



Sin título / Untitled

Trina Ngyuen

My project focused on the train transportation used by the protagonist Enrique in Sonia Nazario's book, Enrique's Journey. It deeply impacted my education, prompting me to explore how trains are incorporated into immigrants' journeys to the United States. Throughout my project, the main goal was to show separation. I achieved this by ripping a train ticket in half, with Mexico on one side and the United States on the other. For most immigrants, the US represents a fresh start, new opportunities, family, and money. To showcase the motivations and reasons behind their risks, I incorporated yarn. I wrote "sueños" and "familia" within the railroad tracks to illustrate the immigrants' dreams and aspirations.

I added ideas on the spot as my project came to life. I started with painting a train ticket, then added a train track and kept painting, incorporating every new idea that came to mind. I used all the rainbow colors, ensuring every object had the exact hue it would have in real life. I used safety pins to represent unity, but there will always be a clear separation between the United States and Mexico. I also aimed to show the contrast between the US's portrayal as a country of happiness, opportunity, and money and its reality as a nation with problems such as racism, drugs, and violence. To achieve this, I made the painting of Mexico sloppy while the US part was intricately done. I wanted to highlight the thin line of separation between both countries and how difficult it is to commit to immigrating to the United States.

I used hands to represent the lives of immigrants, some pinned to the door and others pinned together. I wanted to show that some people couldn't risk separation and chose to stay in their homelands rather than separate, never knowing when they would connect again. Some immigrants built their lives in the United States, while others were denied access to a visa or a green card and forced back to their home countries, where they might be in danger.

My parents, also immigrants, shaped my morals, and their journey inspired me to learn about other immigration stories. I believe that bad people should not be depicted by their race, religion, or gender. This door represents the great opportunities offered in the United States, with many immigrants searching for the "American Dream." Although I believe the American Dream is accurate in certain instances, such as money and opportunities, how much time and effort goes into fulfilling it is not discussed