

THE SYRIAN SHOES

by Laila Hotait & Pedro Cerisola





The Syrian shoes is an installation done with the shoes we get donated by anonymous people.

We ask on Facebook for used and in good shape shoes that we will use to produce an art installation and later we would donate them to an association working with migrants passing by a place near to the exhibition so they will be able use them on their long journey, and somehow, this gives us the opportunity to accompany them.

This piece, an ephemeral installation that works as a gesture, is adapted to the exhibition place wherever it takes place, basing our display decisions on both concept and the rules of Geometry.

At the first show we got an amazing response from the people and the media and made an exhibition at a gallery with over 200 pairs of donated shoes and a great media interest.

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At its first show, "The Syrian Shoes" was seen by **8,236** visitors at Galería Libertad.

Over 200 pairs of shoes were gathered and then donated to MICA, an association that works with migrants traversing Mexico and in need of them.

It was fully covered by the local media.

Kindly find attached some articles.

<http://www.eluniversalqueretaro.mx/cultura/24-04-2018/arte-para-ayudar-migrantes>

<https://www.diariodequeretaro.com.mx/cultura/la-galeria-libertad-hace-ruido-1657022.html>



Text by curator Sandra Cerisola.

The Syrian shoes is a piece that deals with generosity and empathy.

The intention and emotions of the artists were consciously provoked and activated in others in an expansive way through the process of requesting shoes to be donated to migrants passing through Mexico.

The shoes do first fulfill an artistic and expository purpose but, subsequently have an extremely practical function.

Being an act between strangers, this work generates the conditions for actions of generosity that are totally disinterested, since the only clear link between the donors and the migrants exists through anonymity.

In addition to eliciting useful and meaningful collaborative interactions, the piece establishes an echo between Mexico, Central America and Syria, regarding the precarious and urgent situation of migrants.

The shoes not only have a symbolic and metaphorical role, but a useful one and become even heroic in a way: the lives of the people who have to migrate depend on the conditions and tools they have to achieve it.

The structure in which the shoes are installed also comments on the current reality of the migrants: ephemeral, decadent, without a clear and certain direction.



**GALERÍA
LIBERTAD**

**26 ABR
2018
20:00
HORAS**

**Los zapatos
sirios**
Instalación de
Laila Hotait
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**SECRETARÍA
DE CULTURA**

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**CLASSIFYING
THE SHOES TO
BE DONATED
WHEN THE
INSTALLATION
WAS OVER.**