

Refugees



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**ARTISTS INSPIRED
BY THE REFUGEE CRISIS**

AI WEIWEI



He is a famous Chinese artist and activist. A refugee himself, he was deeply moved when he came close to refugees and volunteers.

His purpose is to communicate with many people about what is happening on Lesbos, using all the forms of art.

“With my job I support human values”, said Ai WeiWei.

PROJECTS OF AI WEIWEI



Refugee life jackets

... turned into art



When Ai WeiWei came to Lesbos, he gathered the life jackets from the immigrants who passed through there.

He turned these life jackets into works of art, as he decorated a Berlin building with them.

Emblematic representation by Ai WeiWei on Lesbos



Ai WeiWei recreated the image of drowned infant Alan Kurdi, who in 2015 became the defining symbol of the plight of Syria's refugees.



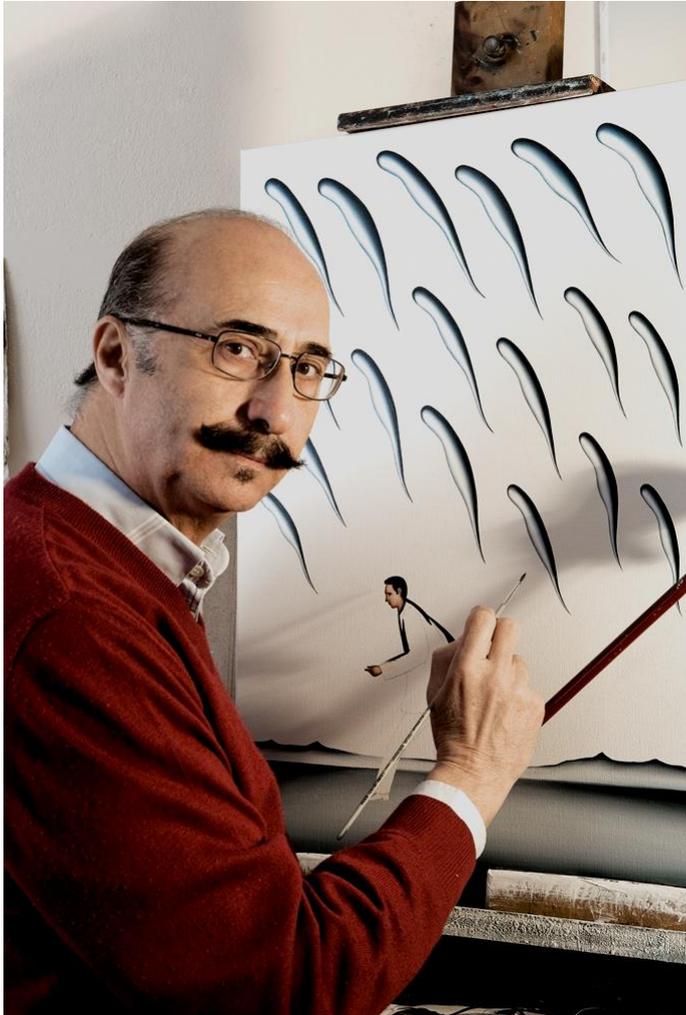
For the recreation, the artist lay on a pebbled beach on the Greek island of Lesbos. His pose was similar to that of the boy's lifeless body, which washed up on a beach near the Turkish town of Bodrum.

“Law of the Journey”



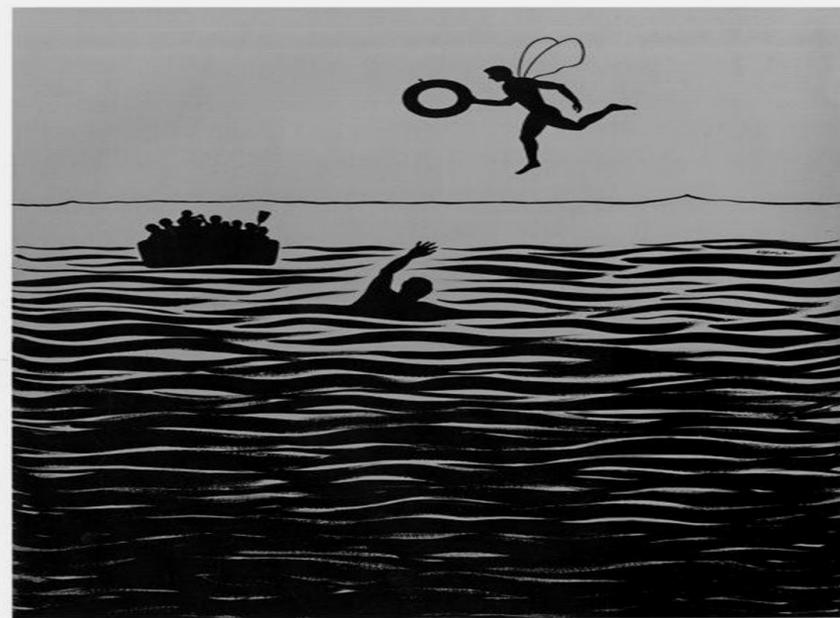
In this art of work you can see an inflatable boat with 258 black figures of refugees.

DIMITRIS GEROS



Dimitris Geros was an influential Greek artist who usually created allegorical images.
He lived on Lesbos and his work was influenced by the suffering of the refugees and migrants who he saw on the island.

