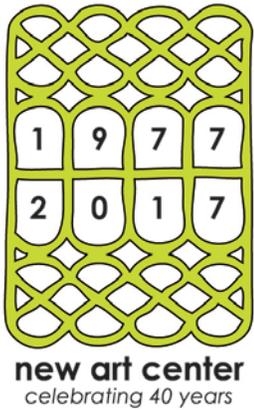


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Art from Nea Kavala

Paintings & Drawings by Refugee Children in Northern Greece

On View: April 25-May 6, 2017

Closing Reception: May 6, 3-5PM

(Talk by Kayra Martinez, founder of *Love Without Borders*, at 4:30 PM)

(NEWTONVILLE, MA) – The New Art Center in Newton (NAC), in collaboration with guest curator Mia Rosenblatt Tinkjian and founder of *Love Without Borders* Kayra Martinez, is pleased to present *Art from Nea Kavala: Paintings and Drawings by Refugee Children in Northern Greece*.



About the Exhibition: Featuring drawings and paintings by displaced children living in the Nea Kavala refugee camp in Northern Greece, this exhibition stands as a powerful testament to the transformative power of art. Created by untrained children using limited materials, the artwork elegantly communicates the experience of transition. Some pieces relate to journeys, many of which are still ongoing; airplanes, boats, and roads stretching endlessly towards the horizon are common themes. Other works express a longing for normalcy with images of brightly colored sunsets, birthday cakes and animals that represent a desire for place to call home and feel safe. All works in the show are available for sale. Proceeds will directly benefit the children and their families.

About the Curator: Mia Rosenblatt Tinkjian is an artist and independent curator living in Newton, MA. She holds an MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Rosenblatt Tinkjian first connected with Martinez through NeedsList, an app that connects humanitarian groups with volunteers and donors. Hoping to raise funds and awareness for the refugee crisis, Martinez was looking for a curator to organize shows of the artwork by displaced children and Rosenblatt Tinkjian was drawn to the project. The bright colors and bold strokes of the children's artwork spoke to her. "Children are just children, no matter their circumstances," says Rosenblatt Tinkjian. "These are just kids, and they are stuck. They long for shelter, food, clothing, a place to call home, and peace."

About *Love Without Borders*: Kayra Martinez, founder of *Love Without Borders*, has actively volunteered to help families fleeing Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq since 2015. While based in Germany for work, Martinez began volunteering at the Hauptbahnhof-Gleis 24 train station in Frankfurt, handing out food, translating, and sorting donations for refugees arriving at the station. An avid traveler, her desire to assist soon took her to Leros, Greece, a port of entry for refugees crossing the Aegean Sea. As part of her humanitarian efforts there, Martinez holds art classes for children living in the Nea Kavala refugee camp. These classes provide a safe space for children to express their emotions and escape the harshness of their everyday realities. "The children are at their happiest when they can draw and paint," says Martinez, describing the workshops as a form of therapy for the displaced children. "They draw about the sadness and also the happiness of life." For more information, see <http://lovewithoutborders4refugees.com>.

Concurrent Exhibition in the Main Gallery

In Flawed Abundance

On View: April 7 - May 6, 2017

This exhibition explores the riddle of living and the struggle to be content with the moment. There is an immediacy to encaustic painting that lends itself to the concept of the here and now, and which suits an intuitive style of working. The artists in this show use the inherent translucent characteristics of the medium to express a wide range of subject matter.

About New Art Center

The New Art Center in Newton supports the development of visual artists and cultivates a community that appreciates art. We offer a supportive culture that takes art and artists seriously. It serves over 2,500 students annually in hundreds of classes and workshops. Studio faculty includes some of New England's best art educators. In a setting that is welcoming and accessible by public transportation, the New Art Center offers an inclusive, multi-generational approach to art education that has served children, teens and adults at all skill levels since 1977. Operating as one of the few mid-sized nonprofit exhibition spaces in New England, it attracts over 5,000 visitors annually.

Address: 61 Washington Park, Newtonville, MA 02460

Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 1PM - 6PM, and by appointment.

Transportation: The nearest T stop to the New Art Center is Newton Highlands on the Green Line (D/Riverside), then take the #59 North bus on Walnut Street, exit at Walnut St and Washington Park.

Alternatively, take the #553, #554, or #556 buses from Downtown Crossing and exit at the Washington/Walnut Street corner. Call the MBTA at [\(617\) 722-3200](tel:6177223200) for schedules + fare information.

The NAC is also accessible from the Mass. Pike, Route 128, or the Newtonville stop on the commuter rail (Framingham line).

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