

DALE, DALE, DALE

DEBUNKING THE MYTH OF THE “JOB STEALING” IMMIGRANT

BY NATALIA CUEVAS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

I plan to construct 10 life-size, human-shaped piñatas, each representing the top migrant-dependent industries within the United States, as a way to explore to the vulnerability, pain, and resilience of the migrant workforce.

Each of the iñatas will reference body language attributed to unfair working conditions (i.e. crouching, squatting, lifting, sitting), and will be molded using real migrant worker bodies and casts to recreate the experiences of working in the field.



MIGRANT FACTORY
WORKERS

MIGRANT
AGRICULTURAL
WORKERS





MIGRANT
FARMWORKERS:
SORTERS & PICKERS

THESIS STATEMENT

Dale, Dale, Dale is an interactive installation that touches upon systemic and symbolic violence against Latinx immigrants using the traditional act of piñatas to reference the commodification of a community and culture.

I seek to address the exploitative treatment and discriminatory practices aimed at migrant workers in the hopes of deconstructing the paradoxical nature between immigration and the economy, while also humanizing individuals through narrative and shared experiences.

INSPIRATION

UNCOVERING FAMILY HISTORY AND SHARING STORIES



FAMILY PHOTO
2001



DALE, DALE, DALE
WINTER 2017



FAMILY PHOTO
2006

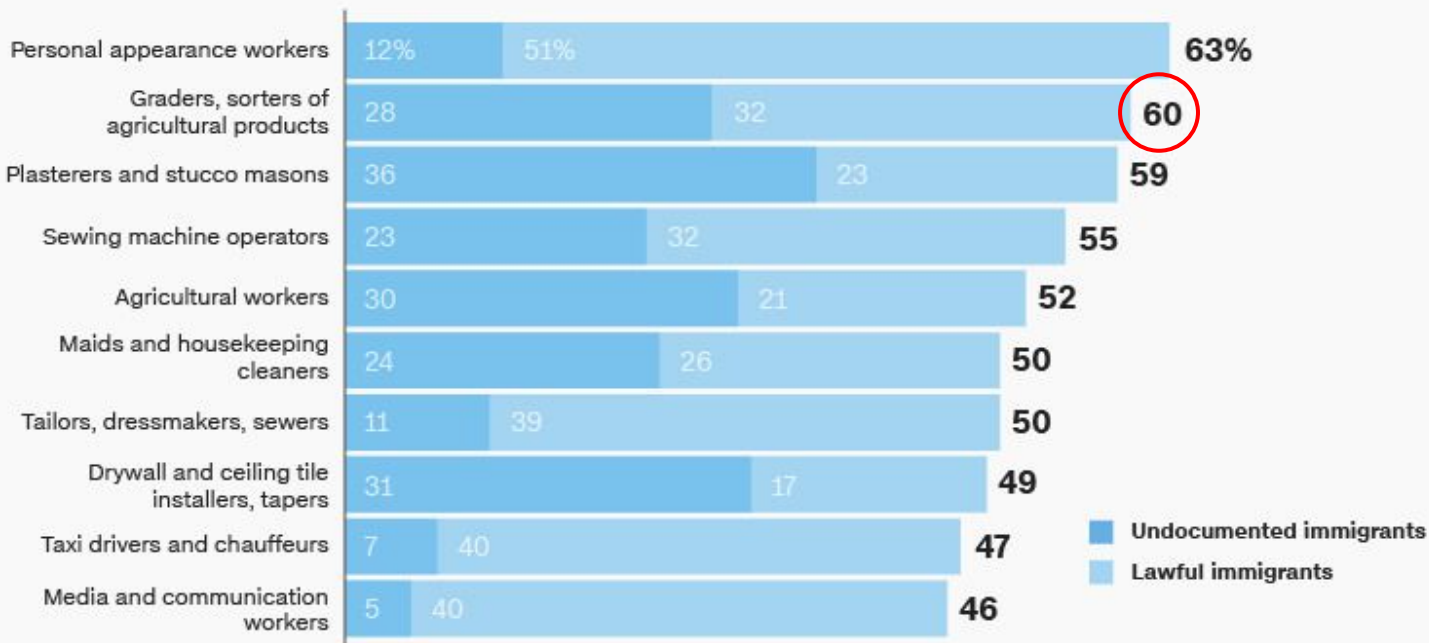


MY MOTHER
2017

RESEARCH

EXPLORING HISTORY OF DISCRIMINATION AND EXPLOITATION
OF LATINX BODIES

Jobs most likely to be filled by an immigrant



TOP 10 DETAILED OCCUPATIONS BY IMMIGRANT SHARE OF WORKERS, 2014. TOTALS CALCULATED PRIOR TO ROUNDING.
SOURCE: PEW RESEARCH CENTER ESTIMATES

