

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

Kate Daudy



Am I My Brother's Keeper? is a project by British artist Kate Daudy, who has transformed a large UNHCR tent; previously home to a Syrian refugee family in Jordan's Za'atari camp into a participatory art installation focussing on the concepts of home and identity.

During the year and a half she spent researching the project, Daudy visited refugee camps in Jordan. There and across Europe and in the UK, she talked with refugees, activists, volunteers, war-wounded, doctors, diplomats and representatives of aid organisations from nearly 60 nations. As well as the effects of war, Daudy noted the effects of climate change on populations forced out of their homes by drought, flood and other natural disasters.

The courage and dignity of the people she met struck her deeply. The positive core human qualities she encountered, through and alongside the stories of loss and trauma, have become the overriding message of the tent: we are all connected, our life is what our thoughts and deeds make it.

In Za'atari Daudy was inspired by refugees who with great grace after so much trauma and loss, planted flowers and bushes around their shelters in the arid camp environment. She commissioned ladies in Syria to make crochet work with which to create the tree and hollyhock bushes for her tent, and they were carried out of Syria by an elaborate network of people. Thus the tent is inscribed with work and words literally of the refugees themselves. An expression of the refugees craft and creativity, the reimagined tent – sometimes a symbol of displacement – is now a symbol of resilience and hope.

To raise awareness and as part of World Refugee Week, *Am I My Brother's Keeper?* The tent has been displayed in Hull, the UK City of Culture, and at the Migration Museum in London. It has been invited to the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid and to the UN headquarters in NYC in 2018.



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Selected Articles:

[Artist's words and colour transform a Syrian refugee tent](#)

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The tent has been made possible due to the support of:

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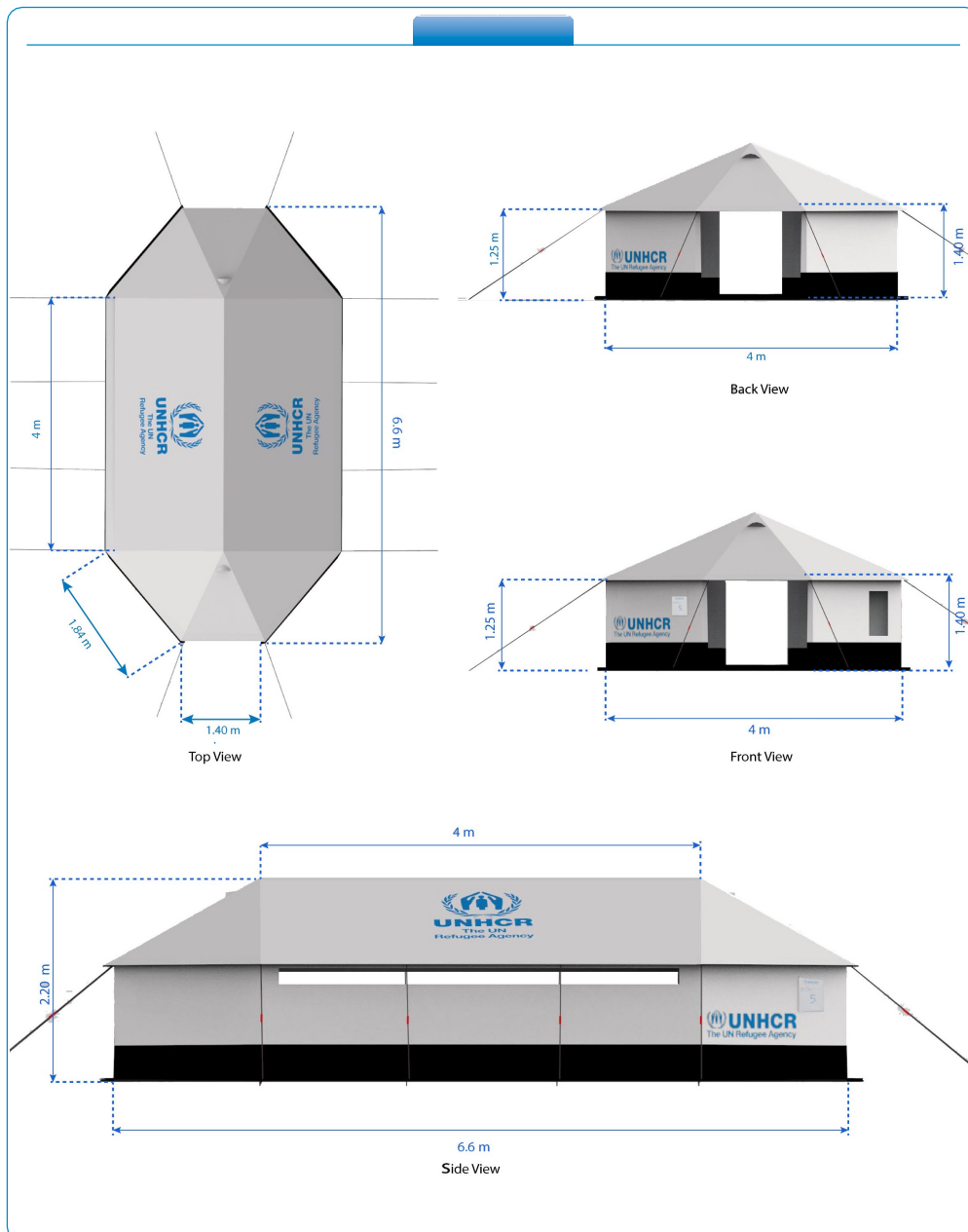
Am I My Brother's Keeper?

