

Picture Our Journey

In the Katonah Museum of Art Learning Center
October 3, 2021 – January 23, 2022

Picture Our Journey features original children's picture book art that shares personal yet universal stories of immigration. Through illustrations and words, these stories give voice to topics such as the struggle to belong in one's new home, the pain of separation, and the ties that bind immigrants to their country and culture of origin. In a country filled with families that trace their roots back to other homelands, these stories have resonated throughout American history and have shaped the vibrant fabric of our inclusive nation. The selected books in *Picture Our Journey* highlight immigration stories from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East from the perspective of children and families.

The exhibition features artworks from eight poignant books that explore different topics related to immigration. The struggle to belong in their new country is explored in:

Be Prepared, written and illustrated by **Vera Brosgol**, an autobiographical graphic novel about a Russian girl who desperately wants to fit in with her peers and discovers the value of true friendship.



Vera Brosgol, "Hey, Vera, where's your doll?" from *Be Prepared* [First Second, 2018]. Ink on Bristol board. Courtesy of the artist. © Vera Brosgol, 2018.



Vera Brosgol, "My last day wasn't all that different from the others," from *Be Prepared* [First Second, 2018]. Ink on Bristol board. Courtesy of the artist. © Vera Brosgol, 2018.



Dreamers, written and illustrated by **Yuyi Morales**, a picture book memoir about coming to the U.S. with her infant son and finding her way in a new place, and navigating an unfamiliar world and finding the best parts of it.



Yuyi Morales, "There were so many things," from *Dreamers/Soñadores* [Holiday House Publishing, Inc./Neal Porter Books, 2018]. Giclee print on archival paper. Courtesy of the artist. © Yuyi Morales, 2018.



Yuyi Morales, "Unbelievable. Surprising," from *Dreamers/Soñadores* [Holiday House Publishing, Inc./Neal Porter Books, 2018]. Giclee print on archival paper. Courtesy of the artist. © Yuyi Morales, 2018.

My Name is Sangoel, written by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed and illustrated by **Catherine Stock** about a Sudanese boy who devises an ingenious solution to the problem that his new classmates can't pronounce his name, and in the process he begins to feel at home.



Catherine Stock, "Everywhere, people rushed around," from *My name is Sangoel*, by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed [Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2009]. Watercolor on paper. Courtesy of the artist. © Catherine Stock, 2009.



Catherine Stock, "All the children crowded around," from *My name is Sangoel*, by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed [Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2009]. Watercolor on paper. Courtesy of the artist. © Catherine Stock, 2009.

The pain of separation is the focus of:

Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation, written by Edwidge Danticat and illustrated by **Leslie Staub**, about a young Haitian-American girl whose mother has been incarcerated as an illegal immigrant. The girl, Saya, finds a way to share her story in hopes of uniting her family again.



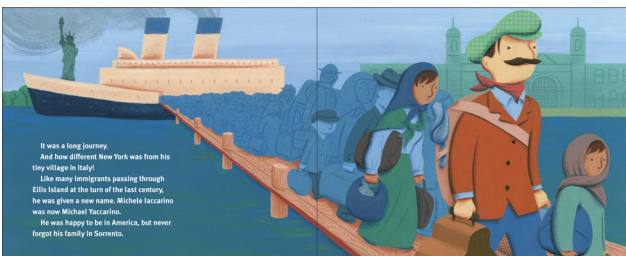
Leslie Staub, "Gotta go, folks," from *Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation*, by Edwidge Danticat [Dial Books for Young Readers, 2015]. Oil on paper. Courtesy of Renee Allie. © Leslie Staub, 2015.



Leslie Staub, "The next time we visit Mama," from *Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation*, by Edwidge Danticat [Dial Books for Young Readers, 2015]. Oil on paper. Courtesy of the artist and LeMieux Gallery, New Orleans, LA. © Leslie Staub, 2015.

The ties that bind immigrants and their descendants to their country and culture of origin are personally described in:

All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel, written and illustrated by **Dan Yaccarino**, whose great-grandfather arrived at Ellis Island with a small shovel and his parents' good advice: "Work hard, but remember to enjoy life, and never forget your family."



