

March 15, 2019

Cara Foster Karim Artist Statement

I am currently working on a series of paintings which I'm really excited about. For years I have been using my art to celebrate ordinary neighborhood scenes. But for this series, I've been able to use my art to communicate something even more meaningful to me: advocating for immigrant and refugee rights and inclusion in our community.

I use newspapers printed in a variety of different languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, Bengali, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese. I glaze and tint the newsprint before cutting it up, soaking it in water, painting it onto my canvas; and then glazing and painting over it some more. It's a messy, iterative process that for me is the perfect way to explore the beauty and diversity of urban landscapes through color and texture.

I use this process to depict layered cities of skyscrapers, sidewalk scenes, or urban bridges; each covered in text representing one or more languages. My desire is to show that immigrants from around the world are an important and beautiful part of our cities, communities, and neighborhoods. In my paintings, the built environment reflects and represents the diverse peoples who live in it, create it, and give it meaning.