

# CUT THE FENCE

**Cut the Fence** is an initiative to spread the idea of cutting down the fences in refugee politics.

The 657 meter fencing of the Swiss refugee camp and deportation center „Bässlergut“ was transformed into the same length of african damask fabric with a specially designed fence pattern.

Since February 2014 this banner of cloth, folded to meter layers on an euro pallet is on tour in Europe and Switzerland to be cut and sold by meters. The sum of its fragments spread over people's homes will form a collective art piece and a statement against politics permitting global circulation of merchandises but excluding migrants and refugees.

**Everybody who cuts a piece contributes to the symbolic destruction of the fence.**

- and to it's transformation into tablecloths, pillow covers, scarves, shirts....

## Deportation Center Bässlergut

The "Bässlergut" compound near Basel, Switzerland is a perfect example for the staging of deterrence in European migration politics. It combines the arrival camp for refugees with a deportation center, where people who were refused to stay in Switzerland are kept in prison expecting their deportation. So the very first thing refugees have to face at their arrival are the desperate cries out of a jail.

## African Damask

African damask (french Bazin) is produced in Germany, Switzerland and Austria exclusively for sub-Saharan Africa, where traditional dresses are sewed from it.

The term damask derives from Damaskus and means special type of weave. It was invented in China 2000 years ago, wherefrom it came across the Islamic world to Europe.

The developpement of the punch card loom for damask weaving at the turn of the 18th to 19th century in France gave finally birth to digital technologies of today.

## Cut the Fence is cooperation with bblackboxx

bblackboxx is an antiracist art space in the neighborhood of the refugee camp and the deportation center "Bässlergut". It is run by a collective of artists and activists and addresses refugees as well as local people. [www.bblackboxx.ch](http://www.bblackboxx.ch)

**bblackboxx will benefit from the money raised through "Cut the Fence" for it's upcoming activities.**

## more information

[www.xcult.org/copaetsordes](http://www.xcult.org/copaetsordes)

[copaetsordes@swissonline.ch](mailto:copaetsordes@swissonline.ch)





### First Cut

• 9.2.1014: bblackboxx, Basel, Switzerland

### on tour

• 22./23.2.14: bblackboxx, Basel, Switzerland • 20.4.14: ein fenster inmitten der welt, Murrhardt, Germany • 3.5.14: Galerie Lisi Hämmerle, Bregenz, Austria • 17./18.5.14: Fabrik culture, Hégenheim, France • 11.-13.7.14: Art Bodensee, Dornbirn, Austria • 7.-16.7.14: bblackboxx bei Schwarm, Reitschule, Bern • 9.-23.8.14: Keine Systeme, BlackBox, Kunstraum Aarau, Switzerland • 27.9.-3.10.14: dock:, Basel, Switzerland • 7.11.14: Hochschule der Künste, Bern, Switzerland • 13.12.14: Shedhallenfest, Shedhalle, Zürich, Switzerland • 5.3.-4-4.15: Boom, Bubble & Blast, Motorenhalle Dresden, Germany • 6.3.-27.3.15: Involvement Requires Perception, Gasthaus zum Bären, Zürich, Switzerland • 20.6.-5.7.15: Mixer Kunst im Werk, Rheinfelden, Germany • 5.11.-6.12.15: Changeant, Künstlerhaus S11 Solothurn, Switzerland • 12.12.15 Textilmuseum St. Gallen, Switzerland • 13.12.15 Zeughaus Teufen, Switzerland • 6.2.16 wemakeit, Kaufleuten Zürich, Switzerland • 25.-29.5.16 art athina, Athens, Greece • 13.6.-19.6.16 Liste Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland • 23.04.71 Paecours humain, Basel, Switzerland

top: fabric design, rapport 5m

left: deportation center Bässlergut, Basel (photo: bblackboxx)

middle: mesuring the fencing 21.6.2013

right: euro palette with 657m african damask pile; fence cutting event, gallery Lisi Hämmerle, 2014



dissemination of the fence by countries\*  
 Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Great Britain, Iran, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland

\* as far as documented



**euro pallet** (dock: Basel, 2014, above)



**Conversations** (shedhalle Zurich, 2014, middle)



**Cutting** (Zeughaus Teufen, 2015, right)

**Cut Pieces** (Fondatione Pistoletto, Cittadellarte, Biella, 2015, below)



