

Mural at Zaatari Syrian refugee camp, Jordan, 2013

Art selection and comment by [Lil Copan](#) in the [March 15, 2017](#) issue



Created with aptART, Mercy Corps, ACTED, and UNICEF

Over several years Joel Bergner (aka Joel Artista) worked with children at Zaatari Syrian refugee camp. Artista led workshops on water conservation, hygiene issues, artistic techniques, and conflict resolution. “Through discussions and art making,” Artista says, “the kids explored their longing to return to Syria, their dreams for the future, and their plight as refugees.” Last November, Artista began work in California’s Central Valley, where two-thirds of the nation’s produce is grown by undocumented and documented workers, including Punjabis, Portuguese, and Hmong refugees from Laos.