

ART OF MEDICINE

Journeys of Immigrant Families Across the Border

Nora Hiriart Litz and Isha Marina Di Bartolo, MD

Abstract

In an exhibition called *El Viaje de los Niños (The Children's Journey)*, members of the undocumented Mexican community in South Philadelphia created stories of their journey to the United States. With help from lead artist Nora Hiriart Litz, their experiences and thoughts on migration, family, love, loss, and hope are conveyed creatively via artwork.

Figure 1. *El viaje fue la oscuridad mas profunda y sin un destino seguro, solo la infinita luz de la luna que me permitio continuar a mi destino, by Ali*



Translation

The journey was the deepest darkness without a certain destiny, just the infinite light of the moon, which allowed me to march towards my future.

Media

Acrylic-based paint on wood.

Figure 2. *La desesperación, pobreza [sic] y un futuro incierto fue mi boleto. El telefono es mi pañuelo de lagrimas de tristeza y alegría que día a día vivo,* by Mirna

**Translation**

Desperation and poverty and an uncertain future, those things were my ticket. The telephone is my handkerchief of tears, of sadness and joy, which I live through every day.

Media

Acrylic-based paint on wood.

Figure 3. *Camine asia el norte y tome el toro por los cuernos para trabajar pero me siento aun solo*, by Rico



Translation

I walked to the north and I took the bull by the horns so I could work, but I still feel alone.

Media

Acrylic-based paint on wood.

Figure 4. *La tristeza de mi mamá cuando me despedí*, by Rosi



Translation

My mother's sadness when I said goodbye.

Media

Acrylic-based paint on wood.

Nora Hiriart Litz is a Philadelphia-based artist who has long worked with the city's Mexican immigrant community. She is involved in legal and educational initiatives through Puentes de Salud and other local organizations and has taken leadership in creating artistic and cultural projects that provide emotional support to the community.

Isha Marina Di Bartolo, MD is a graduate of the Yale School of Medicine and is currently a primary care resident at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center in Philadelphia. A "DACA-mented" physician, her primary research interests include health disparities,

investigating how implicit biases affect services delivered to patient populations, immigrant health care, and access to care.

Editor's Note

The artwork was provided by Nora Hiriart Litz and the captions were translated by Dr Di Bartolo.

Citation

AMA J Ethics. 2019;21(1):E106-110.

DOI

10.1001/amajethics.2019.106.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

The author(s) had no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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