

ICA/BOSTON

WALL
TALK

2019-2020

ICA

2 / HUMAN CONNECTIONS

“What brought me to Juan Manuel is I see a reflection of me. I was here illegally. I went through the same kinds of fears growing up.”

—Camilo Ontiveros, Artist



Camilo Ontiveros
Temporary Storage: The Belongings of Juan Manuel Montes
2017
Personal belongings of Juan Manuel Montes, rope, metal sawhorse, aluminum base, and wood



After discussing migration on a global scale, WallTalk students came face-to-face with Camillo Ontiveros's piece *Temporary Storage: The Belongings of Juan Manuel Montes* (2017), literally. Students were asked to look closely and to begin to name the objects they recognized: a bed, a chair, boxing gloves, a karate uniform, textbooks, a mirror... For some who saw the mirror, they also saw a face: Ontiveros strategically placed a photograph of Juan Manuel Montes, the first known DACA recipient to be deported from the United States during the Trump Administration, so that the viewer would see his face within the mirror when viewed at a specific angle. Teaching artists would then ask the students, who else do you see within the mirror? Ontiveros wanted the viewer to see themselves alongside Juan's portrait, just as he saw himself in Juan's story. Migration is very much a global issue; Ontiveros reminds us that it is also deeply personal and rooted in human experiences.

GALLERY QUESTIONS

Here we see objects that Juan left behind. What do you imagine he brought with him?

If you had to move with little notice, what would you bring with you? What would you leave behind?

How do you want to be remembered? What would you want to say to people in power today about the legacy they are leaving? What advice would you give to someone younger than you about leaving a legacy?





QUESTIONS AND REFLECTIONS FROM STUDENTS AT EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| What's in there? | Homeless |
| Masterpiece | Confusing |
| A mattress | Tangled |
| Trash art | His life's messy |
| Junk | Cool |
| Color | "What the..." |
| Large | Odd |
| Many materials | Multi-detailed |
| Traveling | Creativity |
| | Compact |
| | Wow |
| | Treasure |

GALLERY ACTIVITY

The teaching artists passed out blank cards and pencils and invited students to create a "symbolic self-portrait." If you were to assemble a series of objects to represent who you are right now, what would you include? Students were first encouraged to share their drawings in pairs and eventually shared out within the larger group.