



City of Cambridge

12.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 3, 1999

MAYOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

- WHEREAS: The Cambridge Arts Council, with support from the Goethe-Institute Boston, will present *Refugee Republic*, an exhibition consisting of interviews and research done by artist, Ingo Gunther during a long journey through Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand in 1990; and
- WHEREAS: This journey and further travels to refugee camps around the world formed the foundation of Gunther's concept of the *Refugee Republic*; and
- WHEREAS: The City Council declared Cambridge a Sanctuary for Central American and Haitian refugees despite federal policies to detain and deport them; and
- WHEREAS: Today, Cambridge has more than 21,000 immigrants, 14,754 of whom are non-citizens, along with a city-wide campaign underway to give non-citizens the right to vote, this exhibition has great importance and relevance to many of the issues facing Cambridge and its large refugee population; and
- WHEREAS: Citing social, political, and economic transformations brought about by new communications technologies and globalization – including concepts of state and community that transcend territory – Gunther proposes forming a new model state comprised of refugees and migrants. Linked by a global (Internet) network, *Refugee Republic* would enable refugees to represent themselves and use their shared experiences and interests to form a multicultural, multilingual, transnational model state; and
- WHEREAS: The *Refugee Republic* is an installation that will be on view at the Cambridge Arts Council's Gallery 57 from May 1 to June 30, 1999, along with an opening reception on Friday, May 7, 1999, at Gallery 57 between 6 to 8 p.m.; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record extending its thanks and congratulations to The Cambridge Arts Council, Ingo Gunther, and the Goethe-Institute for providing the City of Cambridge with an intimate look at the refugees and their plight through art.

In City Council May 3, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" at the beginning.

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

FD

12

✓

April 29, 1999

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Arts Council, with support from the Goethe-Institute Boston, will present Refugee Republic, an exhibition consisting of interviews and research done by artist, Ingo Gunther during a long journey through Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand in 1990; and

WHEREAS: This journey and further travels to refugee camps around the world formed the foundation of Gunther's concept of the Refugee Republic; and

WHEREAS: The City Council declared Cambridge a Sanctuary for Central American and Haitian refugees despite federal policies to detain and deport them; and

WHEREAS: Today, Cambridge has more than 21,000 immigrants, 14,754 of whom are non-citizens, along with a city-wide campaign underway to give non-citizens the right to vote, this exhibition has great importance and relevance to many of the issues facing Cambridge and its large refugee population; and

WHEREAS: The Refugee Republic's main purpose is to bring about social, political and economic transformations brought about by concepts proposed by Ingo Gunther through his work with the growing refugee population; and

WHEREAS: The Refugee Republic is an installation that will be on view at the Cambridge Arts Council's Gallery 57 from May 1 to June 30, 1999, along with an opening reception on Friday, May 7, 1999, at Gallery 57 between 6 to 8 p.m.; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record extending its thanks and congratulations to The Cambridge Arts Council, Ingo Gunther, and the Goethe-Institute for providing the City of Cambridge with an intimate look at the refugees and their plight through art.

For Immediate Release
April 7, 1999.

3PM today!
Contact: Sabrina Moyle
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smoyle@ci.cambridge.ma.us

Cambridge Arts Council
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Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4380
cac@ci.cambridge.ma.us



Artist Takes on World Refugee Crisis at Gallery 57

Ingo Gunther: Refugee Republic A multi-media exhibition at Gallery 57

Cambridge, MA – For the past 10 years, media artist Ingo Gunther has been studying the world refugee crisis and conceptualizing a solution: a global refugee network that would enable refugees worldwide to advocate for their rights and participate in the world community as legitimate citizens. This is the *Refugee Republic*, an installation that will be on view at the Cambridge Arts Council's Gallery 57 from May 1 – June 30, 1999.

The Cambridge Arts Council, with support from the Goethe-Institut Boston, will present *Refugee Republic* in the context of Cambridge's own, on-going history of advocating for the rights of refugees and immigrants. In 1985, the City Council declared Cambridge a Sanctuary for Central American and Haitian refugees despite federal policies to detain and deport them. Today, Cambridge has more than 21,000 immigrants, 14,754 of whom are non-citizens. A city-wide campaign is now underway to give non-citizens the right to vote. *Refugee Republic* is also a featured event of the Boston Cyberarts Festival, a state-wide festival uniting the worlds of art and technology.

Currently estimated at 50 million, refugees are the world's fastest growing population. Yet current mechanisms for managing them only reinforces their status as prisoners of international charity and goodwill. Even when resettled to new countries, refugees suffer as aliens and outsiders and are routinely exploited. (Recent, highly publicized cases of police brutality against immigrants are a case in point).

Insert
Citing social, political, and economic transformations brought about by new communications technologies and globalization – including concepts of state and community that transcend territory – Gunther proposes forming a new model state comprised of refugees and migrants. Linked by a global (Internet) network, *Refugee Republic* would enable refugees to represent themselves and use their shared experiences and interests to form a multicultural, multilingual, transnational model state.

Gunther's exhibition presents the concept in a multimedia installation incorporating his text, *Refugee = Capital*. The project's website, www.refugee.net, will also be on view. Printed materials will be available in the following languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, Khmer, and Ethiopian.

(Continued)

Advisory Board

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Catherine Hammond
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City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL

May 3, 1999

MAYOR DUEHAY

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- WHEREAS: The Refugee Republic is an installation that will be on view at the Cambridge Arts Council's Gallery 57 from May 1 to June 30, 1999, along with an opening reception on Friday, May 7, 1999, at Gallery 57 between 6 to 8 p.m.; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record extending its thanks and congratulations to The Cambridge Arts Council, Ingo Gunther, and the Goethe-Institute for providing the City of Cambridge with an intimate look at the refugees and their plight through art.

Consent Order #12

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Mayor Duehay re: the Refugee Republic
will be on view at the Cambridge Arts
Council's Gallery 57 from May 1 to
June 30, 1999 with the opening reception
on May 7, 1999 between 6-8 PM.

In City Council May 3, 1999

ORDER ADOPTED