

# Press information

Berlin, 29 June 2018

Page 1 of 2



## Live @ The Museum III: Artistic duo Icy & Sot address the reality of life for refugees between war and a new beginning

*With their purpose-built work live in the URBAN NATION Museum, the artistic duo are once more making people aware of the fortunes of refugees and address the longing for a home.*



Left: the work in the making. Right: the finished work by the artistic duo Icy & Sot, with the title "Home".

Photos: Nika Kramer (printing free of charge).

The artistic duo Icy & Sot, natives of Iran, are known for addressing current political debates about war, peace, hope, despair, and in particular human rights in their works. In the current exhibition "UNique. UNited. UNstoppable." at the URBAN NATION MUSEUM FOR URBAN CONTEMPORARY ART, they already have a work of art represented. After Laurence Vallières and Fanakapan had already taken part in the project "[Live @ The Museum](#)", now Icy & Sot are also producing a work right in front of the museum visitors' eyes, which will become a permanent feature of the exhibition from now on.

The inspiration for the high-rise block, which is intact on the left hand side, but destroyed by war on the right, arose from a derivation of the proverb "Home Sweet Home" and alludes to the current situation in Aleppo, Syria, where tens of thousands of homes have been destroyed since the beginning of the war in 2011.

*"The refugees are leaving their homes because of the war, they are trying to escape the danger, they are leaving behind their relatives, they are migrating in order to lead a better life and to not be in danger. If they are lucky to survive the journey, they have to fight on in reception camps or behind barbed wire fences and wait to get a new home. They are often regarded as trespassers in the countries, in which they take refuge. As such, they unfortunately often experience even more anxiety and danger. The*

**YOUR CONTACT PARTNER**  
**NANCY HENZE**  
**PRESS/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**M: +49 173 1416030**  
**T: +49 30 47081536**  
**F: +49 30 47081520**  
**E: [N.HENZE@URBAN-NATION.COM](mailto:N.HENZE@URBAN-NATION.COM)**

**URBAN NATION**  
**ALT-MOABIT 101 A**  
**10559 BERLIN**

**[URBAN-NATION.COM](http://URBAN-NATION.COM)**

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Page 2 of 2

*sculpture that we have built bears the title "Home" and depicts a half-destroyed building during the war. The damaged sides of the building stand for life and hope – a positive view of the "new home", say the artistic duo.*

The work is primarily built out of cardboard boxes, spray paint, wood and metal, shows a detailed insight into different flats in the building and conveys a feeling of home and the reality of life before the war thanks to the loving interior design with e.g. wallpapered walls and miniature furniture.



*A look inside the building's flats (l.). Icy & Sot in front of their work (r.). Photos: Nika Kramer (printing free of charge).*

*"We all need a home, in which we live, cook, eat, relax, shower, sleep, laugh, wake up, where memories can be formed. With this work, we wanted to express our hope that people who have lost their home due to war can soon find a new house and a place that they consider as a new home. But with this work, we also hope to encourage people to reflect and to promote communication between countries and cultures," continue Icy & Sot.*

## About the artists

Find information about Icy & Sot [here](#).

## Photo material

The attached photos and those available at <https://urban-nation.com/press/> can be used free of charge (registration necessary).

More information about URBAN NATION at [www.urban-nation.com](http://www.urban-nation.com) as well as on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

## About URBAN NATION MUSEUM FOR URBAN CONTEMPORARY ART

URBAN NATION is an international institution for artists and projects, which as a museum has put new emphasis on the Berlin cultural scene since 16 September 2017. URBAN NATION rethinks the classical museum concept and is not limited to the actual museum rooms with its effect: even works in the public space are part of the curation. Interactive workshops and new educational formats give impulse to future city life. At the centre is the foundation of young urban contemporary artists. Since 2013, URBAN NATION has invited local and international artists and curators to Berlin under the leitmotif "Connect. Create. Care." to design urban spaces. This has led to an inspiring exchange between famous and aspiring creative types. The URBAN NATION MUSEUM is a place of exchange, encounters and at the same time is an archive. URBAN NATION is established as part of the non-profit Berliner Leben foundation.