

Artist Statements

(In alphabetical order by artist's last name)



Lubna Batool

The Sindhi Newlywed

Crochet Embroidery

In this traditional hand embroidery I made, I wanted to portray the look of a Sindhi, Pakistani newlywed village woman who is adorned with colors, and pieces of jewelry like the head set to enhance her look. This is a representation of what a typical village woman would wear when she is recently married, and the colorful background represents the happiness in her life. Also, the decorated design is done with weaving cloth with the use of elongated threads and a herringbone stitch is utilized to make the

whole artwork look as the life of colors in the Sindhi culture. I was born in the Sindh where everyone was pleased with a hard working newlywed that had the ability to do what she wanted to but always adapted modesty. In the same way, the woman I am depicting is an ordinary but a humble woman who is ready to face the colorful happiness in her life.



Irene Brogdon

Parts, Harlem Changing

Acrylic paint, Oil paint on canvas

This painting reflects the diversity of my neighborhood, Harlem, due to immigration, gentrification, and other factors at play in New York City. The overlapping, hodge-podge of features and colors parallels the hodge-podge of vibrant cultures and ethnicities that is Harlem. I hoped to show the positive side of gentrification, though clearly gentrification always had negative implications, as well.



Scyler Byrne

Flower Girl

Acrylic paint on canvas

When I painted this, I was inspired by my mom and her experience emigrating from the Philippines. She being Filipina and Hawaiian, she would tell me about the traditions there. She told me about how sometimes, it was ideal to wear a flower crown instead of a veil when getting married. Traditions like this that come from different places inspired me to paint this painting.



Denise Claire Calungsod

Formulation I, II, II

Watercolor, pastel, collage on paper

- I** In the first panel, the mask is empty and the garb is simple. Her color is dreary. This is the beginning at a migrant's transfer nation, not yet a kin to her surroundings, empty of knowledge pertaining to the New World. She is yet to formulate her true identity.
- II** The second panel is a depiction of an almost-there influence of the migrant's surroundings. She has accumulated more from her world, stained with new influence. Yet, she has not completed her transition. The formula for her being is yet to be complete.
- III** The third is an almost complete transformation. Our migrant has embraced her new culture, but has not allowed it to swallow her. Her mask is colored by her experience and her feet now bare. She sways with more solid of a form, her beauty a mix of her past and her present.



Nicole Chow

Vivid Blood

B&W Photography, 7 Photographs

Blood is What makes the World Alive. Blood is a string that connects every single human being. No matter where you come from, what you believe in or how you grew up, blood will always be part of you. It makes us all part of the same world.



Cesar T. Chox

Sunset

Paint on canvas

El color me llama la atención porque cada día duro que paso siempre hay un amanecer para comenzar un nuevo día llenos de sorpresa.



Cesar T. Chox

Maya

Pencil on paper

Significa las raíces de mis antepasados por qué en Guatemala antes vivían los mayas desde que llegaron los españoles.



Atlas DIY Corporation

Action Table

We want to promote community involvement through advocacy education and having participants write a commitment statement and creating an on-site love installation with the commitment statements collected during the exhibition.



Scarlet Frias, Gabby Orengo

Welcome to America

Film

A young immigrant from the Dominican Republic talks about growing up in Washington Heights.



Tina Gao

Growing Up with Heritage

Film

In this artwork, I interviewed several people who live in Sunset Park and I tried to combine their interviews together. In this film, everyone is shown to have a different story about their migrations, transitions, or traditions. Some stories began with themselves while others came from their family members. Some stories may seem very similar yet they are very different.



Keyla Gonzalez

Key to my American Dream

Acrylic paint on canvas

More than a dream, or just the “American Dream”, I knew it was my destiny to migrate to the United States. Since the age of five, I’ve been fascinated with the American lifestyle, history, foundation, and symbolic places. But once my family and I settled in New York, I became nostalgic with the memories of my beloved island, the Dominican Republic. I guess that on my last visit to my native country sparked the reason why I need to fulfill my destiny to implement the good lessons learned into making it better back in my lovely island.



Isis Jannierre-Bates

We Are OK

B&W Photography; 11 photographs

The gentrification of my neighborhood has always interested me, as it affects me and my family directly. I am enjoying capturing this dynamic change in neighborhoods all over NYC and specifically in my neighborhood, Harlem and how it impacts its residents.

In many ways I realized through the lens that I am not only looking at an existing neighborhood and its peoples, but also a migration that is about to take place. With the gentrification comes a push even further into the already inner city. That push creates a smaller, more enclosed neighborhood. Likewise, the gentrification can also create a migration to other neighborhoods that have not been gentrified as of yet. I want to capture the truth of these neighborhoods and often the truth can be harsh, but what is also true is that within that harshness is the enduring beauty of living life.

