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## #BorderWall

Eric Frey  
*Western Oregon University, efrey15@wou.edu*

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Eric J. Frey  
2018  
A 495  
BFA Sculpture  
10/29/2018

## ERIC J. FREY | DISCRIMINATION & BIAS IN AMERICA

### **#BorderWall**

This interactive installation sculpture was erected between the Oregon Military Academy Building and the Richard Woodcock Education Center from October 29 through November 30, 2018. This installation is symbolic of both the US-Mexico Border Wall other border security walls, and provides an opportunity for the students of Western Oregon University and the surrounding community to interact with the art by utilizing graffiti to express their opinions of the international border wall proposed by the current administration. When erected outdoors, this symbolic wall is approximately 50 feet long and 8 feet high.

Concept- Walls and Graffiti: Walls and fences have two basic purposes, to contain or to limit access. The proposed US-Mexico border wall is designed to deter the entry of immigrants, asylum seekers, traffickers, and criminals through the currently porous border and funnel activities through internationally agreed upon ports of entry. Graffiti is often found on walls, and especially on the walls where an area is disputed. Graffiti ranges from simple tags to state “I was Here!”, or to mark territory, or to state an opinion. In my observation of the progression of the interaction on the wall, when it was first installed it was an imposing, seemingly unapproachable, wall with gray panels and warning signs. Once graffiti began to appear the wall became less imposing, and the more color that appeared on the wall the more approachable it became. So through interaction and communication it seems that the wall began to lose its power over the community.

My goal with this installation is to use the anonymity and immediate response of graffiti to create a conversation within the local community to express either their support or opposition of expanding the US-Mexico border wall. The wall itself is not a political statement by the artist but an opportunity to spark discussion on the campus and to allow the community to make their statements seen.

While on display indoors the wall is still interactive, and students are encouraged to continue to make their mark.