Dan Yaccarino, "It was a long journey," from *All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel* [Alfred A. Knopf, 2011]. Gouache on watercolor paper. Courtesy of the artist. © Dan Yaccarino, 2011.



Dan Yaccarino, "So when I grew up," from *All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel* [Alfred A. Knopf, 2011]. Gouache on watercolor paper. Courtesy of the artist. © Dan Yaccarino, 2011.

My Chinatown: One Year in Poems, written and illustrated by **Kam Mak**, an homage to family, culture, and a childhood spent in one of the most striking places in any city—Chinatown.



Kam Mak, *Animal Chess Game* from *My Chinatown: One Year in Poems* [HarperCollins, 2002]. Oil on gesso. Courtesy of the artist. © Kam Mak / HarperCollins, 2002.

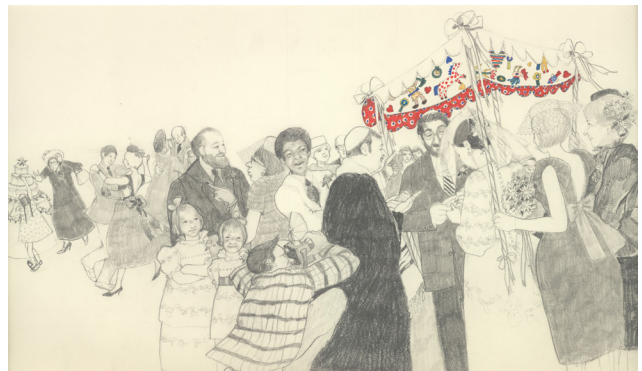


Kam Mak, *Mid-Autumn Festival* from *My Chinatown: One Year in Poems* [HarperCollins, 2002]. Oil on gesso. Courtesy of the artist. © Kam Mak / HarperCollins, 2002.

The Keeping Quilt, written and illustrated by **Patricia Polacco**, who tells the story of her own family and a quilt that remains a symbol of their enduring love and faith.



Patricia Polacco, “And so it was,” from *The Keeping Quilt* [Simon & Schuster, 1988]. Graphite and felt-tip pen on paper. Courtesy of University of Findlay’s Mazza Museum. © Patricia Polacco, 2018.

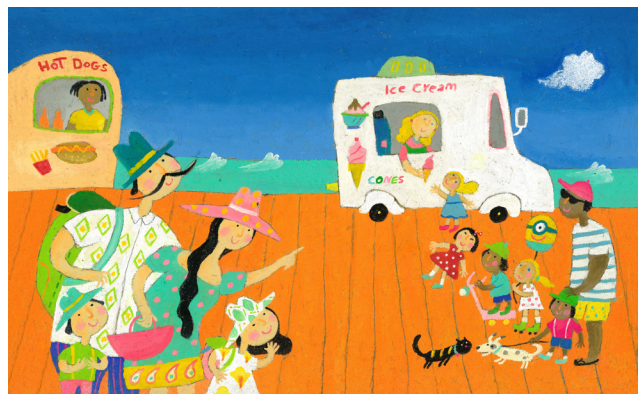


Patricia Polacco, “At my wedding to Enzo-Mario,” from *The Keeping Quilt* [Simon & Schuster, 1988]. Graphite and felt-tip pen on paper. Courtesy of University of Findlay’s Mazza Museum. © Patricia Polacco, 2018.

Saffron Ice Cream, written and illustrated by **Rashin Kheiriyeh** about young Rashin who is excited about her first visit to the beach in her family’s new home and remembers what beach trips were like in Iran.



Rashin Kheiriyeh, “The exciting part of the beach,” from *Saffron Ice Cream* [Arthur A. Levine Books, 2018]. Oil on textured paper. Courtesy of the artist. © Rashin Kheiriyeh, 2018.



Rashin Kheiriyeh, “A block from the beach,” from *Saffron Ice Cream* [Arthur A. Levine Books, 2018]. Oil on textured paper. Courtesy of the artist. © Rashin Kheiriyeh, 2018.