

## Foreword

Immigration is a subject of great contemporary interest. From debates about illegal immigrants in the United States (U.S.), to news coverage of the Syrian refugee crisis, many people today are having conversations about immigration and about human migration in general. The topic has recently become more politicized, particularly in discussions of international terrorism and national security, and governmental policies regarding the treatment of migrants and refugees. Here at La Salle University, where the Christian Brothers' concern for social justice influences many aspects of the educational environment, the subject of immigration is of great interest to many of the faculty, staff, and students, as it touches upon respect for the dignity and human rights of all individuals. Various professors have lectured and published on the topic, and some have organized special topic panel discussions, engaging students and the public alike in analyzing recent events and contemporary issues. In response to this interest, La Salle University Art Museum's exhibition of *Border Crossings: Immigration in Contemporary Prints* presents contemporary artworks that explore various aspects of the subject, with the goal of further engaging the La Salle University community as well as our larger public audiences, including significant numbers of preK-12 school groups, in contemporary discussions taking place about immigration. This book, published in conjunction with the exhibition, includes a catalogue of the prints on display, with images and label texts by the artists, as well as short essays by La Salle University faculty, staff and friends, with the goal of providing a platform for expanded conversations about borders, immigration, and global migration.

The title *Border Crossings* suggests a journey or transition from one place to another, with humans crossing dividing lines or barriers between those places. As people leave their homelands to seek job opportunities or a better quality of life, or to escape the horrors of war or persecution, they embark on voyages filled with hope and optimism, as well as fear of the unknown. In crossing national borders, they become migrants or immigrants, with varying kinds of relationships to their host countries—whether green card holders on a path to citizenship; or individuals who have entered the country

illegally, without the required permissions, or who have become “irregular” after their work permits expire. For some, migration can be a relatively simple matter of landing a job in another country, arranging documents, getting on an airplane, or hiring a moving company. For many, however, migration can present tremendous physical and emotional difficulties. Migrants who are poor and desperate often face life-threatening dangers; and many people die in attempting the journey. Migrants may need to cross geographic boundaries such as rivers, straits and other bodies of water, or physical barriers such as stone walls or barbed wire fences. While some national borders are porous and allow for the free flow of people and goods, others are tightly controlled and regulated by walls, fences, and security forces. The areas around these borders, known as border zones or borderlands, are often sites of tremendous cultural exchange as well as political tension.

While the immigrant's ultimate goal may be physical relocation to another country, once there a different kind of voyage begins—a personal journey involving challenges and adaptation, learning new languages and adjusting to new laws and customs. Immigrants often settle within communities of people with similar ethnic and national origins, operating within social networks where shared bonds of language, customs, and religion provide a framework for cultural resilience as well as assimilation. When immigrants marry individuals from different cultures, their children often develop bi-cultural and multi-cultural identities. Immigrant communities are thus sites of cultural convergences, blending and exchanges, particularly in borderland regions, but also in concentrated areas in major metropolitan cities. Immigrants and their descendants generate important cultural infusions into the mainstream society, ranging from language expressions, to culinary arts, to indigenous visual traditions. They are also important voices in community activism and in transnational efforts to advance immigrant rights and immigration policy reform.

These are the kind of stories that are given visual expression in the exhibition of *Border Crossings: Immigration in Contemporary Prints*. Many of the

prints on display focus on the U.S.-Mexico border and Latino/Chicano experience, showcasing diverse artistic viewpoints while providing a cohesive interpretive focus for the exhibition. Each of the artworks is accompanied by a label with an Artist Statement, which provides descriptive or explanatory text. Some of the artists include social and political commentary, seeking to influence public opinion and understanding of immigration issues. Others address concerns relevant to global migration, and pose more general questions for audiences to consider. Both images and label texts are included in the catalogue sections of this book, which are segmented in groups that loosely reflect the thematic flow of the exhibition.