CENSUS BUREAU DATA
2014



DEL MONTE
MINERVA CUEVAS

STORIES FROM THE PEOPLE
WHO HARVEST OUR FOOD AND
THOSE WHO SHAPE THEIR LIVES

With These Hands

THE
HIDDEN WORLD
OF MIGRANT
FARMWORKERS
TODAY

FOREWORD BY ROBERT COLES

DANIEL ROTHENBERG



WITH THESE HANDS
DANIEL ROTHENBERG



CUT-OUTS
RAMIRO GOMEZ



*UNDOCUMENTED
MIGRATION PROJECT*
JASON DE LEON



PIÑATA MOTEL
JUSTIN FAVELA

PROCESS

TRADITIONAL PIÑATA MAKING TECHNIQUES

IDEATIONS HOW DOES U.S. BENEFIT FROM IMMIGRATION?

INTERACTIVE INSTALLATIONS & LIFE SIZE PIÑATAS
FOCUS ON AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY & BUSINESS BUT OPEN TO OTHER INDUSTRIES
MEXICAN & MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

PIÑATA AS COMMODIFIED ASPECT OF MEXICAN CULTURE

JUSTIN PAVELA: HIGH ART vs. CRAFT MATERIALS

PIÑATA AS FUN BUT SLIGHTLY VIOLENT
SIGNIFICANCE OF INSIDE/GOODIES?

DALE, DALE, DALE

VULNERABLE POSITIONS:
HANDCUFFED POSITION
HANDS BEHIND BACK

MIGRANTS DETAINED
BY BORDER PATROL
AGENTS

LINA PUERTA

JASON DE LEON
HUMAN BODY POSITIONS
& GESTURES

INTERACTING w/ OTHER
OBJECTS / PEOPLE?

CLOTHES?

CLEAR PIÑATAS?

USING BODIES OF ACTUAL
MIGRANTS / IMMIGRANTS

LOGISTICS: HOW TO MAKE PIÑATAS
EFFICIENTLY

VARYING POSITIONS: STANDING
LOW TO GROUND
SQUATTING / SITTING
LYING ON FLOOR

VOCATIONAL
WORK

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS
FACTORY WORKERS
MAIDS / HOUSEKEEPING
CONSTRUCTION

CROP PICKING & ANIMAL SLAUGHTER DOMESTIC WORK
LEAST DESIRABLE CONDITIONS: POOR WORKING CONDITIONS / LOW WAGES

LABOR TRAFFICKING
LARGE SYSTEMS / CORPORATIONS / MULTINATIONAL EXPLOITATION
FLEEING VIOLENCE — SEEKING ASYLUM

MARK JENKINS' UNSETTLING SCULPTURES



WHAT IS THE
IMMIGRANT
EXPERIENCE?
WHERE DO I STAND
IN THE CONVERSATION?

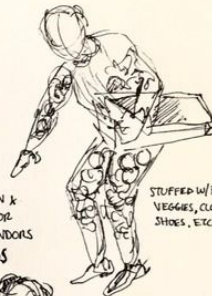
SITTING ON BENCH OR ALONE WITH
HANDCUFFED OR ZIPPED
THINK ABOUT CONTEXT
ELEMENT OF SURPRISE

CLEAR PIÑATAS
DUCT TAPE SCULPTURES



HANGING vs. ON THE GROUND
REALITY OF WORKING CONDITIONS
SHOWING STRENUOUS WORK
& SACRIFICES

DAILY EXERCISE &
PHYSICAL LABOR
STREET VENDORS
PALETEROS



STUFFED w/ FRUITS
VEGGIES, CLOTHES,
SHOES, ETC.

FACTORY WORKING CONDITIONS
WAGES



TALKING TO PEOPLE
WHAT ARE INCENTIVES
TO WORK?
DRIVING MOTIVATIONS

FOCUS ON
SEASONAL WORKERS?

JOBS TAKEN ON BY UNDOCUMENTED
IMMIGRANTS?

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
SUPPLIERS & VENDORS
HEALTH RISKS:
ARTHRITIS

PATIENCE & DRIVE



SKETCHES OF
PIÑATA POSITIONS



MATERIAL STUDIES



MOLDING PROCESS



PAPER MACHE PROCESS



FINAL PIÑATA FORM



GLIMPSE INTO STUDIO



Because she became very sick

*INTERVIEW OF
FAMILY
AND FRIENDS*

FINAL INSTALLATION

INTERACTIVE & PERFORMATIVE ELEMENTS



COMPLETED PIÑATA FORMS



COMPLETED PIÑATA FORMS

ADAPT: SENIOR THESIS SHOW

APRIL 12TH / 4:30 – 6PM

DOWNTOWN STAMPS GALLERY

GRACIAS.

THANKS.