

The Power of Faces – Mexico Portraits El Barretal Refugee Camp Tijuana, Mexico 2018

Theresa Menders + Daniel Farber Huang



El Barretal Refugee Camp

Tijuana, Mexico 2018 Celeste Huang-Menders

In December 2018, thousands of migrants who had been camped at the U.S./Mexico border were relocated inland into El Barretal, a former dance hall. The refugee camp had minimal services or aid, the conditions were extremely unsafe (particularly for women and children), unsanitary, and inhumane. Due to the overcrowded proximity of people combined with a lack of sanitation, infrastructure or medical services, there were early outbreaks of tuberculosis, typhoid, and influenza. Women, children and families were placed inside the crowded dance hall. Men were primarily located outside the building in hundreds of small tents and people were able to enter the building freely.



El Barretal Refugee Camp Tijuana, Mexico 2018 Alexander Huang-Menders

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El Barretal Refugee Camp Tijuana, Mexico 2018 Daniel Farber Huang + Theresa Menders

In December 2018, thousands of migrants who had been camped at the U.S./Mexico border were relocated inland into a former dance hall, now called the El Barretal Refugee Camp. The camp had minimal services or aid, the conditions were extremely unsafe (particularly for women and children), unsanitary, and inhumane. Due to the overcrowded proximity of people combined with a lack of sanitation, infrastructure or medical services, there were early outbreaks of tuberculosis, typhoid, and influenza. Women, children and families were placed inside the crowded dance hall. Men were primarily located outside the building in hundreds of small tents and people were able to enter the building freely.



The Power of Faces: Looking at the Global Refugee Crisis Vial Refugee Camp – Chios, Greece

2017 Daniel Farber Huang + Theresa Menders

A primary inspiration for The Power of Faces is to take and distribute proper portraits for the individuals living in refugee camps. Photographs are printed on-site using portable photo printers or instant cameras, which allows for producing a high volume of portraits in a reasonable time frame.

We have distributed thousands of printed photos to residents in refugee camps in Greece, Bangladesh, Mexico, and at the Poland/Ukraine border. Our intention is to continue this portrait project at other refugee camps and with displaced communities around the world.

For those people who give us permission to share their portraits, we use those images to raise awareness and mobilize relief and resources.



The Power of Faces – Greece Portraits Souda Refugee Camp and Vial Refugee Camp Chios, Greece 2017 – 2018 Daniel Farber Huang + Theresa Menders



Souda Refugee Camp

Chios, Greece 2017 Daniel Farber Huang + Theresa Menders

The Souda Refugee Camp was located at the edge of the Aegean Sea in downtown Chios, which was ordinarily a popular tourist destination. The camp was staged there out of necessity on a few acres of public land located alongside the historic Fort of Chios. Souda was closed down in January 2018 and detainees were relocated either to the Vial Refugee Camp located further inland on Chios Island, elsewhere in Greece, or to another country.

The Vial Refugee Camp in certain ways can best be described as out-of-sight, out-of-mind. Vial's remote location eliminated the availability of shops and services. Residents are heavily dependent on the camp management for food, resources and most services.



Amer, Asahid, and Maliki Souda Refugee Camp Chios, Greece 2017 Daniel Farber Huang + Theresa Menders

This shelter was located outside the camp boundaries of the Souda Refugee Camp, made up of tarps fastened to the hull of an abandoned boat and built up with debris. Inside the camp boundaries, there was electricity for the tents and also closer proximity to running water, however, some refugees said it was too dangerous and noisy to live inside the camp and would rather live outside with no electricity or water. Living inside this makeshift shelter are Amer, Asahid and Maliki, who are from Palestine, Morocco and Algeria, respectively. A fourth man lived inside this shelter as well.



Amer Souda Refugee Camp Chios Island, Greece 2017 Daniel Farber Huang + Theresa Menders

Amer worked in construction in Palestine and was now detailed on Chios. As we sat together in his makeshift shelter, we communicated using Google Translate on our phones. The message he typed on his phone in Arabic and translated into English says, "I do not have a homeland."



Boat Landing at the Port of Chios

Chios Island, Greece 2018 Daniel Farber Huang + Theresa Menders

Refugees who were intercepted at sea by the Hellenic Coast Guard were landed at the Port of Chios and wait in line to be processed by Greek authorities. The people departed from from the Turkish coast attempting to travel the 5 miles across the Aegean Sea to reach Greece. They will eventually be transported to the Vial Refugee Camp on the Chios Island. The young child in the photograph is wearing a counterfeit, likely ineffective life vest as a flotation aid.



In the Tunnels under the Fort of Chios Souda Refugee Camp Chios, Greece 2017 Daniel Farber Huang + Theresa Menders

Several men who fled Syria, Iraq and other countries warm themselves by a fire inside the tunnels of an ancient fort next to the Souda Refugee Camp. The men were seeking shelter from the frigid January winter winds blowing in from the Aegean Sea.



