

Results - 2023 Youth with Refugees Art Contest, “Hope away from Home”

Global winners,
star awards and
special mentions

This document introduces the full list of global winners, star awards and special mentions for the 2023 edition of the Youth with Refugees Art Contest on the theme “Hope away from Home.” Over 4,000 young artists from host and refugee communities joined the contest in 130 countries.



Drawings by the five “global winners” will be featured on a collection of graphic shirts available in 2024.



Five “star awards” are also being nominated. Those will be featured on a collection of tote bags made available internally to UNHCR colleagues via the UNHCR shop.



Finally, some 30 drawings are receiving “special mentions.”

Global winners



Asifiwe, 14, Burundi/USA (refugee)

"My drawing is a picture of my friend group from when I lived in Burundi. We all follow our friend code that says, "my friend squad comes first and nobody can break us apart." My friends are a source of strength and hope for me. We may be separate but I am sure we're together in heart and that our memories will continue to live on."



Virag, 28, Hungary

"Having met many inspiring asylum-seekers and refugees, I know how important 'hope away from home' is to rebuild one's life in a new environment. My drawing aims to express the act of chasing this hope, and the heart symbolizes that it is very much possible to follow your dreams, even if you are far away from home."



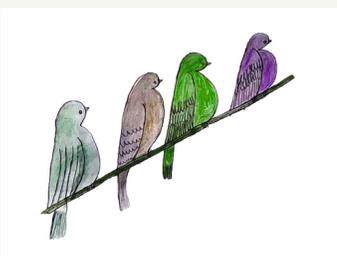
Afya, 14, USA

"The heart-shaped paper airplane is from someone important. When someone receives it on the other side of the globe, they will be hopeful and optimistic as a result of getting a little love while being away from home."



Georgette, 14, Tanzania/DRC (refugee)

"The sky and moon symbolize protection and unity. Despite our differences, we are all under the sky and share one moon, it doesn't matter where you are, there is only one moon, and you are protected by the sky. I want to be a president because I believe I will have the power to make decisions that will not hurt people. Power to end wars in the world."



Mawardi, 20, Somalia/Ethiopia (refugee)

"I remember the beautiful birds in my home country in the beautiful green forest. My hope is to see these birds again in the future, whether in my home country or somewhere else."

Star awards



Anousha, 19, Iran

"The girl in the drawing, despite her deep attachment to her homeland and family, arrives to a new land (...) The paper planes symbolize the departure; the pictures on her luggage are from home and family. (...) The lights and flowers indicate the future she is seeking."



Katia, 29, Poland/Ukraine (refugee)

"In the illustrations, the key element is the suitcase in which every person who was forced to leave home tries to contain their whole life and take with them to the unknown future. Far from home, the suitcase becomes the key element that allows a person to feel a connection with the past (...) In conditions of support and warmth, a person can light his star, adapt, become useful and independent even in another country."



Erika, 17, Japan

"The hands holding symbolizes the work of those helping refugees, like UNHCR. The bags remind us that refugees have to pack and relocate due to dire circumstances. The doves symbolize hope. And the word HOPE itself conveys the many ways we can lend a helping hand to refugees."



Amanda, 21, Venezuela (refugee)

"My drawing is called luggage of illusions and it talks about how we migrants/refugees harbor in our being the dreams, aspirations and goals that keep our hope alive wherever we go."



Harry, 20, Myanmar/Thailand (refugee)

"In this illustration, a child who wants to go back home remembers that he used to live in a place called "Home". As someone who fled their home, I draw everything that comes from my heart."

Special mentions



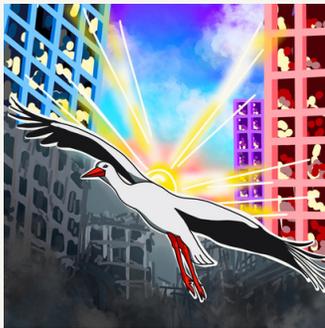
Sydney, 13, USA

"I named my drawing "Poppies Blooming With Hope." The poppies represent the perseverance and resilience of refugees. They also represent the people who strive to allow refugees to feel like they belong in their new communities (...)"



Veronika, 21, Slovakia

"I wanted to symbolize all the people in the world who either help refugees or are refugees. It is in the shape of a heart with handprints, which represents the power of love and that we are all equal regardless of age, gender, nationality and status."



Anastasia, 21, Ukraine (refugee)

"I am a refugee student from Ukraine, now I am far from home (...) My city is half destroyed. Yet I believe there will be peace! (...) I believe that a stork will fly in, a peaceful sun will rise over my city."



Katerina, 22, Ukraine (refugee)

"The drawing shows the bag of a refugee who is always ready to go. It contains his whole life, his whole home, the most important things. Because no one knows whether he will return home but the bag is always packed and ready to return."



Sophie, 17, France

"You need to believe in yourself, keep hope close to your heart and look forward to the future, always. Home is where you find hope close to your heart."



