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.

**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.
**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.


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.


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.”


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.


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.


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.


About the Illustrators

Vera Brosgol was born in Moscow, Russia, in 1984 and moved to the United States when she was five. Her first graphic novel Anya’s Ghost was published in 2011 by First Second and won Eisner, Cybils, and Harvey awards. Her picture book Leave Me Alone! was a 2017 Caldecott Honor book. She was a storyboard artist at Laika for 10 years, working on animated films including Coraline and Kubo and the Two Strings. Vera Brosgol lives in Portland, Oregon, and actually really likes camping now.

Rashin Kheiriyeh was born in Khorramshahr, Iran. She studied illustration and graphic design at Alzahra University in Tehran. She has published over 60 books worldwide and created illustrations for the The New York Times. She was named a 2017 Maurice Sendak Fellow and was the winner of the New Horizon Award at the Bologna Book Fair. She is a member of SCBWI and teaches in the art department at the University of Maryland. Rashin Kheiriyeh lives in Washington, DC.

Kam Mak was born in Hong Kong. His family moved to the United States in 1971 and settled in New York City’s Chinatown. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the School of Visual Arts, and since then has illustrated book jackets for numerous publishers and created paintings for magazine and editorial stories. He is also a professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology. He has been the recipient of many awards and has designed a series of stamps for the United States Postal Service. Kam Mak lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Yuyi Morales was born in Xalapa, Mexico where she now lives. In 1994 she moved to San Francisco. In 2000, she received a Don Freeman Grant and has been illustrating and writing ever since. In recognition of Viva Frida, Yuyi Morales received the 2015 Caldecott Honor book. She has received the Pura Belpre Award for illustration several times, including in 2019 for Dreamers. She has published 16 children’s books including her newest book, Bright Star.

Patricia Polacco belongs to a family of storytellers, poets, farmers, teachers, and artists. They came from many parts of the world, but mainly Russia. She grew up to be a The New York Times bestselling author and an illustrator, with over 100 beloved and award-winning books to her credit, including The Keeping Quilt, The Blessing Cup, Fiona’s Lace, The Trees of the Dancing Goats, Babushka’s Doll, My Rotten Redheaded Older Brother, Mrs. Katz and Tush, and Sticks and Stones. Patricia Polacco lives in Union City, Michigan.

Leslie Staub is a children’s book author and illustrator from New Orleans, Louisiana. She is also an accomplished artist whose works have been exhibited nationwide. Leslie Staub works in her studio in the country north of New Orleans with her dog, rabbit, and all the wild creatures who live in the woods.

Catherine Stock had an adventurous childhood traveling all over the globe as the daughter of a diplomat. She was an art director for G.P. Putnam, Clarion, and Atheneum before becoming a full-time author and illustrator. Her picture books have received numerous honors, including the The New York Times, Newsweek, and Time Magazine best books of the year. Catherine lives and paints in southwest France.

Dan Yaccarino is an internationally acclaimed author-illustrator with more than 30 books to his credit, including Five Little Pumpkins, Doug Unplugged, and an edition of Mother Goose rhymes for Little Golden Books. He is also the creator of the animated TV series Oswald and Willa’s Wild Life, and he designed the characters for The Backyardigans. His work has been recognized with a host of prestigious awards including the Bologna Ragazzi, The New York Times 10 Best Illustrated, ALA Notable, and the Parents Choice Award. Dan Yaccarino lives in New Jersey.