

# World City

## Refugees' Memories and Futures as Models

When in foreign lands, people who have fled their home often tend to reach for their smartphone to show others photos of their homelands – but also photos of places they have passed through along the way and of their new surroundings. Each of the photos arouses memories, fears and hopes which then take concrete form in the models they have constructed. Places of remembrance have been created, their visions are now tangible. Berliners and guests from all over the world were invited to take a walk through »World City« and hear the stories of those who built it.

### The model-making workshops

The *S27 art and education lab* housed eight fixed and mobile model-making workshops in several Berlin districts, each for three to four weeks between September 2016 and March 2017.

The residents of nearby refugee homes and pupils from a »welcome class« (a German language class for refugees) attended the workshops to make their own personal remembrance sites and blueprints for the future based on photos they had on their phones and images they found on the internet and in books and magazines. Buildings made of cardboard, wood and all manner of different materials they had gathered are testament to life stories that have been knocked down and rebuilt.

Around 150 people from Afghanistan, Albania, Benin, Czech Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Kosovo, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria, and Ukraine took part in the project. German and refugee artists associated with Schlesische 27 assisted the international model-builders in their work.

### The exhibition

The »World City« exhibition showcases the results of the model-making workshops. 130 models of homes, schools, houses of prayer or businesses in Africa and the Middle East, as well as the modeller's ideas of architectural utopias, are all displayed on 500 square metres of exhibition space as a walk-through cityscape, or a »World City«. On their stroll through the city, visitors can see each of the 1:10 scale buildings up close.

Creative people from refugee circles, students from the SRH Academy of Popular Arts (hdpk) in Berlin developed a sound design that lets visitors delve into a soundscape that will familiarise them with the stories behind each of the selected buildings and those who built them.

### *the modellers:*

Abbas Ausso, Abdel-Kader-Hami, Abdel-Kader-Ibeel, Abdulhadi Alalwani, Abdulkadir Hami, Abdulkadir Jbele, Abdulsalam Yusuf, Aboubacar Cone, Abu Gedaev, Aimaz Inier, Akram El-Armuchi, Ali Hamad, Ali-Ashrafi, Ali Ali, Alireza Aghmadi, Alizafar Rahimi, Almaz Iniev, Alpha Diallo, Amir-Ghorbani, Amsid-Ahmadzay, Anoosha Teleghani, Ardit Shigjeqi, Arezoo, Asim Khan Afridi, Aziz Ahmad Saifi, Basel Fares, Bassam Othman, Behzad Qaemi, Bereket Kibrom, Bilal-Allwah, Bunica-Paco, Dilbirin Hami, Diwali Mirza Hassakan, Djawad Rezahi, Efrem, Elaf, Faiz Alsharif, Faruk Yilmaz, Ferhat Baker, Habibi Besmellah, Hassan Mohamoud, Hossein Heiduri, Hussein Shakidov, Iman Ghanem, Ilir Palla, Issa Alalwani, Izahag Diriye Ahmed, Izzac Sumodi, Jafar, Jasim Al-Hadla, Jawad Mohamadi, Jousuf Karim, Khairi Kasem, Kheir Mohammad Mohammadnoor, Klaudio Osmeni, Laith, Lamin Manneh, Leada Esraa, Madina, Magos Debesay, Maher Ghader, Malik Agachi, Marbek Ismurzaev, Marwa Al-Zaidy, Masod Mohamadi, Mazari Sulxmel, Mehran Musavi,

Meron Kiros, Milad-Sakhizada, Mirwais Hamidi, Moayad, Mogos Debesay, Mohamad Albtah, Mohamad-Ahmad, Mohammed Alkhatib, Mohammad Hassan, Mohammad Jawad, Mohammad Yousef, Mohammad- Hamad, Mohammed-Mageed, Mohanad Albtah, Mouayed Kasem, Mouhamed Diallo, Moumini Agnidé Hounkponou, Muhammed Shinno Kurdi, Nabeel Seikh, Nabi Rezvai, Nadeen, Najme, Pessar Tokhi, Noorullah Amin Yas, Nour Hajjar, Omar Abokhatab, Omar Mraihi, Omer Raufi, Patrick Mendy, Petar Nikocic, Qaisey Ali, Qmar Waez, Raafat Dumani, Racu-Zino, Raman Khalil, Reza Joze Matlab, Rony-Saadoun, Sabrina, Said, Sejed-Sulaiman-Hashemi, Shadi, Shamil Yusupov, Shenouda Ghaly, Sidou Diédhiou, Souleymanou Issa, Taras Holubkov, Umaru Balde, Usmane Ba, Yasser Hamade, Youssef, Zabihullah Hakimi, Zafar-Ahmad- Raassouli, Zahraa Al-Zaidy, Zeeshan Abbas and others who don't want to be named.

***the artists:***

Jana Barthel, Carlos de Abreu, Wasim Ghiriou, Abuzer Güler, Renaud Hélène, Christian Diaz Orejarena, Nidal Jalouk, Folke Köbberling, Benjamin Menzel, Valentin Peitz, Todosch, Federica Teti, Kunstasyl e.V. mit Barbara Caveng, Charlotte Kent Danoy, Aymen Montasser, Dachil Sado, David Tschiersch

*»World City – Refugees' Memories and Futures as Models« is a project by the  
**S27 art and education lab***

***artistic coordination and project management:***

Matze Görig