



Untitled
Sonya Patel

I created this painting to represent the challenges and struggles that undocumented immigrants and their families face when coming to the United States. I wanted to convey the emotions, hardships, and journeys many immigrants take to provide a better life for themselves and their families.

I created this painting during my Spanish 5 class to represent the struggles that undocumented immigrants and their families face not only at the border but also in the US. To create this piece, I researched and considered the issues that immigrants face when coming to the United States. I gained most of my knowledge through a novel that we had read about a young boy from Central America who traveled through Mexico and to the US by himself to reunite with his mother. This novel showed the danger, courage, bravery, discipline, and love it takes to leave your family to provide for and reunite with them. Additionally, we had the fantastic opportunity to go to El Paso, where we saw, witnessed, and listened to immigrant families and their stories and experiences with trying to come to the US and their reasons for coming.

I wanted to create a visually striking and meaningful piece of art, so I used acrylic paint and a variety of brushes ranging from thick to thin. I mixed different shades of blue, green, red, and yellow to create the colors I needed for the other parts of the painting. I also used black and white paint to add depth and shading. The technique I used for this painting was layering. I started with the most intricate parts, worked my way from bottom to top, and finished painting the background last, adding details and shading as I went. The circles were a vital element of the design, and I used the rope to connect them and create a sense of unity. I used only paint for this piece because I wanted to challenge myself and see how much I could convey with just this medium. I wanted the painting to be simple yet powerful, and using additional materials might detract from the overall message. My creative flow during the painting process was focused and deliberate. Each element was carefully chosen to convey a specific message, and I worked to ensure that the final piece was visually cohesive.

As a first-generation American, I wanted to use this painting to raise awareness about the struggles many immigrants and their families face. The stories and experiences of immigrants have always been a significant part of my upbringing, and it was essential to shed light on the struggles that many of them go through. However, it has only been from their perspective. I wanted to paint this piece based on what I have learned, seen and heard about the US-Mexico border. The use of the rope in the painting is significant as it represents how the hands of immigrants are tied when they come to the United States. The circles symbolize the connections and unity between families that border policies can separate. The scissors represent family separation, and the safety pins represent the attempts to stay together, but sometimes it's not enough. The sewing needle and thread represent the hope of reunification and a brighter future, symbolizing strength and the perseverance of families. My goal was to create a piece that served as a homage to the strength immigrant families possess to endure and overcome these challenges. Through this painting, I hope to shed light on these issues and inspire others to take action towards creating a more compassionate and understanding world.