



Art for Refugees in Transition



A.R.T. film chosen for UNHCR international film festival!

A.R.T.'s film *Así Cantaba el Niño Conde* was selected to be shown at UNHCR's Film Festival in Venezuela. The UNHCR film festival is centered on World Refugee Day, June 20, 2008. The film festival begins in June and continues throughout August. The festival has chosen documentaries that speak to the global plight of refugees and internally displaced persons. All too often, refugees do not receive the chance to enjoy normal daily activities but rather wait around for armed conflicts to end so that they may return home someday.

Filmmaker Alejandro Ramirez took on the task of filming A.R.T.'s program in Tintalito, Colombia. He captured the daily lives of a community who, with A.R.T.'s help, were able to once again recapture their cultural identity through the arts. The film depicts this community happy to once again sing and dance the songs of their past and teach their children the ways of basket weaving.

The film centers on the lives of displaced Colombians who now have the space to create art and keep their cultural history alive. Filmmaker Ramirez expressed "making this film changed our lives and careers. Every time "Asi Cantaba el Niño Conde" is shown, the first thing we do is remember the elders and children that with their courage and dedication made it all possible. "

A.R.T. congratulates filmmaker Alejandro Ramirez on his great success and hopes that is film festival will draw much needed attention to the plight of the Colombian people.