



This Land Is Whose Land?

January 26–March 31, 2018

A BIG IDEA Project of the Sun Valley Center for the Arts

MUSEUM EXHIBITION

The visual arts exhibition features work by artists who consider both the history of refugees in the U.S. and the contemporary refugee crisis.

Born in Tehran and now based in California, **Shiva Ahmadi** draws on the artistic traditions of Iran and the Middle East to consider contemporary political events. The exhibition features her works on paper and a hand-drawn animated film, *Ascend*, which Ahmadi recently completed in response to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Tiffany Chung has devoted much of her career to examining migration and displacement resulting from political and environmental causes. Her installation project, *Tomorrow Isn't Here*, considers the Dust Bowl and the resulting migration of enormous numbers of people across the U.S. in the 1930s. *Tomorrow Isn't Here* asks viewers to think about the ways complex relationships between political, economic and environmental factors can trigger refugee crises.

Fazal Sheikh is an artist who uses photography to document the lives of people living in misplaced or marginalized communities around the world. The exhibition includes a selection of portraits he made in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan and in camps in Kenya, where he began making photographs in 1992 when civil wars in Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia led refugees to flee into camps that still exist today.

Los Angeles-based artist **Angie Smith** has spent several years making portraits and recording the stories of refugees who have resettled in Boise, Idaho, after leaving the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Myanmar and other countries. Her work highlights the visual contrast between the backdrop of Boise and the people she photographs, many of whom dress in traditional clothing, pointing to the challenges refugees face in adjusting to a new country while also capturing their successes as they make Boise their home.

Exhibition Opening Celebration

Fri, Jan 26, 5–7pm
FREE at The Center, Ketchum

Gallery Walks

Fri, Feb 16 & Fri, Mar 9, 5–7pm
FREE at The Center, Ketchum
Start your Gallery Walk at The Center and see *The Resettled*, a 30-minute film focusing on refugee stories from around the U.S., including a refugee in Boise who observes, "I was not born a refugee, I was made one."

Evening Exhibition Tours

Thu, Feb 22 & Thu, Mar 22, 5:30pm
FREE at The Center, Ketchum
Enjoy a glass of wine while you tour the exhibition with The Center's curators and gallery guides. Stay after the tour to see the 30-minute film *The Resettled* (description above).

CLASSES

Creative Jump-In: *Seeing Other People: Photography, Difference, and Ethics at the Limit with Sarah Sentilles*

Tue, Jan 30, 5:30–7pm
Ketchum Innovation Center (corner of Sun Valley Road and 1st Ave.)

FREE with \$10 suggested donation; pre-register through The Center

What if being confronted by someone utterly different from you—someone you are opposed to, confused by, scared of, or can't understand—was the signal that there was a life in need of your protection? What if "otherness" was the foundation for ethical action? Focusing on photography's historical and ongoing role in constructing "others," Sarah Sentilles will explore how art and theology offer resources for resisting the forms of observation, capture and certainty encouraged by drones and other machines of war, and she will propose an ethics capable of seeing difference as divine.

Book Discussion: *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen with Jenny Emery Davidson and Scott Burton

Thu, Mar 1, 5:30–6:30pm
The Community Library

FREE; pre-register through The Center
Join Jenny Emery Davidson and Scott Burton of The Community Library as they discuss *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen, winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. With the pace and suspense of a thriller and prose that has been compared to that of Graham Greene and Saul Bellow, *The Sympathizer* is a sweeping epic of love and betrayal. The narrator, a communist double agent, is a "man of two minds," a half-French, half-Vietnamese army captain who arranges to come to America after the Fall of Saigon. *The Sympathizer* is a blistering exploration of identity and America, a gripping espionage novel and a powerful story of love and friendship.

FREE FAMILY DAY

This Land Is Whose Land?

Sat, Mar 3, 3–5pm
The Center, Ketchum

Family Day events provide special opportunities for multiple generations to explore art and ideas together, building confidence in self-expression through art making. Get inspired by the themes and art in the exhibition to create art that spreads positive messages in our community.

