

## CHILDREN OF WAR

This project explores the Syrian Civil War and its victims, with specific focus on children. It is a topical theme with regards to the current questioning as to whether to allow more children refugees enter the United Kingdom.

Starting by gathering visual research, I was devastated by the violence of the war. I wanted to find a way to show the tragedy these children were experiencing. I began by making some buildings from clay, plaster and glass to find the best way to realise an installation project. The aim was to help the viewer sense the disaster and initiate critical thinking. After a lot of experimentation I chose the clay buildings because they were able to 'capture' more feelings.

Inspired by Nina Hole and her work "*a house for everyone*", I used a similar technique to fire my buildings. The result was both realistic and powerful. Anselm Kiefer's architectural sculptures, I realised were so symbolic of past destruction of war and death, that I no longer viewed my half-broken buildings as actual buildings. They were alive before my eyes. I could see the cracks representing the scares of the children...I could see them abused, half-destroyed, ruined, dead.

My exhibition therefore consists of numerous clay sculptures of varying heights that are heavily symbolic of the horror of war the children have experience and continue to. I hope to draw attention to the fragile nature of the children via the sculptures' apparent verge of collapse.

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