

BREXIT & The ALT-RIGHT: The Social Expulsion of “Illegal” People, “Nomads”, and Other “Barbarians”

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Abstract

A group of art educators invite audience members to consider the societal impact of the rise of Right-Wing (RW) Populism in European Union countries, the escalation of the Alt-Right in the U.S., and the recent 2016 U.S. presidential election. Specifically, we focus on the social expulsion of the migrant, the material realities of borders and border crossings that render the lives of immigrants, migrants, and refugees precarious.

We discuss draconian U.S. immigration policies that have resulted in the death and criminalization and mass incarceration of migrants, and the perils of crossing the desert/rivers in the México/U.S. borderlands through contemporary art and arts-based research. Guided by inquiry as a process of reflection in connection to visits to Kosovo where, the evidence of the conflict which took place in 1998-99 is everywhere, we ask: How does one continue a creative life-giving energy after the trauma of war, losing loved ones, and the long-term experience of fear and terror? Comprised of glitched public domain archival footage, photos, and public commentary by the 45th U.S. president,

this video highlights the faulty promise of universal liberty to all who seek it in the United States, the granting of which can be extended or withdrawn by exploiting faults within economic and legal systems to incite conversation about civilians' protest to these measures.

In the present climate of hate against the “Other,” artist’s interventions provide a means by which to mobilize resistance movements against injustices and create zones that foster ethical community engagement across geo-political locations.

Keywords

Migration, Arts-based research, Contemporary art, Borderlands, BREXIT, ALT-RIGHT, Xenophobia.