

## KCC PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION



The following images show the photography projects created by Syrian refugee youth ages 12 to 24, who joined classes at Kırıkhan Toplum Merkezi in the spring of 2014. During a two-month period, 21 participants in three different groups were provided digital cameras and basic photography instruction. Classroom activities included writing prompts, collaborative assignments, drawing and map-making exercises. Specific questions were posed: What is your daily routine? What are you learning now? Who teaches you? While several participants were explicit in articulating their refugee experience, the curriculum remained open in terms of a desire for varied levels of engagement; some youth, for example, preferred to relate stories in more abstract, poetic fashion, and many younger girls instead, turned to capture the urban life around them by exploring street scenes and natural areas at the town's periphery. With support from aid workers and educators in the field, classes were facilitated according to the needs of the participants, the majority of whom, for example, preferred to remain anonymous. Documentation of the final exhibition includes short bios below each of the participants' work.



Tamador is 16 years old, from Hama, Syria. She has been living in Turkey for almost two years. She was previously studying in Syria, and now she is continuing her studies in Turkey. Her hobbies include reading and taking photos. She hopes to be successful with her schoolwork and wishes that she could return to Syria. She wishes that she could be like an oil lamp for the good of science—and to help rebuild Syria. She wishes that her country would be without war, that it would stop bleeding—to be full of safety and peace, instead of random destruction.