The exhibition provides the opportunity for an expanded educational discourse about borders, immigration, and global migration. Thus, to foster public engagement, this publication also includes short essays written by La Salle University faculty, staff and friends with expertise in various academic fields, including history, art history, political science, sociology, religion, philosophy, foreign languages and literatures, social work, and public health. Together, the images and writings represent a gathering of both artistic and scholarly voices which reflect and participate in important discussions taking place today. While a few of the essays connect with the exhibition's focus on the U.S.-Mexico border and Latino/Chicano experience, some center instead on historical and recent immigration to Philadelphia and the U.S. Others examine border crossings and migration in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Mediterranean region. The inclusion of global perspectives is helpful for understanding larger issues involved in human migration and human rights today.

The volume opens with my "Curatorial Introduction to *Border Crossings*," which presents background information about the exhibition, the curatorial focus, the major themes, and the interpretative goals. I discuss each of the prints in the show, explaining the artworks and providing information to help viewers gain a better understanding of the exhibition themes. I also offer concluding thoughts about border crossings, art museums, and contemporary visual culture.

The essays by La Salle faculty, staff and friends begin with a reflection piece by Brother Ernest Miller, "I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me': The Lasallian Charism and Mission at the Margins." Brother Miller discusses the important work of the Christian Brotherhood in

addressing the current migration crises around the globe. He reviews the 2016 pastoral theme of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in relation to Pope Francis' Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy; the historical work of the early Christian Brothers; and the role of the Institute in supporting humanitarian organizations such as the International Catholic Children's Bureau and Solidarity with Sudan. He also highlights recent efforts by Lasallian educational institutions to engage students in learning about historical and contemporary issues surrounding immigration. He asks what more can we do, and he offers some thoughts about the pastoral challenges of migration, and the need to welcome strangers to our community.

Lisa Jarvinen's essay, "Border Crossings in the Borderlands," examines the prominent role of the U.S.-Mexico border in popular perceptions of national identities and boundaries. She discusses the meanings and interpretations of this border, and the shifts in scholarly perspectives from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present. She reviews the long history of cultural and political collisions in these borderlands, and the shifting boundary lines and political relations between the U.S. and Mexico. She notes the fluidity of the actual border until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when regulations on migration began to impose restrictions on movement and led to the construction of fences in the late 1960s. She points out the increases in border walls after the 9-11 terrorist attacks, in connection with increased U.S. national security measures. She points out that despite these restrictions the U.S.-Mexico borderlands remain home to many people with connections to the world on either side of the border which history has shaped.

Mey-Yen Moriuchi focuses on one of these border communities, U.S.-Mexico border town of Juárez, in her essay, "El Arte Rompe Fronteras: Art Breaks Down Borders," which examines the role of public art in highlighting issues around immigration and immigration rights. She is interested in how public art integrates transnational views and identities, and operates as an active negotiation tool to raise public awareness about important issues. Looking at works such as the *Inside Outside Juárez*, as well as the international success of the larger *Inside Out Project*, Moriuchi also explores connections with public art projects in Philadelphia, such as the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program's Open Source exhibition. She examines works by several artists involved in these projects, and offers some thoughts on

the transient nature of public art, the importance of photographic documentation, and the artists' emphasis on the humanity of immigrants and their negotiation of identity and culture within our interconnected society.

Mary R. Clark looks at a different geo-political and natural border, the channel of ocean separating the Dominican Republic from the U.S. Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, in her essay, "El Otro Lado/The Other Side." Clark writes about her experiences 10 years ago as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic, where she witnessed friends preparing to make the journey, learned of their desires and expectations, as well as the hardships they endured. Since then, Clark has worked closely with the Dominican community in Philadelphia; and she has been a staunch advocate for immigrant rights. Today, as an immigration attorney, she helps immigrant clients resolve their legal problems. In her essay, she tells of the struggles of two of her clients, and she reminds us that many American families today are descended from immigrants.

