Exhibition by Olli Waldhauer

The Forgotten People of Balaban



About the Project

The pictures of the series "Forgotten people of Balaban" were taken on different journeys to Balaban in the time from September 2014 to April 2015.

Balaban is a solitary place at the Turkish-Syrian border within sight of Kobane in Syria. This place became a barred military area during the fightings in that region 2014. There have already been fightings in and around Kobane when we got the first time there in September 2014 and most of the people had left their homes in Balaban.

As Balaban is near to the Syrian border and close to the embattled Kobane, it became an important place of refuge with many empty houses. Because there was only a barbered wire fence, older people and children were able to reach this little village. Many of the refugees preferred staying in Balaban instead of moving on to one of the official refugee camps in the next bigger Turkish town Suruc. The possibility to stay close and in eye contact to their homeland was more important to them than the help in a refugee camp. The number of people fleeing from Kobane to Balabane increased quickly from around 100 in the beginning to over 900.

To supply these refugees in the barred military zone with food, sanitary products and medical care was more than difficult. The big aid agencies couldn't get further with their relief supplies than to the official reception centre in Suruc. We started to help the people in Balaban with the most important things supported by donations from the circle of our friends and acquaintances. In the following six months, we travelled ten times down there to supply with food and everything else that was urgently needed. Of course we didn't forget footballs and came always with some balls into the town to kick with the kids. We didn't want to help only with the vital things but also bring some pleasure and happiness.

After the news from Kobane's liberation, there was no stopping for most of the refugees getting back into their homeland. The people queued up for days to get the necessary papers allowing them to leave Turkey to go home.



















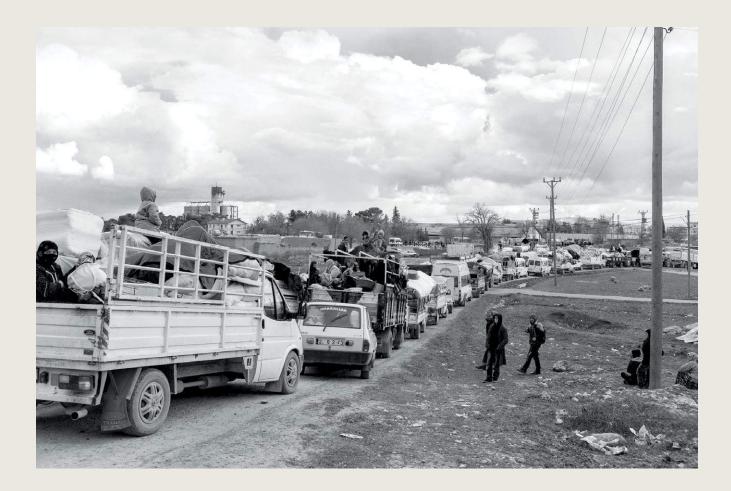












About the Inside Out Project

On March 2, 2011, JR won the TED prize at the TED Conference in Long Beach, California, and called for the creation of a global participatory art project with the potential to change the world. This project is called "Inside Out".

Inspired by JR's large-format street "pastings", "Inside Out" gives everyone the opportunity to share their portrait and make a statement for what they stand for. It is a global platform for people to share their untold stories and transform messages of personal identity into works of public art.

Each "Inside Out" group action around the world is documented, archived and exhibited online. Nearly 200,000 people from more than 112 countries and territories have participated. The "Inside Out" project has traveled from Ecuador to Nepal, from Mexico to Palestine, inspiring group actions on varied themes such as hope, diversity, gender-based violence, climate change...

We, the #everydayrebels, decided to take part in this global art project and glued the portraits of over 70 refugee kids from Kobane on a wall facing the war in Syria. Since that day, we are trying to do "Inside Out" projects wherever we travel and follow the path of Syrian refugees.

"I wish for you to stand up for what you care about by participating in a global art project, and together we'll turn the world... Inside out." JR



















Purchasing the pictures

Every picture is available in an edition of 10. Each print will be numbered and hand signed.

All pictures are printed on Baryt FineArt paper and laminated on 3mm Dibond. All FineArt Prints are produced by FineArt Sander GmbH Cologne.

> The prints can be purchased at: art-net-gallery.com or olliwaldhauer.com

Index and prices are on the following pages.

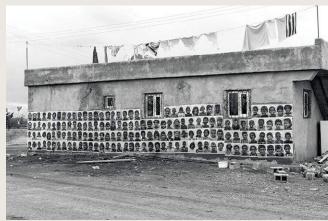
The complete sale proceeds will be donated to keep following the path of Syrian refugees around the globe.

Openers

120×80 cm, 750 € (excl. VAT and shipping)



Nº 3



The forgotten People of Balaban

75×50 cm, 500 € (excl. VAT and shipping)











Nº 5



Nº 6





Nº 8







Nº 11



Nº 12



Nº 13



Nº 14



Inside Out Portraits

30×45 cm, 350 € (excl. VAT and shipping)







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Imprint

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Supported by (in alphabetical order):

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Inside Out Project Team (New York)

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#unnamedstories (Jörg Offer, Kerem Gurbuz)

