



Creative Arts and Design

Kelly Saravia

Reducing Guatemalan Deportation Through Visual Art

Faculty Mentor: Devon Tsuno, Art and Design

Guatemalans seeking asylum in the United States are migrating and being deported at the highest rates since the 1970's. How can visual art be utilized to tell the stories and present research about Guatemalan immigrants to reduce deportation? I paint Guatemalan immigrants who live in the US to provide research about why they came to the US and their fears, hopes, and experiences connected to deportation. These paints are designed to be viewed on large billboards by thousands of Americans traveling across the southern border daily. I utilize the oral histories of Guatemalan immigrants gathered during an interview process to choose specific monochromatic colors to paint them, visually and creatively expressing their individual truths. The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement have increased raids scattered throughout the United States. Arrests and deportations have resulted in immigrants who are afraid to speak about their experiences from their homeland without the risk of deportation. By increasing the visibility of Guatemalan immigrants' stories I hope to lower the number of deportations.