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The bus is not the question. The people are the question. Where it is headed?

Where the people are headed is not the question. What is the question? Is the borderbus your idea of what defines our nation? Is there another kind of question? Is this your idea of humanity? Let's move on—oh, yes, the border. The border—what is that ?

Gaze, for a moment—through the windows of the prison bus—there it is. That is, if you can pierce through its expensive blackened windows. And if you can, notice the women. And if you can, listen to their words. What does this mean?

The border is a container of human beings detained, shackled with our agreements. Do you agree?

The Bus, oh yes, let's go back to that—the border bus, the prison bus—it rides high, it rides low. Right in front of our eyes. Words pour out of it. We cannot detain words. Do you agree? Women's words.

This book, contains what could not be contained. It is up to you to open it. A new agreement of who we are and what we are is possible. Liberate it—with your words.

—jfelipe

ABOUT THE ART COLLAGE

In Spring 2019 members of the Laureate Lab Visual Wordlist Studio developed this response to the book, BORDERBUS. LaLab fellows Anthony Cody, Mariah Bosch, Javier Lopez, Chevas Clements, and Emmanuel Mayoral, along with Juan Felipe Herrera, collaborated on a collaged representation of textures that present reactions to the lasting impact of the book, BORDERBUS. The final image by Anthony Cody is a digital collage utilizing an erasure of a deportation warrant from DHS, handwritten responses to hearing the poem read aloud upon a dry erase board, sketchbook drawings from Juan Felipe Herrera and LaLab fellows, as well as the digitized hands of Juan Felipe, to signify our efforts to reach out for another and speak.

ABOUT THE LAUREATE LAB

The Laureate Lab Visual Wordlist Studio (LaLab) is located in Fresno, CA at California State University, Fresno. LaLab serves as an experimental art, writing, sound, and movement space centered around creativity, collaboration, and free expression.

ABOUT THE BOOK

BORDERBUS is a limited edition artists' book of one long poem by Juan Felipe Herrera. The poem takes place on a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) bus. Two women have been detained while trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border, and are whispering in English and Spanish to avoid the attention of the guard.

ABOUT THE POET

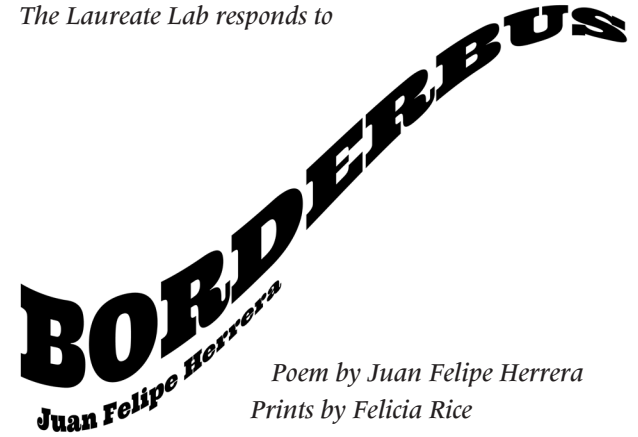
Juan Felipe Herrera is a poet, performer, writer, cartoonist, teacher, and activist. In 2011, Herrera was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. He was the 21st United States Poet Laureate from 2015 to 2017, the nation's first Chicana/o/x poet laureate.

ABOUT THE PRINTER/PUBLISHER

Felicia Rice writes, "As a printer, my job is to confront complex issues and render my response to them in book form. As an artist, my job is to do so with profound integrity. As a publisher, my job is make these issues public."

10% of the proceeds from the sale of BORDERBUS go to support humanitarian aid efforts at the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Laureate Lab responds to



"Borderbus" is one of the most moving poems that I have written—it shakes me every time that I read it out loud. So, I hold back at times.

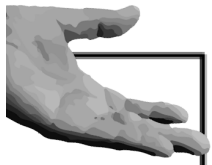
At others, I take a leap into the voices of the women sitting inside the poem, the bus, the migrant trail, my own families.

Two voices stand out—the voice of the harrowing crossings from Honduras, the other, the voice of "nothing" that speaks from a wisdom-heart, the words of my mother, perhaps. Both are real documents, gathered from my own journeys on migrant night buses, reading local newspapers and remembering my mother's counsel.

I thank Felicia Rice for her book printing art, for unfolding the intensities of migrant women, headed to a detention tank, being pushed back into an in-between state, floating between broken dreams and the phantasmagoria of unjust punishment. Yet, there is a possibility of liberation. Here it is—in your hands.

—Juan Felipe Herrera
Poet Laureate of the United States

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY



Photograph of alien removed

Photograph of alien removed

Photograph of alien removed

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Admire vamos?

I don't know where I'm going
I don't know where I'm going
I don't know where I'm going
I don't know where I'm going
I don't know where I'm going
I don't know where I'm going
I don't know where I'm going
I don't know where I'm going
I don't know where I'm going
I don't know where I'm going

What did we do?
a donde vamos,
hermuna

Listen

Tell them
Tell them
hermuna

WORKING IN THE BLENDED NEW WORLD
FRAGMENTS OF

AS SING
MEXICO

NOTES

ON
BURNING
BEING

Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going

Signe

del mundo
Still the border

Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going
Don't know where I'm going

Move front

EVERYTHING
NOTHING

Sed y humbre
Sed y humbre

Photograph of alien removed

