

# Explore Michael Rakowitz: *The Waiting Gardens of the North*

## Who is Michael Rakowitz?

Michael Rakowitz is an Iraqi-American contemporary artist who makes art that explores themes related to politics, history, identity, and memory. Through his work he encourages us to show compassion and care to all.

## *The Waiting Gardens of the North*

This exhibition has been conceived as a garden that will continue to grow and develop during its run. The gallery plays host to a collection of trees, plants, flowers, and herbs requested by the local community of migrants, who miss aspects of their home landscapes. Amongst the plants are new artworks: small sculptures made from cardboard and a large panel collage made from food packaging.

The garden is created to be a place of sanctuary, and Michael Rakowitz has worked with local organisations who support people living in Gateshead and Newcastle with experience of forced displacement.

## What or who or where makes you feel safe?

What makes people feel safe?

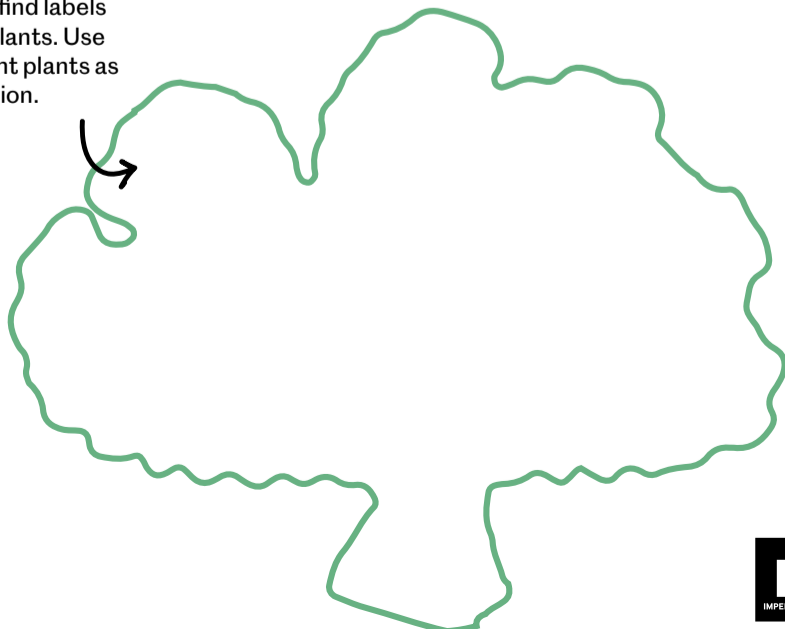
Do you think everyone feels safe?



Create a drawing of something, someone or somewhere that makes you feel safe.

Write some words in this space that you would say to someone to make them feel safe.

There are over 90 different plant species in this exhibition. As you explore, you will find labels which tell you some names of the plants. Use this space to write as many different plants as possible that you find in the exhibition.



Psst! Not all of our plants are planted. Ask one of our friendly Baltic Crew members to help you explore.

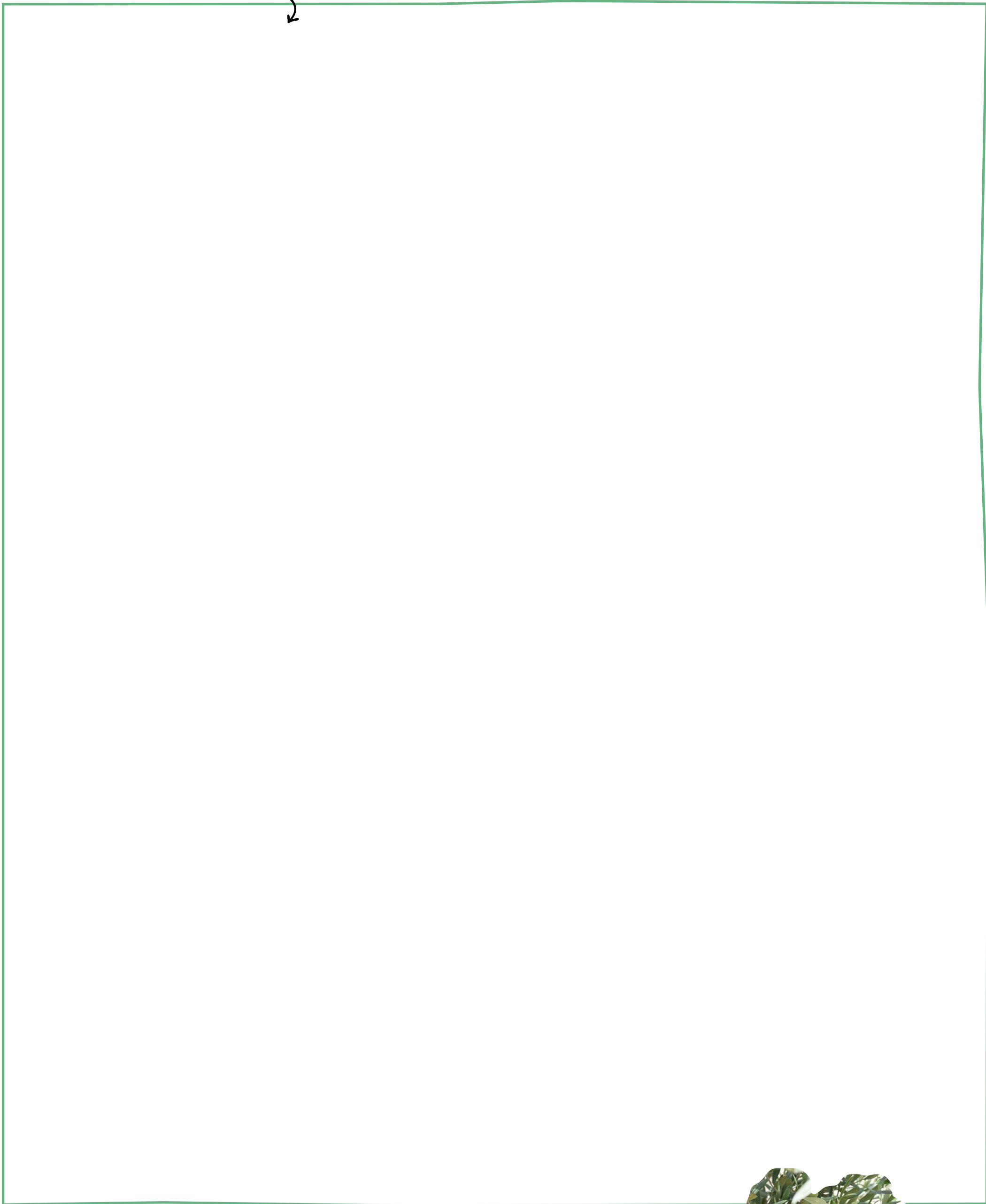
Find an interesting fact or story on one of the plant labels then use this label to copy it down.

In this box create your own species of plant.

What's special about your plant? Where does it come from? In what places does it grow? Can you create any stories about your plant?



Use this space to fill the box with your own garden design



#### Glossary of terms used in this exhibition

- **Sanctuary** a safe place that offers protection
- **Migrant** a person who moves from one country to another temporarily or permanently
- **Asylum seeker** a person who has left their country because it is so dangerous and is seeking protection in another country
- **Forced displacement** people who are forced to leave their homes due to conflict, disasters and the impacts of climate change



This resource is printed on recycled paper. In this exhibition, the cardboard sculptures are placed within the garden to decompose over time. As each decomposes it will help to enrich the soil and make the plants grow. We encourage you to think about this resource after you have finished with it.