In "Contested Spaces: The Shifting Dynamics of Sanctuary," Tara Carr-Lemke writes about the notion of sanctuary for immigrants and refugees. She examines the historical use of churches as sanctuaries in Guatemala and El Salvador, and discusses how the safety of churches became contested in political conflicts. She also notes historical revivals of the concept of sanctuary in the U.S., particularly in the 1980s as many Central American refugees fled to the U.S. and more recently with the emergence of a "New Sanctuary Movement" in 2007, in connection with U.S. deportation policies. In addition to churches, synagogues, and other places of worship, serving as sanctuaries for immigrants, she discusses the important role of "sanctuary cities," which have policies in place that protect the rights of immigrants.

Charles A. Gallagher, in "Immigrant Philadelphia: Then and Now," looks at the historical and contemporary trends in immigration, focusing on the city of Philadelphia. Drawing from a recent survey that he conducted as well as existing studies about immigrants in the U.S., he examines contemporary perspectives about immigration then he looks closely at how native-born Philadelphians feel about immigrants. He notes that many Philadelphians view immigrant contributions in a positive light, but that there are still some anxieties, for example, such as the fear of immigrants taking jobs away from non-immigrants. He

concludes with an assessment of the parallels between early 20<sup>th</sup> century perceptions of immigrants and more recent trends, noting that many of the anxieties expressed today echo those of earlier generations.

Vivienne S.M. Angeles examines the ways in which religion allows immigrants to reaffirm their connections with the sacred as lived in their countries of origin in her essay, "Religion, Migration and Belonging: Filipino Catholics in Philadelphia." She focuses on the Filipino community in Philadelphia and explains how the Filipino immigrants' desire for a "home church," where masses in the Tagalog language could be celebrated, and where Filipino religious customs could be nurtured, led to the recent growth of Filipino immigrant participation in three Catholic churches of Philadelphia. For Filipinos, involvement in the Catholic religion also provides a means of connecting with fellow Filipinos and with the larger immigrant community in Philadelphia, as they affirm their ongoing affection for their mother country and the continuation of their cultural traditions.

Rosemary A. Barbera, in "Immigration and Human Rights: Implications for Social Work," offers background about the Latin American immigration to the U.S. and discusses the human rights implications for social workers. She notes the increase in immigration to the U.S. by Mexicans and Central Americans in the last 20 years, and she argues that social workers committed to advancing human right abuses have an ethical obligation to work in solidarity with immigrants. She outlines areas of social work practice with regard to immigration, and argues that the social workers must make commitments to protect and promote human rights, and to challenge injustices in our society.

Sara Shuman draws upon her work with South Philadelphia immigrant communities in "Immigration and Domestic Violence in Philadelphia." She notes that while the frequency of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Spanish-speaking unauthorized immigrant women in Philadelphia is comparable with that of the general U.S. population, studies indicate that unauthorized immigrant IPV survivors are often unaware of their legal options, that there are not enough social services to meet the community needs, and that cultural, social and economic concerns often interfere with women's ability to seek help. From information gathered in one-on-one interviews, Shuman suggests that health care

providers should screen women for IPV in their native language; that women are more likely to seek help when the violence jeopardizes their health or that to their children; and that other barriers to seeking help include fear that their partners will be deported, affecting family relationships and leaving them as sole providers for their children.

In “Temporary Work Contracts: A Partial Solution to Undocumented Immigration?,” Miguel Glatzer examines the issues around contemporary guestworker visas: the American H-2 programs and the European Union (E.U.)’s guestworker programs. He notes the historical demand for migrant seasonal labor, and the abuses that developed in the Bracero program which persist in the current H-2 programs. He discusses recent attempts by U.S. Congress members to come up with possible solutions to improve conditions for guestworkers. He looks at the situation across the Atlantic, where the demand for migrant workers has resulted in recent E.U. policies which grant expanded rights to seasonal workers, including the right to switch employers. Glatzer discusses various recent efforts to reform the H-2 programs and also to provide a pathway to citizenship for guestworkers in the U.S. He concludes by posing ethical questions to consider with regard to temporary work permits and personal and economic development.

