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Friederike Pannewick and Georges Khalil together with Yvonne Albers:

Commitment and Beyond: Reflections on/of the Political in Arabic Literature since the 1940s

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Acknowledgments

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Under the title “Aesthetics and Politics” the 2012 Cairo Summer Academy addressed the role of dissent, new publics and counter-narratives. “Aesthetics and Politics” and “Culture and Politics” were also the themes of the regular EUME Berliner Seminar in the winter term of 2012/13 and the summer term of 2013. Seminar sessions included presentations by EUME fellows such as Tarek El-Ariss on “Fiction of Scandal: Literature, New Media and Revolutionary Politics in the Arab World” or round-tables on “Culture, Class, Youth, Performativity and the Transformation of the Public Sphere in the Arab World,” where a group of scholars from the CNMS in Marburg presented their work to colleagues in Berlin. All of the contributors to this volume have been associated with these academies or involved in these events and debates. Many have been fellows of EUME or are part of the CNMS-based research group *Turning Points*.

The present volume is a part of this growing network based on common interests and shared commitment, not only to scholarship as such but to actively fostering greater inclusiveness, more freedom, and what the late Edward Said described as democratic humanism. We thus owe a heartfelt thankyou to all those without whom these encounters could not have taken place: Samia Mehrez and Randa Aboubakr, who hosted the Summer School in Cairo; the members of its steering committee, Samah Selim, Ayman El-Desouky, Elias Khoury, Michael Allan, and Rachid Ouaissa; the Summer school’s organizational team, Manuela Campos and Barbara Bishay (both EUME), and the organizational team of the Marburg workshop, Yvonne Albers, Charlotte Pardey, and Ali Sonay (all CNMS).

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* * *

The transliteration of Arabic names has been adapted according to the IJMES transliteration system. However, some common names and notions have been left in their commonly used spelling without further indication.

- 1 <http://www.eume-berlin.de/en/about-us/profile.html>; www.forum-transregionale-studien.de
- 2 The conference was funded by the Land of Berlin and the German Research Foundation (DFG). <http://www.eume-berlin.de/en/events/workshops/workshops-since-2006/commitment-and-dissent.html>; <https://www.uni-marburg.de/cnms/forschung/denkfiguren-wendepunkte/aktivitaeten/konferenzen-workshops/conference-commitment-dissent>
- 3 <http://www.eume-berlin.de/en/events/summer-academies/eume-summer-academies/2012-aesthetics-and-politics.html>