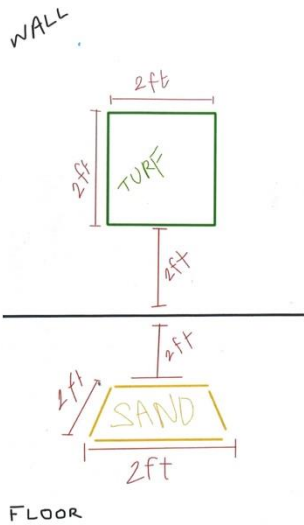


Naushin Khan

Untitled

Acrylic paint on three wood panels, mixed media

Growing up in a mountainous area of a small village in Bangladesh, I used to dream that I could draw or paint all the moments of my life on a paper and keep them with me. I hoped that one day, if I forgot something, I could look back at my drawings and talk about my memories with people. Unfortunately, art was not really available in my village, so I never had the chance to experiment and see if I could even draw. Coming to live in America has been a turning point for me.



Shao Lei

Surveys of Artificial Textures of Natural Bodies

Astro Turf, Sand, Nikes

Migration: Surveys of Artificial Textures in Natural Bodies. How many borders we cross, people we follow, texts we send, flavors we taste, love we receive, and currencies spent are products of an artificial system of managing the spaces of human occupancy. Space is infinitely empty and can only be quantified in relation to the systems it infiltrates. Migration is the transition of entities that occupy space. Space becomes an illusion in the Post Cyber Space Age. When every thing inevitably becomes a forgery, space is no exception. This piece “Surveys of Artificial Textures of Natural Bodies” (working title), is the objectification of this inevitable falsehood of space. It is a comment on the structures of hypothetical space both cyber and physical. All the borders we cross are political and imaginary. All the people we follow are only images that satisfy the requirements of our cyber peers. All are unnatural in the state that has been created. All are artificial textures of the natural bodies that once occupied. All is a residual sequence put in place to satisfy the unsatisfiable palette.



Dirmawan Luawo, Janelly Santos, Brenda Barrera

1990s/2016

Acrylic paint on canvas, Diptych

This is my family. The painting to the left is my mom’s family prior to her departure, in Indonesia in the 90’s. The canvas to the right is my mom’s new family, here, in America. The idea of migration, transitions and traditions relates to my family deeply. The fact that she left for America at the age of 23, not knowing a single thing about living here, I find brave. We were able to illustrate the theme and idea into these two canvases. The two canvases stand beside each other as a contrast to one another.



Gjystina Lumaj

No English

Mixed media installation

I was interested in highlighting the very common struggle of many immigrants, especially those that arrive here as children, which is to forget their own culture and assimilate as soon as possible. They are often forced to embrace America and kiss the soil as soon as they arrive or risk being ostracized. In fact, there are many American-born citizens today that would be unable to pass a citizenship test. There a lot of immigrants that change their names to sound more American or choose to not wear religious/cultural clothing in order to fit in better. Perhaps this is a more negative view of how people navigate transitions in culture and an extreme form of progression but I believe it is a legitimate one nonetheless and a perspective that is often buried under the rug by politicians who want to enforce the idea that the United States is the world's most democratic and accepting country and anyone who dares to not conform to this will face consequences.

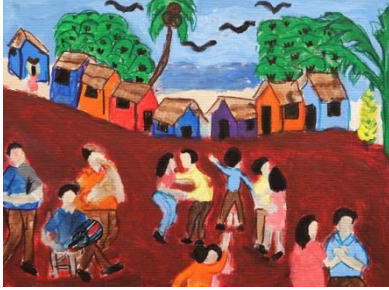


Kia Mahootian

The America I Am

Film

It's difficult to define myself in a city where everybody has their own story, coming from so many different points of origin. Having lived in five states, I see myself partly as a migrant. As the grandchild of an American serviceman and the child of an Iranian immigrant, I've learned to build cultural bridges and to act bravely in situations that demand action. Self-image is more than how others perceive us and goes beyond heritage and the experiences that make us unique. In today's world, it must include a vision of possibilities, a bolder vision beyond pride.



Scarline Martinez

Santa Domingo

Paint on board

What I wanted to express with this artwork was Dominican Republic culture. In the Dominican Republic you usually see people dancing bachata and merengue. Their culture is highly influenced by them; both bachata and merengue play a huge role. That is what identifies them.



