Asad Brought Bombs, Not Peace

A. Nafiza led a peaceful life with her family in the countryside outside Damascus before the war. But, the family fled when the area became too dangerous. The dove in her design represents the promises of Bashar al-Assad, who told the Syrian people that he would bring peace, but brought bombs as shown by the branch carrying the TNT. Nafiza asked that her face not be shown.

Frightened By The Planes

E. This square by Suzanne shows her daughter in a field picking wild flowers in Iraq, something that she loved doing before the war. But there is a plane overhead and the loud noise scares the child. Her daughter still cries when she hears the sound of planes.

Remembering The Sister I left Behind

B. Ikhlas was living in Ramadi, Anbar Province, Iraq, when militants entered her town and killed her cousin. Ikhlas and her sister managed to escape, but her sister was unable to leave Iraq with Ikhlas. The embroidery shows her sister’s house in Ramadi. Ikhlas is embracing her sister and conveying the feelings of loss that come with leaving family members behind.

Women Fleeing From Gaza

F. Soltana’s roots are in Yaffa and Gaza. She came to Jordan after the 1967 War. Her embroidery shows people fleeing from the war in Gaza. They have left their homes for tents in the desert. The women are carrying their belongings on top of their heads.

So Sad - Two Words Sum It All Up

I. The artist of this embroidered square chose to remain anonymous. Her square shows a young refugee thinking back to his time in Iraq and carries the poignant message “So Sad!”

Saying Goodbye To My Family

J. Ikhlas arrived in Jordan, alone, after a very risky journey. Her embroidery shows a map of Iraq underneath a plane. Ikhlas is on the plane, saying goodbye to her family members. They include her sister, who was forced to remain behind in Iraq. This has left Ikhlas feeling alone and sad.

My Life Before And After

K. Wa’ad fled Iraq in 2015 and her embroidery shows the home she left behind in Baghdad. Wa’ad misses the house, which was large and had a beautiful garden. A fence can be seen cutting across the image of the building. This represents the border between Iraq and Jordan. On the far side of the fence Wa’ad has stitched a tent, depicting the temporary house that she rents in Amman.

Women Refugees Under Pressure

L. Rosa’s left Baghdad with her father, mother and two sisters in 2013. Her embroidery shows a woman surrounded by several other figures that represent society, culture and religion, and the many pressures that they place on women. Rosa feels that women are not permitted to express their true feelings. This is particularly acute for refugees in a new country and culture.