

LOCAL COMMUNITY

THROUGH THEIR EYES

MOMENTS PHOTOGRAPHED BY SYRIAN CHILDREN

Imagine if the HISD shut its doors today, leaving all of its **200,000** students without access to education. An entire generation of Houston children wouldn't learn to read and write or learn their times tables, and would never make it through algebra. They wouldn't head off to college to study law or medicine, art or business. Those students would struggle to simply function in everyday life and the ramifications would be felt across the city for decades to come.

That's the heartbreaking reality for Syrian students, but on a much larger scale. **Inside Syria, 2.1 million students don't have access to regular education** and in the surrounding countries of Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, over **800,000** Syrian refugee children aren't able to enroll in school. Which is exactly why UNICEF started the No Lost Generation initiative in 2013, designed to provide education, protection from trafficking and a sense of normalcy to millions of children, in a heroic attempt to rescue Syria's lost generation.

When the team behind this month's charity art auction at the Deborah Colton Gallery saw footage from inside Syrian refugee camps, they knew they had to act. **DINA ALSOWAYEL, VERONIQUE PRENTICE and RANIA**

DANIEL have put together an evening where all proceeds raised will be donated to the No Lost Generation program.

Alsowayel explains, "The art auction will feature 33 pieces from 22 prominent, emerging and established contemporary Syrian, Lebanese, Palestinian and Iranian artists. Many of these artists are represented by world-renowned galleries," in places such as Beirut, Dubai, London and Paris. The online auction will be hosted online with Paddle8, with a preview beginning April 8 and bidding open from April 15 to 30.

Arabic music will be provided by the Frequencies Ensemble featuring vocalist **RADWAN KTECH**, who starred in the Arabic version of *The Voice*, and violinist **ANDREY MUKADDASI**, a graduate of the Higher Institute of Music in Damascus. **The auction will take place on April 30, from 7-10pm, at the Deborah Colton Gallery at 2445 North Boulevard in Houston.**

For more information or to book tickets, please contact **LISA LAGRONE** at 832.463.2828 or llagrone@unicefusa.org.

By Emily Westbrook | Photography courtesy of Zakira/UNICEF | Photographed by Syrian Children



Art Notes

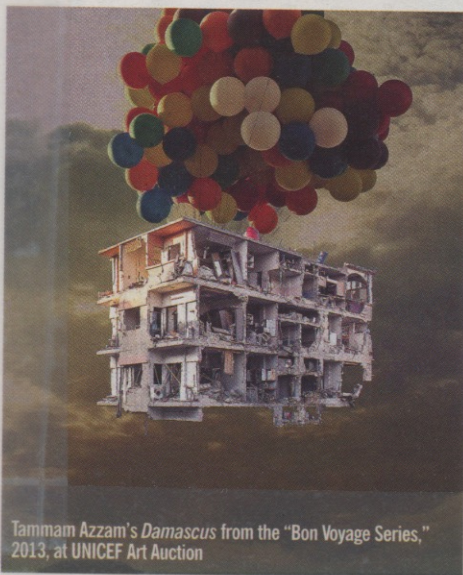


COURTESY THE ARTISTS AND MITCHELL CENTER

Hillerbrand + Magsamen's *Home Balance*, 2016, at MATCH, HCP and roving venues during CounterCurrent

Revolutionary Road: Tough, scrappy Neo-Dadaist **Mark Flood** labored for decades in semi-obscurity, collected by Texas art-world insiders and considered an artist's artist. Flood famously does a disappearing act à la Greta Garbo when it's time to be photographed, or he sends in an imposter, like Warhol did. All this adds to the mystique. Nonetheless, he makes some very good paintings, freely appropriating from Warhol or word-based masters like Lawrence Weiner. and even teeters on the decorative with some of his greatest hits, aka the lace paintings. Now he's in the big-time limelight. This month, the **Contemporary Arts Museum Houston's** retrospective/survey/happening — "Mark Flood: Gratest Hits" — bows to Houston art history, as well as this prankster painter's brilliant sense of the absurd (April 30 – August 7). Don't miss the opening-night frenzy Friday, April 29 (6:30 to 9 pm), followed Saturday, April 30, with a 2 pm tête-à-tête with CAMH director **Bill Arning**, who curated this wild ride of an exhibition ... **Notes from the Underground:** Pay close attention to Flood's main Texas dealer, **Pablo Cardoza**. Cardoza Fine Art is the place where next-gen collectors come to play, and his newly minted downtown address (805A William) boasts a pristine space, edged with chaos. Saturday, April 2, **I Love You Baby** solos in a pop-up that also encompasses **GalleryHomeland**

and **G Spot**. A week later, Friday, April 8, Flood studio assistant and very capable conceptual painter **Guillaume Gelot** headlines (through May 1) ... **Walt Whitman Rises:** For an Austin-based artist, the 19th-century American master's *Leaves of Grass* lent inspiration via the poem "The Body Electric." Abstractionist **Meredith Pardue** has adopted Whitman's classic for her next show at long-time dealer **Laura Rathe Fine Art**. Pardue's latest work celebrates body, nature and spirit in communion (April 9 – May 21). **Double Dose:** Click papercitymag.com for the scoop on two must-dos. **CounterCurrent** curated by **Mitchell Center** director **Karen Farber**, April 12-17 at venues citywide (countercurrentfestival.org) and **UNICEF Art Auction** benefitting Middle-Eastern refugee children (at Deborah Colton Gallery, Saturday, April 30, tickets from \$150; Lisa LaGrone, 832.463.2421, llagrone@unicef.org). Catherine D. Ansporn



Tammam Azzam's *Damascus* from the "Bon Voyage Series," 2013, at UNICEF Art Auction