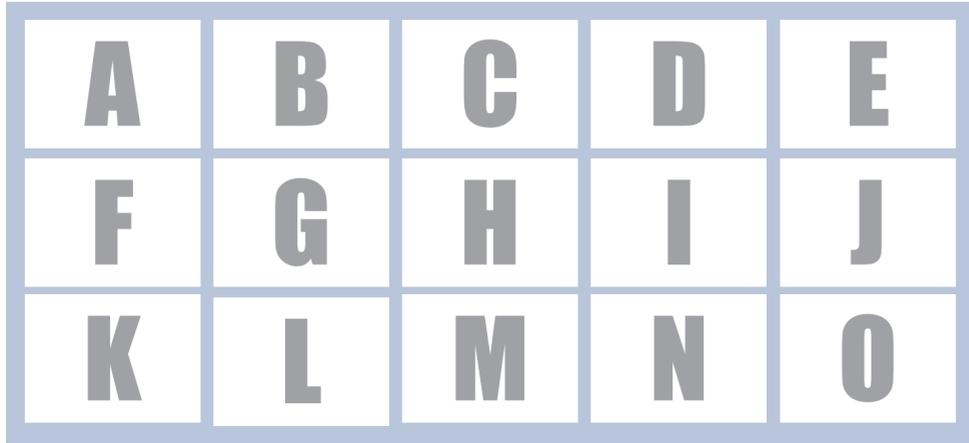


The Second Middle Eastern Refugee Quilt



The squares for this quilt were made in 2016 by refugees from Syria, Iraq and Palestine. The artists have all sought refuge in Amman, Jordan. They have formed a cooperative, the Hope Workshop, to produce handicrafts and work under the auspices of the Collateral Repair Project. Allyson Hawkins, an Advocacy Project Peace Fellow, coordinated the embroidering in Amman.



The squares were assembled into quilts by the Quilters By The Sea guild in Portsmouth, Rhode Island led by Ruth Sears, above right. Other quilters were Betty Davis, Loretta Krebel, Lori Bessette, Sara Jane Tirpaeck and Sarah Sullivan. Kim and Larry Ingeneri covered the costs, and hosted the quilters. Allison Wilbur, the founder of *Quilts for Change*, added backing and completed the quilting.

The Dove Of Peace Has No Place In Iraq



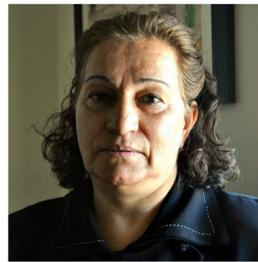
A. Ikhlas came to Jordan from Baghdad with her father and sister. Her square shows a dove of peace that is barred from flying by a black wall. The dove represents human rights and the wall represents the lack of humanity in Iraq.

What I Miss About Home - Baking Bread



B. The artist for this embroidery chose to remain anonymous. Her embroidery shows her baking bread back home before she fled the violence. The artist has carried the memory with her into exile.

On The Road to Hope



C. Salima's square shows refugees crossing the border from Iraq and heading towards the sun. Below the refugees Salima has stitched three words that describe the horror they are fleeing - "death, blood, danger." In front of the refugees, and between sunbeams, are the three things that the refugees hope to find - "hope, safety, freedom."

Childhood In Iraq Is Dead



D. Iklhas is devoted to children and her embroidery shows a book of child rights covered in blood with a child's shoe on top. Iklhas is making the point that children in Iraq have legal rights, but that the world forces them into adulthood. "Childhood in Iraq is dead," she says.

In Hope Of A Better Future



E. Aftab's embroidery shows a woman traveling. She is carrying a bag and a plane is flying overhead. The woman is Aftab and she wants to travel west to find work. Aftab completed an engineering degree in Iraq, but cannot use it in Jordan. She wants to work and to be able to support her family.

They Even Bomb The Playgrounds



F. Amal's home in Syria used to look down over a playground. This square recalls a truly traumatic incident when a plane flew over and dropped bombs on the playground, killing all the children. A beautiful view has become a terrible memory for Amal.

Religion Carries Me As A Refugee



G. Dhanya is from a small Christian sect in Iraq called the Sabians. Her square shows her praying to the cross. The X across the map of Iraq signifies the destruction of her country but Dhanya is sure her faith will survive. It has supported her through her experience as a refugee in Jordan.

We Are Happy To Have Escaped



H. Salima's square shows a burnt and broken Iraq with people fleeing from the danger. Above Salima's children sit in a peaceful garden next to a map of Jordan. Birds sing beneath the sun. Salima is contrasting the danger that forced her family to leave Iraq with the happiness and safety they feel in Jordan.

I Left My Heart In Syria



I. Nafiza asked that we do not show her face, so we show her hands at work. Her square depicts the countries of Syria and Jordan. Nafiza's heart is stretched across both, although more than half is still in Syria. Nafiza left many family members and friends behind. Her heart, mind and emotions remain in Syria.

Trapped In Gaza



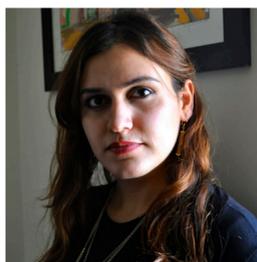
J. Soltana's family came from Palestine to Jordan after the 1967 War but she knows that Palestinians living in Gaza today cannot flee from danger so easily. Her embroidery shows people leaving Gaza by sea. Some have drowned trying to escape. Others, like the man seen in a wheelchair, are unable to leave and remain in danger.

The Fragmentation Of A Religion



K. Fakhriya's embroidery depicts the flight of Sabians, a small Christian sect, from Iraq. The roots represent the religion and each branch of the tree represents a different country of destination: Jordan, the US and Australia. Whole families leave for one country then branch out and become further separated, as shown by the small twigs at the end of each branch. Meanwhile fewer and fewer Sabians live in Iraq itself.

Refugees Have Useful Skills!



L. Roa'a's embroidery shows herself dreaming about the engineering tools she left behind. Roa'a was studying engineering in Iraq when her family decided to leave, and Roa'a had to leave her education behind. She thinks about this missed opportunity a lot because in Jordan she is unable to pursue a university education.

Thinking Of Home In Iraq



M. This square, by an artist who asked to remain anonymous, contrasts the life of civilians in Syria with that of refugees in Jordan. The woman on the right stands under rain and the flag of Syria. On the left the sun is shining over the flag of Jordan.

My Wings Will Not Carry Me



N. Dhanya's design shows a woman seeking freedom. Her legs are stitched together, so she cannot walk. Her hands are shackled, to show that she is powerless. Her wings represent her yearning for freedom. Dhanya also dreams of traveling but says: "My wings won't carry me anywhere despite the strength I've found."

The Home Of The Refugee - A Tent



O. Aftab's design shows a tent made from an Iraq flag. The tent symbolizes life in exile for Iraqi refugees, so many of whom live in camps. Inside the tent is a map of Iraq. Aftab says that the people of Iraq are looking for peace, but are unable to find it in their homeland.