

[Login](https://secure.telegraph.co.uk/secure/login?redirectTo=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.telegraph.co.uk%2Fnews%2F2016%2F04%2F14%2Fartist-creates-amazing-mural-across-50-buildings-in-cairo---with%2F) (https://secure.telegraph.co.uk/secure/login?redirectTo=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.telegraph.co.uk%2Fnews%2F2016%2F04%2F14%2Fartist-creates-amazing-mural-across-50-buildings-in-cairo---with%2F)

[Register](https://secure.telegraph.co.uk/secure/registration?WT.mc_id=tmg_headernav&redirectTo=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.telegraph.co.uk%2Fnews%2F2016%2F04%2F14%2Fartist-creates-amazing-mural-across-50-buildings-in-cairo---with%2F) (https://secure.telegraph.co.uk/secure/registration?WT.mc_id=tmg_headernav&redirectTo=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.telegraph.co.uk%2Fnews%2F2016%2F04%2F14%2Fartist-creates-amazing-mural-across-50-buildings-in-cairo---with%2F)

[Subscribe](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/subscriptions/sub-bar/?WT.mc_id=tmg_headernav) (http://www.telegraph.co.uk/subscriptions/sub-bar/?WT.mc_id=tmg_headernav)

The Telegraph
(<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/>)

News

🏠 > News

Artist creates amazing mural across 50 buildings in Cairo



The stunning mural CREDIT: WITH THE COURTESY OF EL SEED

By **Mark Molloy**


15 APRIL 2016 • 11:02AM

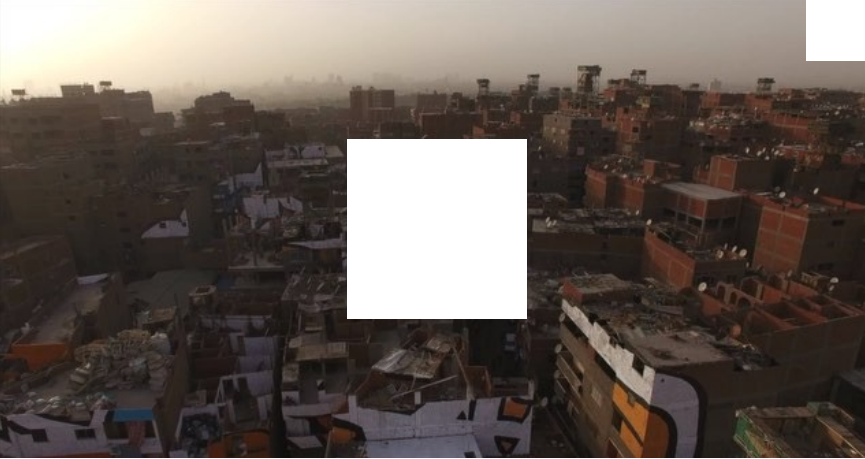
It's only when you stand back from this art that you really see the true beauty of the colourful graffiti sprayed on the side of the homes in this gritty 'slum'.

Up close, it appears the graffiti has been sprayed on walls at random - but there is a hidden message in the sprawling artwork which eventually bec



Manshiyat Naser CREDIT: WITH THE COURTESY OF EL SEED

 **elseed** Follow



12k views **383 comments**

What you see is not what you think #perception #athanasius #zaraeeb #mubarakcha3abMasr #bestlifeproject

MARCH 21, 2016



A grand design CREDIT: WITH THE COURTESY OF EL SEED

Visionary [artist eL Seed](http://elseed-art.com/el-seed/) and his team spent three weeks working on the [Perception project](http://elseed-art.com/el-seed-perception-egypt/) in the Manshiyat Naser neighbourhood, known as ‘Garbage City’, located in downtown Cairo.

You can see the whole of the mural, painted across 50 different buildings, when you stand back and view it from a hillside looking down on the dilapidated houses.



