

CURATOR STATEMENT

IN THE WAKE OF JUÁREZ THE DRAWINGS OF ALICE LEORA BRIGGS

“ *My artwork has not stopped the rapes, kidnappings, and murders, or brought reason to this border city. Cutting, scratching, and gouging out my disquieting similes has not even fed people. But I am without other tools. Drawing is the calculus I possess.* ”

~ Alice Leora Briggs

Alice Leora Briggs’ precisely descriptive sgraffito drawings provide the grim specifics of homicides, tortures, and autopsies that have recently branded Juárez and the rest of Mexico. To bring some perspective to the horror, she appends these graphic accounts with figures and compositions borrowed from late 15th through 17th century prints and paintings of the Last Judgment, Crucifixion, and other sanctified martyrdoms as ample evidence of man’s persistent inhumanity to man. The Juárez drawings, beginning in 2007, are the fulfillment of the artist’s long-range reflections on our darker natures. For more than a decade, she has been consistently involved “in some attempt to gain an understanding of what many consider less than civilized conditions. I persist in trying to resolve why these less civilized dimensions of human life are such a critical part of ‘civilized’ life.”

Alice Leora Briggs was born in Texas and grew up in Idaho’s Snake River Valley. She now lives in Lubbock, Texas. Her drawings and installations have been featured in dozens of exhibitions, including *Industry of Memory*, Tucson Museum of Art, 2001; *NeviemViem Neviem*, Galeria Mesta Bratislavy, Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 2002; *Purgatorio*, Joseph Gross Gallery, University of Arizona, Tucson, 2004, and *Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art*, Utah State University, Logan, 2006; *Dreamland: The Way Out of Juárez*, El Paso Museum of Art, 2010; and *Near Impunity*, Eide/Dalrymple Gallery, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, 2012. In addition, the artist’s work resides in many private and public collections, including the Tucson Museum of Art; Phoenix Art Museum; deYoung Museum of The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; El Paso Museum of Art; and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas.

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