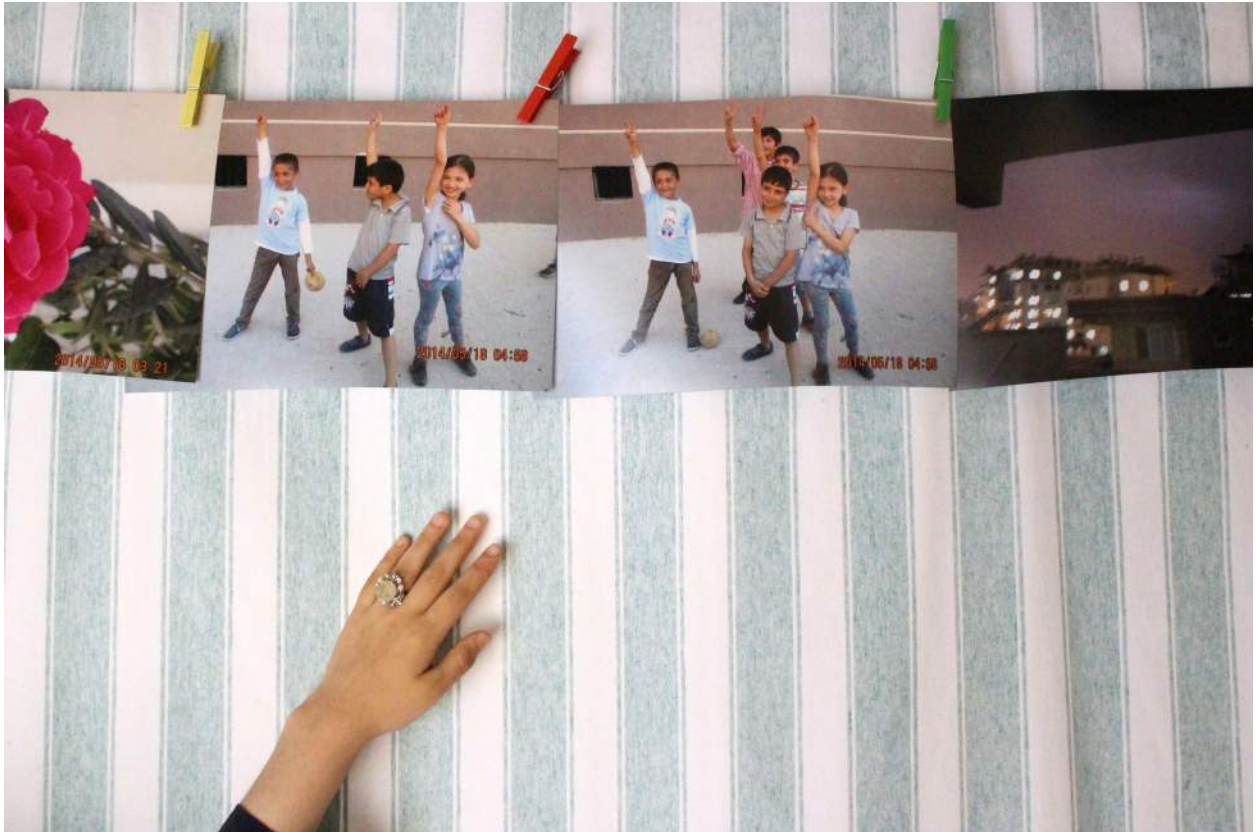




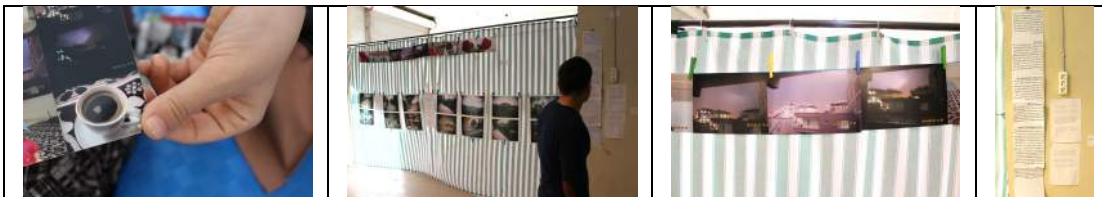
Sawsan is 24 years old, from Hama. She came to Turkey two years ago and wishes she could go back to Syria. She was so happy there before the war. She was studying in her final year of school. In the future, she hopes that she could become a geography teacher in the university.





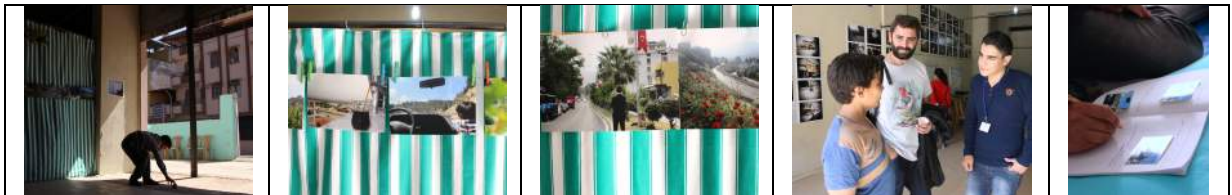


Dina is 17 years old and has been living in Turkey for one year.





Osama is 14 years old, from Aleppo. He has been in Turkey for 10 months and was very upset to leave his country.







Nada is 16 years old, from Hama, Syria. She came to Turkey with her family about two years ago. Before the war, she was very happy to be with her relatives in Syria, and had never been to another place like Turkey. At that time, she also enjoyed studying and reading in school. In the future, she hopes to become a doctor in the university, in the field of natural sciences.



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Bayan is 15 years old, from Hama. She has been living in Turkey for two years. Before the war she was a student in middle school where she enjoyed her studies, including reading and drawing. She hopes to be a pharmacist one day, and she wishes that she could go back to Syria as soon as possible, to her home and her school, in her small village.







Zena is 14 years old, from Hama. She has been living in Hatay for nearly two years. In Syria, she was a student in a small school where she was surrounded by her friends and many people that she loves. She wishes that she could go back to Syria and to her school, to finish her studies and to become a doctor in order to treat the injured people of her country who are bleeding everyday, bleeding with tears, and bleeding with blood—to treat those who have lost everything they had.







Banan and Hasan are siblings, aged 12 and 14 years old. They currently live in Istanbul.





Madlen and Yasmin are cousins. Yasmin is 15 years old and from Hama. She has been living in Kirikhan for two years. She was in school before the war and she has hopes to become a teacher in the future. Madlen is 16 years old, from Syria. She currently lives in Saudi Arabia.









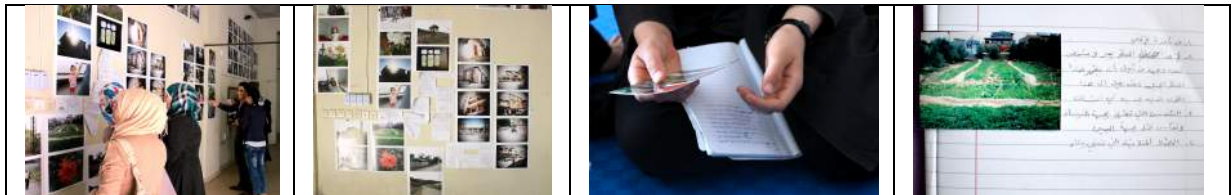
Fayad is 13 years old, from Hama, Syria.







Nahla is 17 years old and moved to Turkey with her family from Syria nearly two years ago. In school she enjoys mathematics, and she hopes to become a doctor one day in the future. Also, she hopes to continue photography lessons. Finally, she wishes that she could return to Syria with all the refugees and to see the country as it was before the war.









Besher and Bashir are 12 years old twin brothers from Syria.