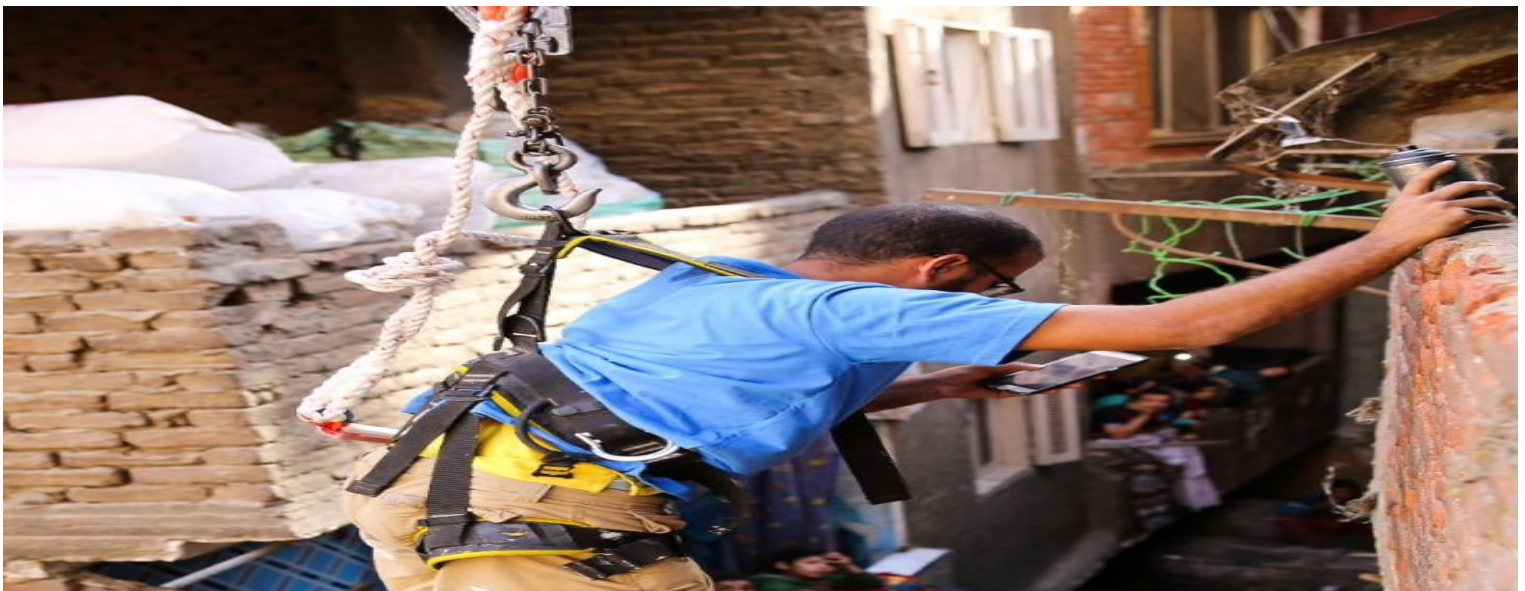
Close-up CREDIT: WITH THE COURTESY OF EL SEED



The project comes together CREDIT: WITH THE COURTESY OF EL SEED

It reads: "Anyone who wants to see the sunlight clearly needs to wipe his eye first."

Born to Tunisian parents in the suburbs of Paris, eL Seed describes himself as a 'calligraffiti' artist, blending the historic art of Arabic calligraphy and modern art of graffiti.



The team at work CREDIT: WITH THE COURTESY OF EL SEED



It took three weeks to complete CREDIT: WITH THE COURTESY OF EL SEED

eL Seed explained how he kept the project a secret from the Egyptian government until it was completed because of a crackdown on street artists, [Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/29/world/middleeast/cairo-mural-garbage.html? r=1) (<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/29/world/middleeast/cairo-mural-garbage.html? r=1>) reports.

He told [Tech Insider](http://www.techinsider.io/artist-el-seed-giant-mural-cairo-2016-3) (<http://www.techinsider.io/artist-el-seed-giant-mural-cairo-2016-3>) how he got the blessing of a local priest, adding that everyone in the neighbourhood knew about it.





The paint goes on the walls CREDIT: WITH THE COURTESY OF EL SEED



The project was done in secret CREDIT: WITH THE COURTESY OF EL SEED

So what does the mural represent?

“I am questioning the level of judgment and misconception society can unconsciously have upon a community based on their differences,” he explains. “In the neighbourhood, the Coptic community of Zaraqeb has been collecting the trash of the city for decades and has developed the most efficient and profitable recycling system on a global level. Still, the place is perceived as dirty, marginalised and segregated.”



50 buildings were sprayed CREDIT: WITH THE COURTESY OF EL SEED



The community welcomed the artists CREDIT: WITH THE COURTESY OF EL SEED

He added: "To bring light on this community, with my team and the help of the local community, I created an anamorphic piece that covers almost buildings."

The artist explained how he was humbled by the reception he received from the neighbourhood and plans to release a book and documentary about there.





The team at work CREDIT: WITH THE COURTESY OF EL SEED



A documentary will be released about the project CREDIT: WITH THE COURTESY OF EL SEED

“The Zareaeb community welcomed my team and I as we were family. It was one of the most amazing human experiences I have ever had,” he said

“They are generous, honest and strong people. They have been given the name of Zabaleen (the garbage people), but this is not how they call them don’t live in the garbage but from the garbage; and not their garbage, but the garbage of the whole city. They are the one who clean the city of Cair



Stand back and you'll see it CREDIT: WITH THE COURTESY OF EL SEED