

The Mural Project

2016

On the 6th of May, anyone passing by the Demerdash hospital was able to see the bursts of color as they gradually took over the walls facing the Demerdash hospital. Over the course of a week, those walls were completely transformed from plain dull and crumbling, to bright and lively pieces of art, all by the work of EMP students.

The idea of the mural project was started by two EMP 1st year students; Mai Abouelnaga and Hedayat Khaled who have a passion for art and wanted to see a place for it at Ain Shams. Inspired by French-Tunisian street artist, El-Seed, they re-designed a mural of his to match the Demerdash walls both color and design wise, and created a re-imagination of how the walls would look post-transformation. After going through a long and toilsome permission process, the project finally received approval and was initiated on the 1st of May.

More than 40 volunteers were recruited from the EMP student body; both 1st and 2nd year students. They were split into groups that took over shifts throughout the working days; some would paint as others would draw on the design and vice versa. In order to fund the project, a donation campaign was carried out to collect all the money needed to pay for the supplies; paint, brushes etc.. Volunteers each paid 50 L.E as well as other EMP students, and professors, who generously donated money to the project. Successfully, the full amount of money needed was collected solely by donations.

Three full working days, was all it took for the project to be completed, leaving the Demerdash walls beautifully awash with color.

"Being able to complete such a project covering 9 walls in only 3 days, solely funded by us proved to me that anything can become a reality. I was definitely surprised by the number of people wanting to volunteer, never thought we'd actually have to put a limit to it! Some non-EMP students passing by even joined in the painting and showered us with words of encouragement and for that I thank them. No words can describe how I feel as I pass by those painted walls, which though remind me of long hard working days in the sun, manage to give me a sense of fulfillment, knowing that we've made a difference, no matter how small it may seem. We hope to keep this project going and keep reviving those dead walls for as long as we can"

- Mai Abouelnaga



"Both fun and tiring although definitely tiring in a good way; the way you feel after a really really long, tiring, yet good day when you return back home. There was not a thing that wasn't actually a surprise about this whole project. Starting with the donations, to the number of volunteers we got. Not to mention that we were truly surprised by finally getting the permission to go on with the project, yet the most surprising part of all was how exquisite it turned out to be, and how we got to see the whole process from scratch. I believe the results are to be judged from the impact the work had on people, specifically patients. Passerby did stop to admire the work, but what I feel is most important, is that the vibrant colors hopefully turn this place into a more hopeful and cheerful one, or at the very least become an emotional comforter to those suffering and hope to which they cling on"

- Hedayat Khaled



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Interested in seeing the results? See for yourself



Hedayat, Yosr and Mai snap a picture after a long tiring work day



Volunteers pose for a group picture after completing the project



The walls pre and post transformation

