issues. She strives to push the boundaries through her work by exploring rarely documented communities and ineffable topics. Geoushy's practice is research-led and her projects are both self-initiated and commissioned. She nurtures connections and collaborations with people that serve to empower them, providing a platform to tell their stories. A wide variety of organizations worldwide have recognized and supported her projects through awards and exhibitions such as Foam, BJP, Lens Culture, The Guardian, and Vice. She was awarded the Female in Focus Prize in 2022, and Documentary Photographer of The Year by The Royal Photographic Society in 2019. Her work has been widely exhibited. Lina recently completed her MA in Documentary Photography and Photojournalism at the London College of Communication.

Judges Pick | Selected by Bindi Vora

"At a time when women's bodies, rights and voices continue to be suppressed and silenced by those in positions of power, Lina Geoushy's series 'Shame Less' is a poignant reminder of the complex matrix of violence that women face on a daily basis. For me, this deeply powerful body of work encapsulates the facets of language – both visual and textual – to assert agency in an attempt to reverse societal stigmas."

– Bindi Vora, 2022
Curator at Autograph Gallery, artist, lecturer

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