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EDUCACIÓN

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Author Bio:
Luis-Genaro Garcia is a Los Angeles artist and high school art teacher in South Central Los Angeles currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Education at Claremont Graduate University. He is a member of local community organizations that include the Self Help Graphics Artists Roundtable and Educators for Immigrant Rights (EIR). As an artist, he draws from the socio-political subject matter of Jose Guadalupe Posada and David Alfaro Siqueiros to paint in a social surrealist style, focused on the experiences of working class Communities of Color. Drawing from his background in education, public art, and activism, he teaches art through a social justice curriculum that accounts for the ethnic, personal, and historical experiences of working class Students of Color, in order to challenge the racist institutional barriers that exist for them.

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Abstract:
EDUCACIÓN is a piece that brings my work as an artist, educator, activist, and scholar together. It is a re-interpretation of the original border crossing sign displayed on the Interstate 5 near the San Diego-Tijuana border.

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Artist Statement

EDUCACIÓN is a piece that brings my work as an artist, educator, activist, and scholar together. It is a re-interpretation of the original border crossing sign displayed on the Interstate 5 near the San Diego-Tijuana border. The sign is meant to caution drivers of crossing immigrant pedestrians. Yet rather than showing the original and stereotypical silhouette of a running family with the word caution and the profiles of a mother, father, and young child with colitas (hair braids), I redesigned the image to reflect the aspirations of immigrant families that come to the United States. The caution sign is recreated to tell a counterstory (Solórzano & Yosso, 2002) of the sacrifices immigrant parents make to give their children a better life. The figure of the mother and father is altered to depict them in the labor-intensive occupations immigrants take up. The child is dressed in a cap and gown to represent the dream that many immigrant parents share: *to give their children the best educational opportunities they can*.

EDUCACIÓN also takes into account Angela Valenzuela's (1999) concept of educación, defined as a cultural practice that involves family values, ethical values, responsibility and integrity of individuals and families (Valenzuela, 1999). The art piece challenges the misconception that Latino parents do not care about their children's education and recognizes the socio-political reality of many immigrant families' experiences. *EDUCACIÓN* is dedicated to the families that make the life-risking journey of coming to the United States with nothing but the educación passed down to them.

References

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