PROJECTS OF DIMITRIOS GEROS





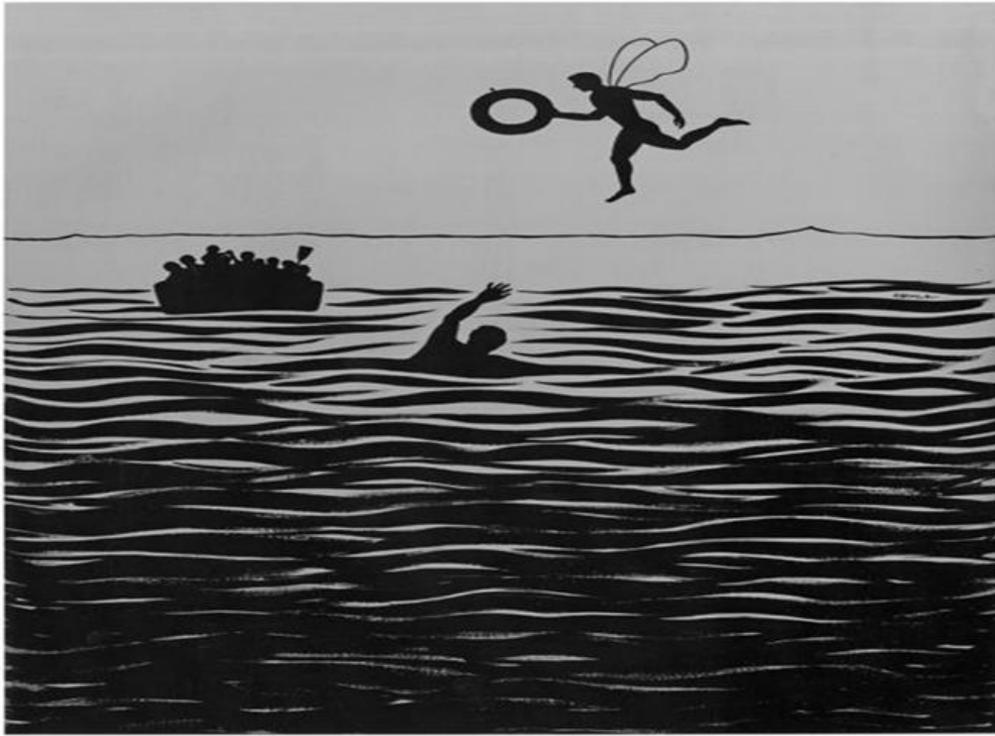
This picture depicts the Chinese artist and activist Ai Wei Wei taking a video of refugees who are travelling to unknown places.



People (refugees),

who are threatened by
an eagle (the regime that
threatens them)

are depicted in his picture.



In this work, we can see the immigrants who are struggling with the waves.

At the same time, an angel comes from the sky. The angel is holding a life jacket to save them.

“IMMIGRANTS” - A SCHOOL PROJECT FROM CYPRUS



A teacher of Art at a school in Limassol (Cyprus), together with her students, made a project that highlights the drama of refugees, in the context of the 5th *Pancyprian Competition of Visual Arts.*

Immigrants - School Project from Cyprus



This project was selected
to be exhibited
at the *Saatchi Gallery*
in London, in March 2016.

Immigrants - A School Project from Cyprus



EXHIBITION “WELCOME”



The human agony
and the pain of
immigration
inspired a lot of artists,
who exhibited their work
in various museums
all over Greece.

***“Welcome – The European
hospitality and its borders”***,
Museum of Modern Art,
Chania, Crete, April 2016.

Exhibition “Welcome”



Exhibition “Welcome”



THE FESTIVAL OF ATHENS



The Festival of Athens
in 2017 hosted the
exhibition of *the*
Thessaloniki
Photography Museum,
dedicated to refugees
and immigration, with
26 photographers
presenting the human
adventure.

PHOTOS OF THE EXHIBITION IN ATHENS



JASON TAYLOR - IMMIGRANTS



The British sculptor Jason Taylor creates sculptures of human figures and immerses them in the ocean floor.

Jason Taylor - Immigrants



Gradually, they become habitats for corals and other sea creatures.

Jason Taylor - Immigrants



They are enigmatic, stunning narratives about the transient human life, the holiness of the ocean and its terrifying rejuvenating power.



Museo Atlántico, Jason Taylor - Immigrants



Taylor's underwater art is hosted at the *Museo Atlántico* (Spain, 2016), the only underwater sculpture museum in Europe. Divers can dive here amongst the impressive sculptures.

FACE FORWARD...into my home

“**Face Forward ... into my home**” is an interactive programme in which the refugees present works of art from *the National Museum of Contemporary Art of Athens*, tell their personal stories and are photographed.

The exhibition includes their photographic portraits and audio texts of their personal stories.



FACE FORWARD (photos)



THE ITINERARIES



11 photojournalists participated in a group exhibition called "The Itineraries".

The photographs recorded various points-stations of the refugees, in their effort to reach Greece, FYROM, Serbia and Hungary.

Photographs were also released from the countries the refugees started their journey such as Iraq, Syria and Sub-Saharan Africa.

The exhibition was organized by the *Asylum Service*, at the *Art Gallery of Technopolis* (Gkazi, Athens, May 2016).

The Itineraries



The Itineraries



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Thank you for watching!
Junior High School of Petra, Lesbos