

BAM | BOISE ART MUSEUM

BAM AT HOME ARTISTS OF IDAHO

DISCUSSION: Part of the Conversation

Note: Students can be partnered in advance to connect via online platforms, or this activity can be done with members of students' households as partners. Alternatively, teachers can discuss the activity one-on-one with students remotely. Please adapt lessons as appropriate.

Supplies

-images (included)



(larger images, pg. 4-7)

- What do you notice that is similar among these four artworks?
- What do you notice that is different among these four artworks?
- What words do you read in these artworks?

Mexico loving, supportive, strong, resilient, brave, humble, empathetic

Syria threshold, trust

Guatemala borders, culture, violence, power, education, justice, distribution, nations, liberty, equity, religion, resources

Ghana hope, scarcity

- How would you characterize these words?

abstract

relating to general ideas or qualities rather than specific people, things, or actions

Caroline Earley, *Stasis VII*, 2019, ceramic, 7" x 10" x 5.5".

realistic/representational

true to life or nature

James Cook, *Windfalls - Old Fire Site*, 1988, oil on canvas, 36" x 70".

- Do you think these artworks are **abstract** or **realistic**? What do you observe that makes you think this?
 - realistic
 - dress
 - butterflies
 - words can be read
 - abstract
 - about a larger message using **symbols** (images + words)
 - just words, not sentences
 - layers

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These four artworks are part of series titled, *Sisters in Migration*. The one on the far right is *Sisters in Migration: Syria, Mexico, Guatemala*, and the one on the left is *Ghana*. They are made from paper and laser-cut silk.



- What are the different ways we use the word sister?
- What does it mean to migrate or be a migrant?
(to move to a new place, to leave your home for a new place, to move between homes)
- How are migrants often treated when they arrive in a new **environment**?
-Is it always this way? How do communities welcome migrants?
- What **symbols** do you think are in these artworks? What do you think the symbols mean?
- What do you think the dresses symbolize?

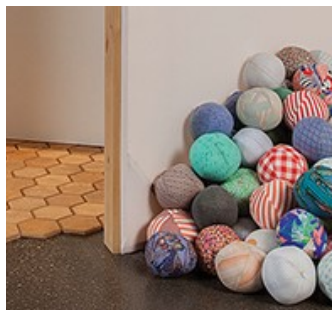
These artworks are collaborations between Sally Graves Machlis and Delphine Keim. They think of women (sisters) as a force for justice and beauty. Each dress has patterns of a country from which we see a large number of immigrants in Idaho.

[elementary school]

Sally says, "making art is my path to experience beauty and resolve injustice." This is another example of what artists do—they use their artwork to share a message about society.

In the next mini-lesson you will observe and discuss our final artwork—an installation.

Here is a sneak peek:



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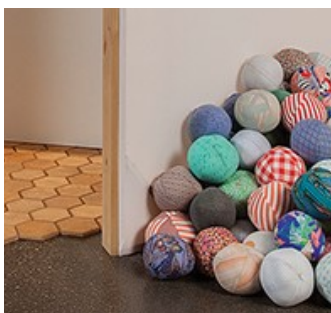
[high school]

The image of a child's dress **symbolizes** the separation of children at the border. However, we all observe these artworks in the context of our own experiences, so we might each find different meaning in the symbols artists use. Sally and Delphine hope to add to the conversation on immigration—they want their artwork to serve as a reminder that there is strength and beauty held within the migrating groups of people.

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Sally Graves Machlis and Delphine Keim, *Sisters in Migration: Syria*, 2019, acrylic and ink on paper, laser-cut silk, 28" x 22" x 2".



Hear from the artists:

<http://www.boiseartmuseum.org/exhibition/the-2020-idaho-triennial-audio-guide/>

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Sally Graves Machlis and Delphine Keim, *Sisters in Migration: Mexico*, 2019, acrylic and ink on paper, laser-cut silk, 28" x 22" x 2".

DISCUSSION: Part of the Conversation



Sally Graves Machlis and Delphine Keim, *Sisters in Migration: Guatemala*, 2019, acrylic and ink on paper, laser-cut silk, 28" x 22" x 2".

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Sally Graves Machlis and Delphine Keim, *Sisters in Migration: Ghana*, 2019, acrylic and ink on paper, laser-cut silk, 28" x 22" x 2".