Ukraine War – Przemysl Train Station, Poland 13 miles west of the Poland/Ukraine border March 17, 2022 Theresa Menders + Daniel Farber Huang

People fleeing the violence in Ukraine arrive at Poland's Przemysl train station, about 13 miles west of the Poland/Ukraine border. For most people, this is their first stop in Poland after traveling from their cities and towns in Ukraine. In the three-week timeframe between the start of the Russian invasion (February 24, 2022) to when this photograph was taken (March 17, 2022), approximately three million Ukrainians had been forced to flee their homes, with 1.8 million people arriving in Poland.

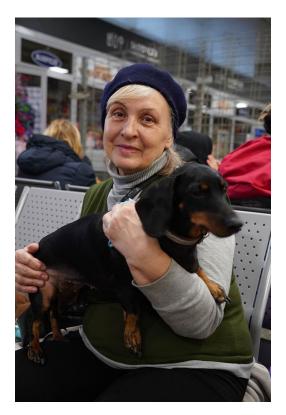
Ukraine



Ukraine War – Przemysl Train Station, Poland 13 miles west of the Poland/Ukraine border March 17, 2022 Theresa Menders + Daniel Farber Huang

People fleeing the conflict in Ukraine arrive at the train station in Przemysl, Poland, one of the easternmost railway points in Poland and close to the Ukraine border. The vast majority of refugees were women, children, and the elderly as Ukrainian men between the ages of 18 to 60 were prohibited from leaving the country until martial law has been lifted. Ukrainians arriving into and also departing the train station show a wide range of emotions, from tears and sadness to relief and sometimes laughter, as everyone's personal situation is unique. Many people appear to be tired, weary, even exhausted from their journeys.

Non-governmental organizations and volunteer relief services gathered at the train station, providing food, triage medical services, and a separate women and children's space for travelers. For refugees needing shelter, travel assistance, and other services, the Polish authorities provided bus transportation to a former shopping mall now converted into a refugee relief center in the nearby town of Przemysl.



Ukraine War – Dworzec Bus Station Warsaw, Poland March 15, 2022 Theresa Menders + Daniel Farber Huang

A grandmother traveling with her daughter, granddaughter and the family dog waited in the Dworzec bus station for a second day. The family initially wanted to go to Finland because the grandmother required specialized medical treatment, which they hoped to find there. At the Dworzec Bus Station, however, the bus driver refused to allow their dog on the bus to Finland so they were unable to board. The family had tickets for a bus scheduled to depart later that same day to Vilnius, Lithuania, which they hope will bring them closer to Finland. The grandmother does not know if their dog will be allowed onto that bus until they try to board that evening.



Ludmilla

Przemysl Train Station, Poland March 18, 2022 Theresa Menders + Daniel Farber Huang

Ludmilla, draped in the Ukrainian flag, fled Lviv earlier in the day after Russia launched airstrikes on her city's airport. She arrived at Poland's Przemysl train station, about 13 miles west of the Poland/Ukraine border, and was met by her daughter, Julia, who is bringing her mother to her home in Germany. Since the time the war began three weeks earlier, approximately three million Ukrainians had fled their homes due to Russia's invasion, with 1.8 million people arriving in Poland.



Ukraine War – Poland Border Crossing Medyka, Poland March 20, 2022 Theresa Menders + Daniel Farber Huang

A mother carries an infant across the Polish border at Medyka, where people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine cross the border into Poland on foot. The waiting time at this Polish border checkpoint was reported to take up to four hours for people to be processed. The vast majority of refugees were women, children, and the elderly as Ukrainian men between the ages of 18 to 60 are prohibited from leaving the country until martial law has been lifted.



Ukraine War – Poland Border Crossing

Medyka, Poland March 20, 2022 Theresa Menders + Daniel Farber Huang

A mother kneels to comfort her two young children after crossing the Polish border at Medyka.

Captions – Bangladesh



The Power of Faces – Bangladesh Portraits Kutupalong–Balukhali Refugee Camps Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh 2019 Daniel Farber Huang + Theresa Menders

Captions – Bangladesh



Kutupalong–Balukhali Refugee Camps

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

2019

Theresa Menders + Daniel Farber Huang

Over 1 million Rohingya refugees have fled Myanmar since 2017 and are living in refugee camps in Bangladesh. According to the United Nations, the refugees have fled brutal violence and armed attacks in Rakhine State, Myanmar, where hundreds of villages have been emptied, many of them burned to the ground. Many of those displaced are Rohingya, the largest stateless population in the world. The influx has overwhelmed existing camps and settlements in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. For decades, the Rohingya have faced a vicious cycle of persecution, discrimination and violent repression.

Captions – Bangladesh



Kutupalong–Balukhali Refugee Camps

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh 2019 Theresa Menders + Daniel Farber Huang

The Rohingya people have faced decades of systematic discrimination, statelessness and targeted violence in the Rakhine State, Myanmar. Such persecution has forced Rohingya women, girls, boys and men to flee to Bangladesh over many years, with significant spikes following violent attacks in 1978, 1991–1992, and again in 2016. August 2017 triggered by far the largest and fastest refugee influx into Bangladesh. Since then, nearly one million Rohingya – including half a million children – have fled into Cox's Bazar, which is now the largest and most congested refugee camp in the world.