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*Migrants board a bus in Navojoa*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Chasing Freedom Exhibit Panelist Update**

**Event: Chasing Freedom: Migrant Caravan Portraits**

Location: University of the Arts, Gershman Hall, Main Lobby

401 South Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19147

Dates:

Opening Reception and Artist Talk

April 5, 2019

4 PM – 7 PM

Artist Talk: April 5th, 4-5PM

Opening Reception: April 5th, 5-7PM

*Immigration Advocate Mark Lane Joins Chasing Freedom Artists Talk and Panel Discussion*

We are excited to announce that immigration advocate Mark Lane, CEO of the Minority Humanitarian Foundation, will be joining Ada Trillo, immigrant advocate Christina Martinez, award winning journalist and documentary filmmaker Sam Slovic at the April 5<sup>th</sup>, *Artists Talk and Panel Discussion*.

*Mark Lane* likes to say: "No one is where they are at because of their own efforts. Someone helped you, somewhere in some stage of your life." After working for decades in management at a food production plants and then in business for himself for another 10 years Lane says that his life changed when he 'witnessed unjust acts against migrants and refugees.' He is the CEO of the San Diego based non-profit Minority Humanitarian Foundation and has worked aiding asylum seekers from the migrant caravan.



La Boda

The April 5<sup>th</sup>, *Artists Talk and Panel Discussion* will engage in a dialogue on persistent issues surrounding immigration in the United States due to the South and Central American diaspora.

**Opening Reception and Artist Talk**

April 5, 2019

4 PM – 7 PM

**Artist Talk and Panel Discussion**

April 5th, 4-5PM

## About the Panel

*Ada Trillo* is an interdisciplinary artist who primarily focuses on documentary photography. Having grown-up in Juarez, Mexico, she is deeply troubled by the social problems affecting women of the border towns. With her most recent project, Trillo explores and exposes the dangers, injustice and violations to human rights that refugees face while crossing the border between South America into the United States.

*Christina Martinez* is an award winning chef and noted immigration advocate known from competing on the television show *Chef's Table* and as a co-owner of the Philadelphia based restaurants *El Compadre* and *South Philly Barbacoa*. Martinez immigrated to the United States from Mexico as a young adult and opened her first restaurant in Philadelphia in 2016, with her husband Ben Miller. Martinez's advocacy for immigration reform has been covered by *Al Dia News*, *Bon Appetit*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and *Philadelphia Magazine*.

*Mark Lane* studied Political Science and Business Management. He worked for 20 years in management of food production plants. He decided to leave that world and start his own business. He was in the seafood restaurant business for ten years. The path of his life changed as he witnessed unjust acts against migrants and refugees. He decided to fully immerse himself in the world of social justice activism, which has had him for many years now, fighting for the rights of immigrants and refugees in the United States. He has led and participated in rallies and advocates for immigrants and refugees in all levels of government.

Mark's philosophy on life has turned into a social justice referendum in the struggle for equality, equity, and justice for every human being.

*Sam Slovick* is an award winning journalist and documentary filmmaker from Los Angeles. His first feature length documentary release was the film *Radicalized* in 2016. Slovick, an actor and singer/songwriter in bands in the 80's New York club scene received an unconventional education under the tutelage of established writers and artists in lieu of formal education. Slovick initially went to Mexico to live stream for @HappsNews in October when he met the caravan in

Navohoa. His next story will be *The Last Caravan*, a long-form piece for Los Angeles Magazine that delves deep into the root causes of migrant human rights violations in Tijuana.

He and Ada Trillo collaborated on a series of live stream interviews at the Benito Juarez Center in Tijuana.

### **Photography Exhibition**

Opening Reception: April 5th, 5-7PM

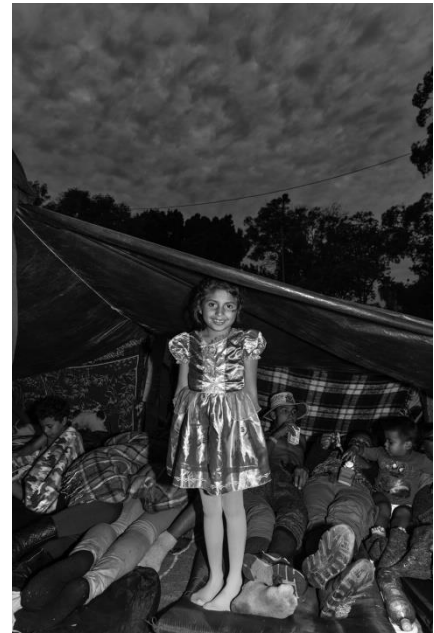
Exhibition runs April 5, 2019 through April 25, 2019

With *Chasing Freedom: Migrant Caravan Portraits*, Ada Trillo submerges herself into life along the border between Mexico and the United States to create portraits of the caravan of South and Central American refugees.

In the January 2019 juried exhibition *Lens on Latin America*, Trillo's portrait from the migrant caravan, *Estrellas*, won First Prize. Show Curator David Acosta said that Trillo's new series of photographs of the caravans at the US Mexican

border "is a reflection of the ongoing and unresolved political situations that continue to threaten the people of Central America and which are directly contributing to these massive waves of migration north."

Trillo's work has been featured in several major press outlets and was recently selected Best Series in the Black and White International Awards. She was awarded the Freedom Ambassador: Silver Prize in the Passion for Freedom art contest in London, England and is a recipient of a Leeway Foundation Art and Change Grant. Her work is included in the Philadelphia Museum of Art's permanent collection.



*The Princess of  
Benito Juarez Shelter*

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