



Untitled

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The Border Doors project for the Spanish 5 class at Sandia Prep provides an excellent opportunity to tie in all knowledge and experience regarding immigration into a single visual piece painted on a door. My work depicts the many struggles immigrants face and focuses on the physical and emotional damage done to families in particular.

The color of the door and the symbols on it play an essential role in interpreting the meaning and significance of immigration. The top section of the door is painted green, which is one of the colors of the Mexican flag. The bottom section, where a quotation is written, is painted red, the second color of the Mexican flag. It's worth noting that the third color of the Mexican flag, white, is not prominently used, except for a small portion on the character's face near the interpretation of the American flag.

The character in the painting is presented in four colors: white, black, blue, and red. The text on the image reads "Familia y transformación," which signifies two essential reasons why immigrants move to other countries- to help their families and to transform their lives and that of their loved ones. This message is crucial for understanding the problems faced by immigrants worldwide. The red shirt the character wears represents the Mexican flag. At the same time, the blue text is reminiscent of the American flag, which is also visible in a small detail on the character's face. A yellow thread protrudes from the character's shoulders and attaches to two long objects from the ears. The meaning of these objects remains unclear and can only be inferred. The scissors, in place of the character's arms, are highly significant, symbolizing the physical and emotional damage inflicted on the person. The small black spots on the shirt represent the figurative and literal damage caused by immigrants' harsh living conditions, including dirt and worn clothing. The simple shoes could be interpreted in various ways, such as the lack of physical feet or the worn-out state of the shoes. The needles on the character's head depict the violence immigrants face, while the pins on the shoulders symbolize the courage they must have.

The brush techniques used in the painting are essential to the overall effect. Large brush strokes dominate most of the painting, while a thinner brush outlines the character and the text. Although there was enough space for other elements, the artist chose to keep it simple. The blue text is painted red, similar to the character's red shirt. This painting is classified as abstract, not only because it is two-dimensional but also because of its simple background.

After returning from the border in November 2022, I better understood immigration. This trip allowed me to speak firsthand with immigrants and filled a significant gap in my knowledge of the subject. This experience left a lasting impression on me and inspired me to portray something significant through my work.