

# POTS, SANDALS AND A TENT

A participatory art installation and a website about REFUGEES made for the European Capital of Culture 2011, Turku, Finland

A three year long process of inviting refugees, artists and organizations to cooperate.



Pots from a refugee camp outside Mogadishu, Somalia

## The AIMS are

- To create concrete possibilities for refugees, artists, organizations and everybody to take part in creating an art work about a sensitive topic.
- To introduce the theme REFUGEES in a different and more experiential way than the media can offer-
- To invite the audience to reflect on their inner emotions of being lost or having lost their homes or security.

## POTS – the voices and sounds of being away from home

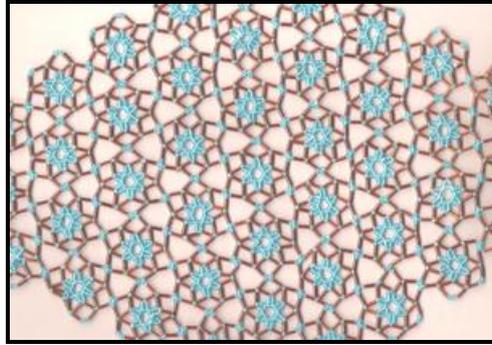
**The first installation** is made of 300 used **pots, pans and other kitchen ware**. The installation will be a huge instrument, which can be played. This is built on a long trailer and can be moved to different events and festivals. The objects are being collected from refugees mainly in camps and reception centers. They are collected by swapping used objects for new ones.

## SANDALS – the long journey

**The second installation** is made of thousands of pairs of **flip flop sandals**, which will form long and wide paths on the walls and ceilings of public spaces in Turku. Some sandal paths will be found rising up from the waves of the River Aura and disappearing into the water again. The paths will appear unexpectedly five times during the year 2011. The sandals will be collected from refugees by swapping the worn out sandals for new ones.

## **The TENT – the welcoming space made by the refugee women of the world**

**The third installation** is a **big tent**, made of thousands of crocheted, knitted, embroidered or printed **handicrafts** made by refugee women all over the world and sewn together by refugees and other people in Finland. The handicrafts will be ordered and bought from refugee women. The tent will be raised in a big public space and will be used for workshops, meetings and performances.



Bead work from Roma Mahalla, Mitrovica, Kosovo

## **The STORIES**

While collecting the objects for the installation, the refugee women will be interviewed about their stories. The interviews are made using a standard form addressing the history of the person and the object. The stories will later be used in Finland in the participatory drama workshops. The performances will take place in the TENT in 2011.

## **WHO is collecting the objects and the stories?**

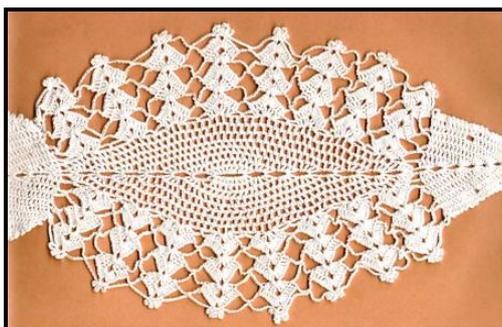
NGOs and other organizations working in refugee camps, settlements and centers; individuals travelling and meeting refugees; basically any one!

For example, in Kosovo the Finnish NGO Shiffa and the NGO Mundesia from Mitrovica will cooperate in collecting the objects and the stories. And the Finnish Refugee council has already collected objects and stories in Uganda and will continue the project in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Thailand. Tourists in India are collecting the objects and stories among the Tibetan refugees in Kerala. And many more individuals and NGOs will take part in 2010 and 2011.

## **The WEBSITE [www.patasandaalitelta.info](http://www.patasandaalitelta.info)**

The whole process of collecting the objects and stories, building the installations and events during 2011 can be followed on the website, starting from March 2010. Shiffa is responsible for developing and maintaining the website.

The website will function as an "exhibition catalogue" once the installations are complete. Thousands of refugees, their stories and objects are introduced on the site.



A crocheted fish from Cesmin Lug camp, Mitrovica, Kosovo

### **The PARTNERS and their role in the project**

**Kristiina Tuura** – the artist who has created the concept. She is a film-maker and artist who has worked as media trainer in Uganda, Somalia, Afghanistan and South-East Asia and is writing a book about refugee children.

**Turku, the European Capital of Culture** - The organization is the main funder and offers the platform for the final installations in 2011.

**Mundesia** – a Women’s NGO from Mitrovica, Kosovo which runs a project that aims at empowering Internally Displaced Persons IDPs and other women in Mitrovica through traditional and modern handicrafts.

**Shiffa** - a Somali women’s NGO in Finland maintains the website and is responsible for the video documentation. Shiffa, together with two NGOs in Somalia, collects objects and stories among the local IDP women.

**Kulttuuriyhdistys PUU** – A Finnish NGO that will coordinate the 2010 summer camp for the youth during which pots are transformed into drums and a performance rehearsed.

**The Finnish Refugee Council (FRC)** – Is organizing the collecting of the stories and objects among the refugees in Finland, Uganda, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Thailand and contributes with its expertise and contacts for the benefit of the project.

**Come and join us! You are welcome to be part of the Pots, sandals, tent –community!**

**Ask for collecting instructions!**



Flip-flops from a camp outside Mogadishu, Somalia

