

Artwork and Awareness of the Global Refugee Crisis

NO PLACE LIKE HOME OPENS APRIL 16

**At Repair The World NYC in Brooklyn
Curated by Jonathan Allen**

New York, NY, March 21, 2016

In concert with the national #SupportforRefugees campaign kicking off this spring co-led by Repair the World & HIAS, curator **Jonathan Allen** returns to **Repair the World NYC** (808 Nostrand Ave.) to present an exhibit featuring the work of two aid organizations, three artists, and one collective from **April 16 – June 24, 2016**.

The photographs and videos tell personal stories of refugees and people who offer shelter, advocacy and other resources to them in order to shine a light on broader themes of home, safety, politics, war, family, and culture as part of this growing worldwide crisis.

On display will be portraits of recent refugees to the United States by **Hidemi Takagi**, a selection of photographs exploring the lives and stories of the Internally Displaced People of Colombia as part of a new series by **Robert Pennington**, and video documentation of the #OrangeVest, a participatory performance about Syrian refugees by **Georgia Lale**. There will also be photography of artwork by Syrian children who are refugees via the **Castle Art Project**, data visualization of the worldwide epidemic courtesy of **The Refugee Project**, as well as documentation of the work **IsraAID** has done over the past 15 years to meet the changing needs of refugee populations. More information about each project may be found below.



Photo: Robert Pennington
Hand in Hand – Altos de la Florida – Soacha, Colombia

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Saturday, April 16 – Friday, June 24, 2016

Open hours Tuesday–Friday 12–6pm and by appointment

Opening reception: Saturday, April 16 from 6–9pm featuring a performance by Georgia Lale

Free admission

<http://www.jonathanallen.org/no-place-like-home/>

Repair the World NYC

808 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11216

Featuring work by:

Hidemi Takagi – *Facing America* attempts to fill the gap between what we know and what we see of refugees in the media. Takagi photographed refugees from Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, Congo and Eritrea who have been resettled in New Haven, Connecticut, by Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS), an affiliate of Episcopal Migration Ministries and the Immigration and Refugee Program of Church World Service. The series was commissioned and presented by The Forum @ St. Ann's (Brooklyn Heights) in February–March 2016. <http://hidemitakagi.com/>

Robert Pennington – Colombia is home to over 6 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) resulting from decades of armed civil conflict that has afflicted the country for more than 50 years and *ZERO* is an intimate, evocative study – a comprehensive exploration of what it is to be *desplazado* (displaced). <http://www.picturesverite.com/>

Georgia Lale – *#OrangeVest* is a commentary on the journey of the Syrian refugees from Turkey to Greece while they try to cross the Aegean Sea. It is a participatory performance, a sculpture and a protest aimed at raising awareness. Lale will perform as part of the *NO PLACE LIKE HOME* opening reception on April 16 at 6pm. <http://lalegeorgia.net/>

Castle Art Project is a Syrian refugee camp NGO. Since 2012 over 2 million refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) have fled to the Kurdistan region of Iraq (KRG) seeking sanctuary from the onslaught of violence in their cities and villages.

Every Friday a group of children and teens hold paintbrushes and spray cans against this interruption to their lives, bringing colour, energy, voice and hope to the dreary walls of the refugee camp in Akre, Dohuk province, they now call home. A former Saddam-era prison and intelligence centre, its walls housed suffering and evil until its dilapidated and oppressive atmosphere was converted to house up to 270 Syrian Kurdish families fleeing violence. This makes the Akre refugee camp one of the most unique art spaces in the world. <http://castleartproject.tumblr.com/AboutUs>

The Refugee Project is a narrative, temporal map of refugee migrations since 1975. They use UN data to visualize refugee volumes over time and added a layer of historical content to help explain the events that caused some of the largest refugee movements of the last four decades. <http://www.therefugeeproject.org/#>

IsraAID was founded in 2001 and is a non-profit NGO committed to providing life-saving disaster relief and long term support. For over a decade, our teams of professional medics, search & rescue

squads, post-trauma experts and community mobilizers, have been first on the front lines of nearly every major humanitarian response in the 21st century. Their mission is to efficiently support and meet the changing needs of populations as they strive to move from crisis to reconstruction/rehabilitation, and eventually, to sustainable living. <http://www.israaid.co.il/>

***NO PLACE LIKE HOME* is curated by Jonathan Allen**

Allen works in painting, collage, video, and performance. He holds a B.A. in Visual Arts / Art History from Columbia University, and in New York has exhibited at Lu Magnus, PS122, Exit Art, Socrates Sculpture Park, Artists Space, Bravin Lee, Caren Folden, Oliver Kamm, and BRIC Gallery. He has participated in Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC)'s *Workspace*, *Process Space*, and *Swing Space* residency programs, the Bronx Museum of Art's *Artist in the Marketplace* program, and has been awarded residencies at the Bogliasco Foundation in Italy, Cill Rialaig in Ireland, Blue Mountain Center, and Micro Art Space. A recipient of grants from the Pollock-Krasner, Chenven, Puffin, George Sugarman foundations and Brooklyn Arts Council, Allen is the on-site assistant in LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island. He frequently collaborates with poets and performers, recently appearing in Joanna Kotze's FIND YOURSELF HERE at Baryshnikov Arts Center, and is currently working on ABOUT A MINUTE, a series of short videos with New York poets, and FOUNDERS, a series of pop-up performances at NYC contemporary art museums.

<http://www.jonathanallen.org/>

About Repair the World NYC

Repair the World NYC launched in the fall of 2015 to tackle pressing local needs by mobilizing communities to volunteer. We enable people to transform their neighborhoods, city and lives through meaningful service experiences, rooted in Jewish values, history and heritage. Our team of eight full time fellows partners with sixteen organizations in Crown Heights and Bed Stuy to recruit and train the volunteers needed to address education and food justice needs in Central Brooklyn. Repair the World's collaborative community storefront space at 808 Nostrand Ave is a hub for service and social justice initiatives.

More about #SupportforRefugees: <http://werepair.org/Passover/>

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