

# Hostile Terrain 94 *and* Detention Nation



**The Blaffer Art Museum**  
**April 17 - May 16, 2021**

The Department of Comparative Cultural Studies (CCS) at the University of Houston, Public Art of the University of Houston System, and the Sin Huellas Artist Collective have collaborated to present a double exhibit of the art installations *Hostile Terrain 94* and *Detention Nation*. These artist-activist projects seek to expand the dialogue concerning the violence of immigration enforcement, border policing, and migrant detention in the United States. The installations will be hosted by the Blaffer Art Museum, April 17 - May 16, 2021.

The installations will be accompanied by two online panel discussion webinars, to be held on Thursday, April 22, and Saturday, April 24. University of Houston co-sponsors include: The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS); the Departments of Economics, English, and Hispanic Studies; the Center for Mexican American Studies; the Center for Public History; and the Creative Writing Program.

*Hostile Terrain 94* is a participatory art project sponsored and organized by the Undocumented Migration Project (UMP), a non-profit research-art-education-media collective. The exhibition is composed of over 3,200 handwritten toe tags representing the human remains of migrants who have died trying to cross the US-Mexico border since the mid-1990s. This installation is being exhibited at more than 125 institutions nationally and globally.

The Blaffer Art Museum installation at the University of Houston is the exclusive Houston-area site for the *Hostile Terrain 94* exhibit. The Department of Comparative Cultural Studies is the principal sponsor for the *Hostile Terrain 94* exhibition in the Houston area. *Hostile Terrain 94* is co-presented by Public Art of the University of Houston System.

*Detention Nation* is a multi-media installation that consists of video, audio, detainee letters, cyanotype body prints, and plaster body casts huddled in Mylar emergency blankets. The Sin Huellas Artist Collective has re-designed the physical installation as an online site that includes updated information about youth incarceration and family separations. The *Detention Nation* virtual art space launches on April 17 at [detentionnation.com](http://detentionnation.com). The Sin Huellas Artist Collective, Spanish for 'without a trace,' is a collective composed of Mexican, Latinx, and American artists and activists.

The core members of Sin Huellas include: Professor Delilah Montoya and artist Brenda Cruz-Wolf, artist-organizer Orlando Lara, organizer Deyadira Arellano, in collaboration with designers Matt O'Hare and Violette Bule and transcription support from Jonathan Gonzalez.