Chjara, 20, Japan/France

"The flowers are iris flowers, considered as the flower of resilience, strength, and hope (...) This reminded me of the many families I met: beautiful people who went through unbelievably difficult times, and yet they are the most generous and kind people I have ever met."



Laura, 18, Canada

"I wish to also put a smile on people's faces. The theme "Hope Away From Home" made me think of a letter. A letter a loved one wishes to read when their family members are far away. To know that they are finally safe."



Lydia, 29, Ukraine (refugee)

"My sister and I ran away on a cold night, frozen by the reality around us."

Special mentions



Alyssa, 16, USA

"In the hot air balloon the doves and the world-like hot air balloon are shown carrying refugees. In the basket there is a picture of a home and this shows that even if they are away from home there is hope left in the world."



Maria, 30, Philippines

"All of the elements (water bottle, medical box, teddy bear, clothes, a book) are enclosed within a box (...) Outside the box, there is a piece of paper featuring a drawing of people holding hands, symbolizing Hope for refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless individuals, and internally displaced people around the world."



Yuni, 27, Singapore

"I am someone who loves bright vibrant colours and generally having a positive outlook on life (...) With my painting I would like to convey a message of hope to the world."



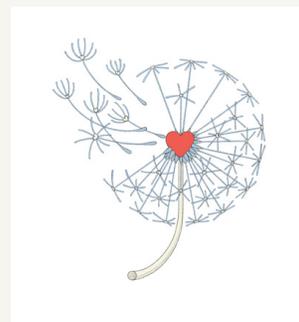
Marwa, 30, Syria

"At any time and place, we can build beautiful memories, and make nostalgia a source of strength for us to achieve hope for a more beautiful future."



Sadek, 32, Bangladesh/ Myanmar (refugee)

"I drew birds over mountains - it is an unfamiliar area for these birds, away from their usual habitat. Every bird is carrying a flower, symbolizing hope carried to new places and situations."

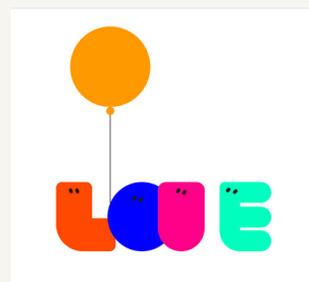


Slimes/史莱姆斯, 29, China

"This painting called "Dandelion" symbolize tears being the seeds of love. They are blown to the world by the wind, but love will still grow after they take root."



Huang, 4, Hong Kong, China



Zhou, 27, China

"If everyone in our global village shared a piece of their love, the world would be more peaceful."

Special mentions



Paulina, 18, Tanzania

Note: this painting was realized during an art workshop organized by UNHCR with young artists from refugee and host communities in Tanzania.



Melody, 15, USA

"I made this design inspired by my friend, who lived in Ukraine and fled during the war. When the war started, I was in disbelief—I mean, no one can truly be prepared for bombs and tanks, right? (...) Instead of drawing a heartbreaking scene, I wanted to show the beautiful, bittersweet journey she took, and the chaos surrounding it."



Pietra, 16, Brazil

"I see a lot of facts being reported about refugees, something that happens all over the world, that's why I decided to participate. My drawing represents a union of different ethnicities in search of a common good, acceptance of others."



Jiawen, 27, China

"This painting combines the abstract image of hands with the image of a hot air balloon, implying that everyone's love and actions will bring suffering people to a place far away from war."



Jason, 22, Thailand/ Myanmar (refugee)

"Kids dream about home. They were happy to be creating their own house in their imagination (...) In the future they hope (I wish) to get back their(our) home. This is a real story and it is mine too."



Irene, 19, Italy

"I love drawing and I love helping people in any way I can."



Aurelie, 21, Luxembourg

"My studies and volunteering experience have allowed me to use my creative side for a good cause, and show the importance of engaging with refugees."



Md Al Amin, 25, Bangladesh

"At any time and place, we can build beautiful memories, and make nostalgia a source of strength for us to achieve hope for a more beautiful future."

Special mentions



Emily, 16, USA

"The bird symbolizes the resilience of refugees around the world because, like many, birds are forced to adapt to many new places and challenges (...) This piece is supposed to represent "hope away from home" and the endless opportunities that come with new places if you lead with your heart."



Israa, 10, Bulgaria/Syria (refugee)



Pippa, 15, Thailand

"Wherever you are, whoever you are, you're not alone. I used varying colors and lines to try convey that the person is in an uncertain state but when they look in the mirror, they see clarity, reassurance and hope. The image of hope is what is reflected back at them."



Karina, 13, Brazil

"The bird is a symbol of peace and in it the art conveys an effort to help refugees around the world."



Ana, 22, Brazil

"In the midst of a rough sea, and sharp waves that threaten to swallow and submerge us into oblivion, there is a family (...) Their lives cling to nothing, their safe haven has been taken from them, but they remain, anchored to each other. The yellow light that emanates over them is a sign of Hope, the sign of a ship that saw them in the middle of the storm, in time to save them."



Frozan, 16, Malaysia

"My drawing calls for peace and hope all around the world. When we heal the Earth, we heal ourselves."