



**UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
OF CONTEMPORARY ART**
University of Massachusetts Amherst

UPDATED NEWS RELEASE

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The Border Crossed Us

April 20 – May 1, 2011

A temporary public art installation on the campus of UMass Amherst by the Institute for Infinitely Small Things

<http://www.thebordercrossed.us>

Opening Reception: Wednesday, April 20, 3:00 - 4:30 pm, Project Site: between the Campus Center Garage and the Campus Center.

The Border Crossed Us transplants the US-Mexico border fence in southern Arizona to the UMass Amherst campus.

From April 20 to May 1st, the UMass Amherst campus will be divided along its North-South boundary by a to-scale photographic replica of the vehicle fence that runs along the international boundary in southern Arizona. The particular stretch of fence being represented was erected in 2007 by Homeland Security and now divides the Tohono O'odham Nation – the second largest Native American reservation in the country - into two parts.

What happens when we divide a territory that the community imagines as contiguous? How does the international border in Arizona, seemingly remote from a university campus in New England, touch all of our lives here?

The fence will run between the parking garage and the Campus Center. Over the course of two weeks it will serve as a provocation, a touchstone for conversation, and a site for talks and performances. Along with the fence's insertion into daily life on campus, the project will invite a delegation of Tohono O'odham, including a tribal elder and several youth to speak about their experience. In addition, the Native American Studies Certificate Program in the Anthropology Department will hold a panel discussion on Borders & Indigenous Sovereignty as part of the campus' annual Native American Powwow. Border issues affect several other tribes, including the Mohawk and Abenaki. The delegation of O'odham will speak along with others about these issues during the conference and participate in the powwow.

The University Museum of Contemporary Art is honored to be working with the Institute for Infinitely Small Things, an artists' collective whose projects take place outside of traditional museum/gallery and public art structures.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, all free and open to the public:

Wednesday, April 20

- 3:00 - 4:30 pm Opening Reception for *The Border Crossed Us* at the Project Site: between the parking garage and the Campus Center
- 4:45 - 6:00 pm In Conversation: Catherine D'Ignazio, Ofelia Rivas and Flora Marrietta (both Tohono O'odham) with Mario Ontiveros (UMass Professor of Art History) and Susan Jahoda (UMass Professor of Art) at the Studio Arts Building, Room 240

Friday, April 22

Symposium: *Indigenous Identity and Homelands: Location, Relocation, and Mislocation*
Herter Hall, Room 227

- 3:00 - 4:30 pm Panel discussion with Ofelia Rivas & Flora Marrietta (Tohono O'odham), Solomon Rockibear (Maliseet), Tom Porter (Mohawk), and moderator Ramona Peters (Director, Cultural Survival Board, Cambridge, MA).
- 4:30 pm Reception
- 5:00 pm Paper presentations by Native American Studies Graduate Students

Saturday, April 23

- 10:30 am – 6:00 pm Powwow, Curry Hicks Cage
- 11:00 am and 2:30 pm – Tour the US-Mexico Border in Western Massachusetts, *The Border Crossed Us* Project Site. Ofelia Rivas and Flora Marietta of the Tohono O'odham Nation join Catherine D'Ignazio of the Institute for Infinitely Small Things to lead a virtual tour of the US-Mexico border using the artwork *The Border Crossed Us* as a platform for storytelling and reflection. Visitors will walk the length of the fence installation and learn about the challenges faced by an indigenous community whose territory has been bisected by the international boundary.*
- 6:30 pm – Musical Performance, *The Border Crossed Us* Project Site (check websites - <http://www.thebordercrossed.us> or www.umass.edu/fac/umca)
Tiokasin Ghosthorse, master of the Red Cedar Lakota flute, performs at the Project Site: between the parking garage and the Campus Center.

About the Institute for Infinitely Small Things: <http://www.infinitelysmallthings.net> The Institute for Infinitely Small Things, under the leadership of artist Catherine D'Ignazio (<http://www.kanarinka.com>), conducts creative, participatory research that aims to temporarily transform public spaces and instigate dialogue about democracy and justice. The Institute's projects use performance, conversation and unexpected interventions to investigate social and political "tiny things". Based mostly in Boston, MA, the group's membership is varied and interdisciplinary.

With deepest gratitude to Catherine D'Ignazio of the Institute for Infinitely Small Things for conceptualizing and creating this Project for UMass Amherst.

*Virtual tours have been organized by Artists in Context, Pioneer Valley (www.artistsincontext.org), and presented in collaboration with the artists and the University Museum of Contemporary Art.

The University Museum of Contemporary Art gratefully acknowledges support from the Artists Resource Trust, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation; the RSDI Professional Development Fund, the National Native Artist Exchange, a program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the Ford Foundation, the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, and Anonymous donors.

At UMass Amherst, we are indebted to the Physical Plant Division; the University Public Art Committee; the Department of Anthropology's Native American Studies Certificate Program; and the Department of Art, Architecture, and Art History.

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Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Saturday/Sunday 2 – 5 PM
Closed Mondays and holidays

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www.umass.edu/fac/umca