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Medium: Installation, UN Tent embellished with embroidery

2017

Weight 65 kg



Packed in 3 parcels

1 No 1.8 m x 30cm x 30cm 2
No Poles

1 No 1 m x 60cm x 60cm (Liner and outer tent)

1 No 75cm x 40cm x 40cm (12 No pegs)

Kate Daudy

Visual Artist, Sculptor

Born in 1970, Kate Daudy is a British artist recognised for her work exploring the limits of language and for her sculpture/text crossovers. Known for her written interventions in public/private spaces Daudy works with poetry, expressing her search for meaning and drawing on the ancient Chinese tradition of inscribing poetry or words on objects, to produce a contemporary art form for the modern era. Multi-dimensional works resulting from her interactions can be seen across Europe, China, America and the Middle East. She has recently returned from New York, where she *wrote* on buildings with the support of the UNHCR to raise awareness for the plight of refugees. Collaborators have included, Rufus Wainwright, Bjork and Yann Toma.

Driven by an insatiable curiosity about language and its creative potentials, her experiments have led her into collaborative dialogue with an array of artistic forms and disciplines. Kate studied Chinese at Oxford and speaks 7 languages. Her technique involves composing or carefully choosing poetry that reflects or contrasts with the nature of the object in question. The letters that form these poems are then cut from felt fabric and applied in differing techniques, depending on the object.

A recent project has been the creation of a 500 hectare *psychological landscape* at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in the UK. She created installations, sculpture and performance pieces as well as written interventions on tree stumps, gates, stonewalls, staircases and bus stops.

Daudy created an intervention using a standard tent, 6m x 4m, issued and used in Zaatari, one of the biggest refugee camps in Jordan. She collected messages from refugees in the Middle East and in the UK and embroidered their words and thoughts on the tent which was given to her by UNHCR. The focus for her work is their sense of identity as refugees, their sense of loss and home. During her research she met with doctors, aid workers and nearly 500 refugees from Kosovo, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Afghanistan, Palestine and other countries. The tent will tour to raise awareness for the plight of refugees and the work of the UNHCR and other agencies. It has been invited to the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid and the headquarters of the UN in New York in 2017/2018.

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