

## ARGENTINA PHOTOGRAPHY

# Argentina's Marcelo Brodsky turns EFE photo of refugees into artwork

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View of the altered Agencia EFE photo showing asylum seekers arriving in Greece, during an interview with its author Argentinian Marcelo Brodsky on May 18, 2016.

EFE/Marcelo Brodsky

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Argentina's Marcelo Brodsky has turned an Agencia EFE photo of asylum seekers arriving in Greece into a work of art, a creative transformation aimed at prompting reflection on the migration issue in cultural, artistic and academic circles.

The altered photo is being presented for the first time by the Rolf Art gallery in Buenos Aires as part of arteBA, Latin America's largest contemporary art fair, which opened its doors to the general public on Thursday in the Argentine capital.

The original image was taken on Jan. 23 by Greek EFE-epa photographer Yannis Kolesidis, whose name also appears at the bottom of Brodsky's work, and shows a group of migrants - adults and children - waiting to disembark at the Piraeus port near Athens.

Brodsky obtained permission to use the photo, converted it to black and white and later highlighted some items of clothing in color and added captions such as "we hope they receive us," "we are all migrants" and "we want shelter."

"For me, immigration is absolutely a central issue in today's world because it concerns all of us," the artist, who gained popularity for his use of altered images to denounce the crimes of Argentina's 1976-1983 military regime.

Brodsky, who was born in 1954 and went into exile in Barcelona during the dictatorship, said the image of migrants arriving in Greece was very similar to the situation his Russian grandparents faced when they emigrated to Argentina and his experience upon arriving in Spain.

His empathy with the vast numbers of migrants from the Middle East and Africa who have made the dangerous journey to Europe in recent months to escape war and poverty inspired him to promote the "view that we all have the right to arrive in a safe place, that asylum is a human right." EFE

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(video)

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