Özlem Ayse Özgür

UNDER THE SAME SKY

Under the Same Sky is a video project compiled by Özlem Ayse Özgür. In this work, Özgür interviews six refugee women who all share their unique story under the same sky. Traci Quinn, Curator of Education at the University of New Mexico Art Museum, introduces this work by reflecting on the responsibility of institutions—such as art museums—to present, reflect, and share these narratives.

Traci Quinn on Özgur’s Under the Same Sky:

I see and hear these stories during a time in which the heightened sense of fear and hate towards difference is palpable in this country. I listen to these women’s truths and I wonder (as a museum worker) what is a museum’s responsibility to correct such a cultural discourse and misstep? I see the museum and art as linguistic tools—where knowledge(s) are presented as a dialogue and an invitation to engage, translate, and shift contemporary culture. Recognizing the complexity of language as a translational and processual thing, I read these videos through
the lens of Phillips and Glass (2010)*, where translation (literal, cultural, or otherwise) moves beyond “making sense of,” in order to displace, de-, and re-contextualize meaning that is marked with agency.