Bianca Nagel

Language

Mixed media

My piece entitled Language is my vision of the English language ... always changing and expanding. There are so many languages spoken in the United States. All of these languages spoken in our country continue to have great influence on evolving English language. I hung clay letters from a mesh frame to show an explosion of the English language. I placed a light at the center so the letters would be cast on the wall to show that it is never ending.



Arisitidis Panagis

Untitled

Oil, Acrylic paint, 5 panels

I want this series of images to convey my feelings concerning migration. I hope they will not be scrutinized too much for deeper meaning (for there is none). However, there are a host of symbols that some share such as the foot and the chair, which are anchors for my expression and which I based everything on.



Lily Pisano

The Roads That Lead Us Home

Mixed media installation

As hundreds of thousands of refugees flow into Europe, fleeing their homes in the war-torn Middle East and as candidates in the American presidential race talk of barring new immigrants, deporting millions of illegal immigrants, and building forbidding physical walls between countries, the topic of immigration is a major focus in our world today. This crisis can be daunting to think about, the numbers of people involved are so large, so I think we can understand it all better by listening to individual stories.

In my piece, I want to convey not only the diversity of countries from which my friends' families emigrated, but I also want to unify them in their struggle to enter America, the "Land of the Free." My piece highlights the struggles of those who have come to this country, whether it is for socioeconomic, political, or personal reasons. Their stories are part of an ongoing narrative that will remind most of us of our own relatives, many of whom came to America from another country at some earlier period in time, though most under more peaceful circumstances.



Wilfred James Rosario

"Home"

Oil paint on canvas

Through the crisis that is occurring in the Dominican Republic, I wanted to express the emotion. People being killed, discriminated, and kicked out of their country, because of the color of their skin. By painting the model, I wanted to show the emotion that person would have felt; how absolutely upsetting this is.

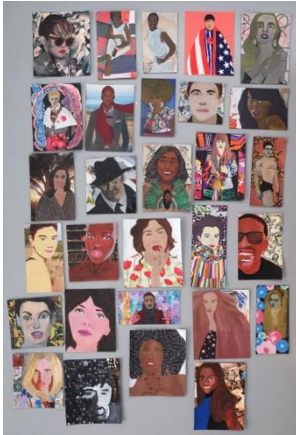


Diomar Solano

Keep Dancing

Acrylic paint on Canvas

When I was making this art piece, I was thinking about when you migrate to other countries you have to adapt to that culture without disconnecting with your own and the transition of it is hard. The girl is dancing in a Dominican costume because I'm Dominican and on a train because we often see that in NYC.



Students from the International High School at Prospect Heights (IHSPH)

An Evolving Culture

Oil paint, collage, mixed media, 29 panels

As our culture has evolved, so have ideas about success and power. Celebrity and beauty haven't replaced blue blood privilege but have offered an alternative to it. We look to our idols as the source of entertainment, and the objects of adulation, even pity when they falter and make us feel better about ourselves. We have created a mosaic of people who inhabit the world, the airwaves, and print ads, transforming

modern society and our ideas about beauty and influence. These paintings and collages were done by 25 students from 10 different countries, each bringing their own aesthetic and point of view.



Prenz Deone Tupaz

Diversity Inside of the Subway

Oil pastel on paper

We all know how populated New York City is and how diverse it is. For this painting, I was thinking about putting different kinds of people and placed them inside the subway. I wanted to create an image that illustrates

diversity inside the New York City subway system.



Jennifer Villa

From the Sun Empire to the Big Apple

Acrylic paint, collage on canvas

There is a lot of Peruvian culture in Jackson Heights, Queens and an animal that represents Peruvian culture is the llama. Assimilating to New York City culture includes keeping up with the news and taking the MTA to work every morning. In my painting I personified a llama to show this transition and adaptation of lifestyle.



Alice Zheng

Dinner Table

Photography

Every year, despite the busyness, my family manages to gather together to celebrate Lunar New Year. Being a first generation Asian-American has compelled me to realize and explore the beauty of my heritage but also feel deprived of the complete disclosure of such a prominent holiday in Asia. Lunar New Year is usually celebrated for a continuous 23 days. My project relates to the exploration of my culture through the sense of appreciation and awareness.



Alice Zheng

Two Sides

Photography

Two different sides of me make me who I am. Like many others, my parents immigrated to American in hope for more opportunities for my siblings and me. This table arrangement shows the two different sides of me. The delicate china bowl with chopsticks represents the culture that I am exposed to from my parents. The opposite side represents the western environment that surrounds me. I've been a part of both cultures my whole life all because of the decision my parents made to migrate, to see the other side, and I am glad for it.