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Your guide to modern living

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# THE ART OF SURVIVAL

Child refugees act out their life stories in the camps of Tanzania and Lebanon in this vibrant series of photographs by *Patrick Willocq*

Infant refugees trek through cartoon mountains while child doctors fight malaria amid a riot of colour in these vibrant tableaux, which appear at odds with the dark realities that inspired them. That was exactly the intention of their creator, the French photographer Patrick Willocq. Commissioned by Save the Children and the Pearson publishing group to produce a series of images on the theme of refuge, Willocq chose to recreate the testimonies of children displaced by conflict. Rather than simply photographing his subjects in situ in the refugee camps of Tanzania and Lebanon where he found them, he decided on an innovative, theatrical treatment.

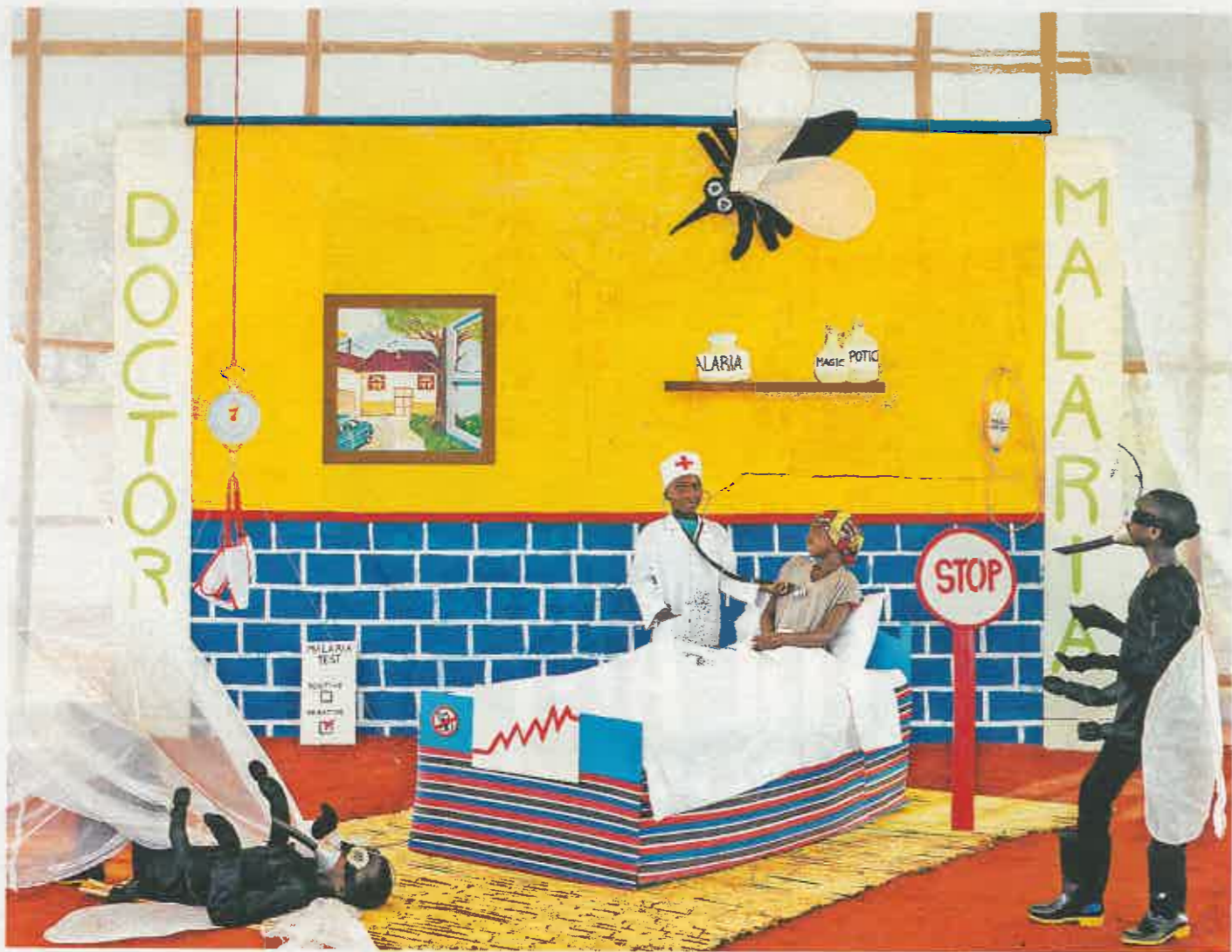
"I wanted the overall feel to be colourful, naive and surreal, so that the audience may look at them without apprehension despite the hardness of the message," Willocq says.

The compositions became community art projects within the Nyarugusu camp in Tanzania and the Bekaa Valley camp in Lebanon, where local artists helped build sets with materials found lying about.

"I wanted to have real children play themselves, to tell their stories in a unique visual way while upholding their dignity," Willocq says.

The images aim to raise awareness of the more than 3.5m refugee children around the world who have no access to education ■

Visit [savethechildren.org.uk/refugee-photos](http://savethechildren.org.uk/refugee-photos)



Previous pages: young refugees recreate the journey they took from Burundi into Tanzania, crossing the treacherous mountains at night

Top left, from left: Bassam, Tamer, Lubna and Farah, all from Syria and aged between 11 and 16, have had to work to support their families

Bottom left: malaria is the number one killer in the Nyarugusu camp. This young boy hopes to become a real doctor when he grows up

Above: Walaa, 11, fled Syria with her mother after bombings left them without food, water or power. She designed this backdrop, depicting life before and during the war

Right: collecting firewood is essential for cooking, but involves travelling outside the safety of the camp — and children are often attacked

