P:S
Milan, October 8th, 2026

Salem S. Charabi presents fifteen lanterns shaped by time, place and light.

The collection makes its debut in Egypt with **Behind the Moon Mountain**, an exhibition unfolding at sunset in the courtyard of the architect's home and studio.



Egyptian-Danish architect **Salem S. Charabi unveils a new collection of fifteen lanterns** inspired by Cairo's visual landscape and crafted from **materials sourced across Egypt**. The collection makes its debut with Behind the Moon Mountain, an exhibition in the courtyard of his home and studio within the **Ramses Wissa Wassef Art Centre** compound in Al-Haraneya, Giza, on the edge of Cairo. Taking place over three evenings, **from 15 to 17 October 2026,** the presentation unfolds with the setting sun, inviting visitors to arrive before sunset and **witness the transition from daylight to the light held by the lanterns.**

The exhibition takes its title from **the fable that the Nile springs from the Moon Mountains,** an undefined range south of Egypt. For Charabi, the image of the moon resting behind a mountain and carrying the sun's light through the night **becomes a way of thinking about light, time and the act of making.** This connection also resonates with the Egyptian blessing offered in admiration of something made by hand: "May God illuminate your hands."

Conceived as a **love letter to Cairo's** brief and dramatic sunsets, the exhibition reflects Charabi's **first year of discovery and research in Egypt.** Its forms draw on the **city's roofscape,** where **satellite** dishes, antennae, pigeon towers and improvised structures rise above the buildings. These everyday constructions become reminders of the gestures through which people sustain themselves, finding an echo in the lanterns' proportions and intricate frameworks.







Scaffolding surrounds a minaret under restoration in the City of the Dead.



A fragment of limestone architecture.



A view across the city from the foot of Mokattam Mountain.



Sticks and stones: a date palm crate reserves a parking space.



A pigeon tower overlooking the City of the Dead.



A pigeon tower overlooking the City of the Dead.



Scaffolding surrounds a minaret under restoration in the City of the Dead.



Red brick forms the majority of Cairo's built fabric.



A pigeon tower rises above the buildings of Mokattam.

The fifteen lanterns **share a material vocabulary while exploring different proportions.** Measuring **38cm × 38cm × 110cm**, they bring together **hand-chiselled diorite from Aswan, date palm ribs from Saqqara and handmade paper produced from banana palm stems in the Nile Delta.** The palm ribs are split along the fibre with a hatchet, drawing on a practice used across Egypt to make vegetable crates and domestic furniture. Each element is then refined with a knife and plane before the framework is **assembled dry, held together by intricate interlocking joints.** Left untreated and occasionally decorated with pigments, the palm structures are combined with **handmade paper and diorite stones chiselled and shaped by hand.**

Presented in the courtyard as part of Behind the Moon Mountain, **the lanterns begin to hold their own light as daylight fades.** The exhibition follows the passage from the setting sun into the night, allowing the relationship between **materials, structure and illumination** to be experienced over the course of the evening.



The Lanterns





Ramses Wissa Wassef Art Centre

Founded in 1951 by Egyptian architect Ramses Wissa Wassef and his wife Sophie, the **Ramses Wissa Wassef Art Centre** is located in Harrania, near the Pyramids of Giza.

Conceived as a place for **creativity, learning and the preservation of traditional Egyptian crafts,** the Centre is known for its handwoven tapestries, batik and pottery. Its distinctive mud-brick architecture, inspired by Egypt's vernacular building traditions, reflects an enduring relationship between **craft, material and making.**

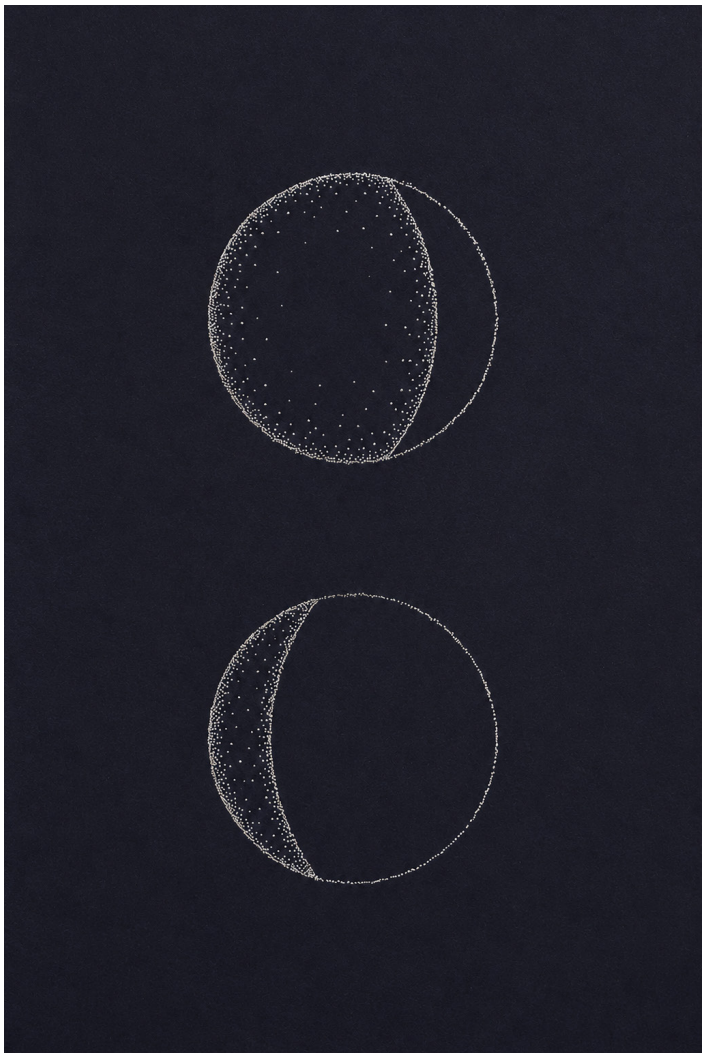
Today, its compound is also home to Charabi's studio and the setting for Behind the Moon Mountain.



Charabi's first publication, **Behind the Moon Mountain,** explores both the collection and the exhibition through **photographs, drawings, material notes** and an imagined conversation with Qamar, the moon.

The book features **photographs of Cairo by Ebrahim Bahaa-Eldin**, alongside images of the fifteen lanterns by **Ed Gumuchian,** captured in daylight, at sunset and at night. Edited and art directed by **Noah Emrich,** it includes a foreword by **Seif El Rashidi, director of the Barakat Trust.**

Published in an edition of 500, the book will launch **in Paris at Mardi on October 22, from 6 pm to 9 pm,** where printed copies will be available. It will also be available online.





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Behind the Moon Mountain
15–17 October 2026
From 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm
Guests are encouraged to arrive before sunset.
Free admission, booking required.

Courtyard of Salem S. Charabi's home and studio
Ramses Wissa Wassef Art Centre compound
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