With the next essay, the focus shifts to Europe and expands the field of discussion even further. In “The Challenge of Migration and the European Fortress,” Josefina Domínguez-Mujica and Ramón Díaz-Hernández discuss the borders which demarcate and divide sovereign states in Europe. They examine the repercussions of the Schengen Agreement in removing the internal border controls between the E.U. countries, and recent challenges posed by religious extremist terrorist attacks. They discuss the 20<sup>th</sup> century history of borders in Europe and recent increases in the construction of physical walls and border controls around the world. Noting the reinforcement of the E.U.’s external borders in the wake of the November 2015 Paris attacks, they argue that the E.U. must not be armored against the influx of refugees escaping conflicts in the Middle East, for Europe has a humanitarian duty to provide asylum.

Victoria L. Ketz, in “Crossing the Straits: Migration in the European and North African Context,” examines the historical and contemporary migrations between

Spain and North Africa across the Straits of Gibraltar. The recent influx of North African immigrants arriving in Spain to work in the E.U. prompts Ketz to review the long history of exchanges between Spanish and Arabic cultures and to explore the historical and economic basis for these recent migrations. She also looks at contemporary negative portrayals of North African immigrants in the Spanish media, which reinforce popular perceptions of the cultural “other” and threaten the perceived homogeneity of Spanish culture. She notes that, in contrast, contemporary authors from Spain and North Africa offer more positive portrayals of immigrants, suggestive of hybrid cultural productions and exchanges, as well as ethnic and linguistic pluralism, offering the promise for developing integrative visions of national identities.

Cornelia A. Tsakiridou, in “Greece: Transnational Crime and the Syrian Refugee Crisis,” discusses human trafficking and drug trafficking in the southeastern Mediterranean region, with particular attention to the situation in Greece. Looking at recent events, she reviews the known pathways for the migration of illegal immigrants as well as illegal drugs, pointing out that some convicted criminals have been involved in both human trafficking as well as illegal drug trade. She discusses how international drug trafficking networks are often used for the illegal transport of immigrants. Greece is along these routes from Afghanistan and Syria to central and northern Europe. She notes that the recent economic recession and austerity measures in Greece have led to an increase in drug trafficking and international crime, as well as an increase in drug use, addictions, and drug-related deaths.

Baba G. Jallow takes a more conceptual approach to the theme of migrations and border crossings in his essay on “Mobile Codes: Migrations of Colonial Law in Post-Colonial Africa.” Focusing on the recent political and legal history of Gambia and Ghana, Jallow looks at migrations of colonial law in post-colonial African countries. He gives examples of how colonial laws were revived and enforced to suppress media attempts to inform the public, restricting freedom of speech. He notes that aspects of colonial rule continue to permeate in the artificial national borders, official languages, and customs, and also in the residual colonial character of the independent African countries. With the use of colonial legal codes to restrict freedom of speech, as well as other essential freedoms, Jallow comments on the current

corruption and questions how independent these African nations really are.

Together, these scholarly essays offer various perspectives on the subject of border crossings, immigration and migration. Reading these essays within the context of this volume, interspersed with catalogue sections, encourages us to take a closer look at the artworks, and to make connections with many areas of knowledge in the humanities, social sciences, and social services. We may also make connections between and among academic disciplines, and explore the border zones of knowledge, the liminal places where “inter” and “disciplinary” come together, and where cross-disciplinary work presents exciting opportunities. On the whole, this exhibition project and publication underscores the important role of art museums in communicating history and culture through the exposition and interpretation of material objects (which function as tangible interfaces between the past and the present), and offering places where people can come together for educational experiences and conversations about important and relevant issues.

In *Border Crossings: Immigration in Contemporary Prints*, the presentation of works by contemporary artists is intended to foster educational discussion about immigration and human rights, including arguments for and against border controls and freedom of movement. Both the exhibition and this related publication were conceived with the goal of engaging the La Salle University community as well as larger public audiences in participating in conversations taking place today in the U.S. and around the world. These visual and written expressions will hopefully spark further questions, research, and socio-political awareness about issues related to borders, border crossings, immigration, and human migration, both historical and contemporary. The project advances the Art Museum’s mission to engage both the La Salle community and larger public audiences in learning about the important historical role of art in society, and the continuing relevance of art in today’s interconnected global world.

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