Marwa is 16 years old, from Damascus. She currently lives in Mersin, Turkey.

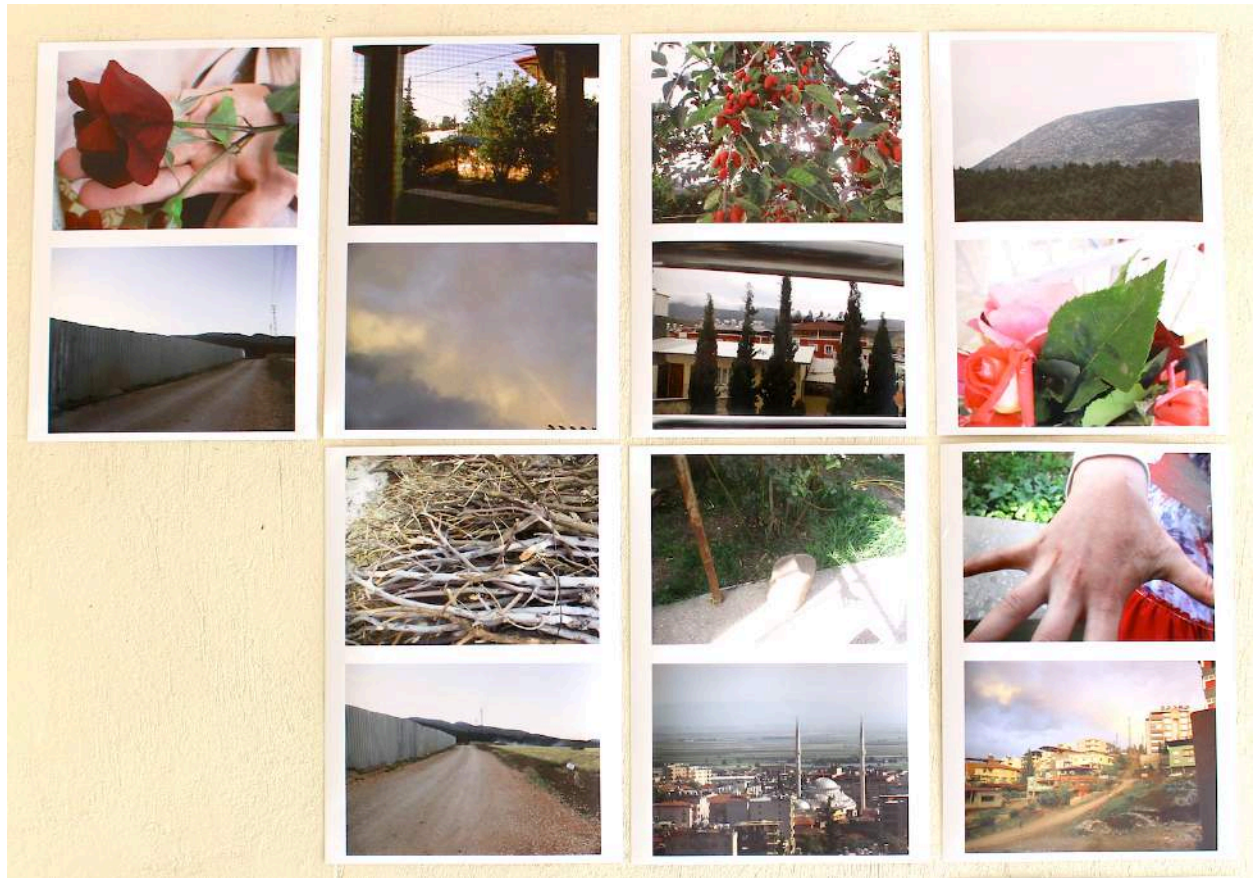






Fatema is 24 years old and has been in Turkey for one year. She was previously studying in a small school in her village. She wishes she could go back to Syria, to her hobbies, which she loves. She hopes to be successful in her future work, and that she will gain support and appreciation for these pursuits.





Farida is 21 years old. She came to Turkey from a town called Al Lattamneh, in Hama, two years ago. She does not know when she will return. Until the war started, she was studying in school, in her country, and she plans to continue. Her hobbies are reading, especially poetry, also drawing and swimming. Her only wish is for her country to stop bleeding and to become better. She says: “Every Syrian in Turkey is just here to explain their story, to work, and then to return back to Syria, to their injured country.”







Mustafa is 12 years old, from Damascus. He currently lives in Mersin, Turkey.







Hasan is 20 years old, from Raqqa. He was responsible for translations during the classes, without which, none of this would be possible. Many thanks to the amazing staff at KCC.