LECTURE

Viet Thanh Nguyen

Thu, Mar 8, 6:30pm
Church of the Big Wood, Ketchum
\$35/\$45 nonmember
\$15 student/educator (limit one per educator)

Award-winning author Viet Thanh Nguyen's remarkable debut novel, *The Sympathizer*, won the Pulitzer Prize in 2016. His collection of short stories, titled *The Refugees*, was released in 2017. Nguyen and his family came to the U.S. in 1975 as refugees of the Vietnam War. Growing up in America, Nguyen noticed that most movies and books about the war focused on Americans, while the Vietnamese were silenced and erased. He was inspired to write about the war from a Vietnamese perspective, reimagining what we thought we knew about the conflict.



This lecture is presented in partnership with The Community Library and is generously sponsored by an anonymous gift and Marcia & Don Liebich.



PANEL DISCUSSION

Whose Land Is It?

Tue, Mar 13, 6:30pm
The Community Library

FREE, pre-register through The Center

What is our responsibility to refugees? How are refugees welcomed and contributing to our society? Join moderator Tom Michael, General Manager of Boise State Public Radio, and panelists Shawn Barigar, Mayor of the City of Twin Falls; Zeze Rwasama, Director of Twin Falls Refugee Center; photographer Angie Smith; and a representative from the Refugee Speakers Bureau of Boise for a conversation about our engagement with refugees in our communities and in our state.

ST. THOMAS FORUM

In conjunction with *This Land Is Whose Land?*, St. Thomas Episcopal Church presents a series of events considering the refugee crisis. All events are free and take place at St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Sun, Feb 4, 11am

Syrian-American Asmaa AlbuKaie shares her travel journey, reflects a bit on life in Syria, and describes her experiences in the United States.

Sun, Feb 11, 11am

Give Me Your Tired and Poor (Part 1): a discussion of U.S. immigration policy, current status, policy choices and ethical issues.

Sun, Feb 18, 11am

Give Me Your Tired and Poor (Part 2): a discussion of U.S. immigration policy, current status, policy choices and ethical issues.

Sun, Mar 18, 11am

What have we learned from *This Land Is Whose Land?* How are we called to act in response?

THEATRE

COMPANY OF FOOLS

The Diary of Anne Frank by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, newly adapted by Wendy Kesselman

Directed by Claudia McCain
Sat, Jan 27, 7pm & Sun, Jan 28, 2pm
The Liberty Theatre

FREE with \$10 suggested donation; pre-register through The Center

In this staged reading of a new adaptation of a transcendently powerful, ensemble-driven drama, Anne Frank emerges from history a living, lyrical, gifted young girl who confronts her changing life and the increasing horror of her time with honesty, hope, laughter and determination.

Each performance will be followed by a post-reading conversation with Jeanette Ringold, who was separated from her family and hidden by the resistance as a child in Holland during World War II. As an adult, she has shared her experience in California schools, making the Holocaust real through her personal story.

Company of Fools' staged reading of *The Diary of Anne Frank* is produced in partnership with the Wood River Jewish Community and St. Thomas Episcopal Church. The readings have been generously supported by Carol P. Nie, the Wood River Jewish Community Board of Directors and St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Clybourne Park

By Bruce Norris
Directed by Denise Simone

Feb 21–Mar 10
The Liberty Theatre, various times
Tickets: \$10–\$40

Bruce Norris's Pulitzer Prize-winning response to Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* takes on the ongoing conversation about race and gentrification with a biting wit. Set in the same house in two different decades, 50 years apart, *Clybourne Park* is an unforgettable, spiky satire that asks us to consider what makes a neighborhood home, and how it can be preserved.

Clybourne Park is generously sponsored by Carol & Len Harlig, with support from Marcia & Don Liebich, the Richard Smooke Family and Big Wood Landscape.

FILMS

Big Sonia with filmmakers Leah Warshawski and Todd Soliday

Thu, Jan 25, 4:30pm and 7pm
Magic Lantern Cinemas, Ketchum
\$10/\$12 nonmembers

Standing tall at 4'8", Sonia Warshawski is a tiny woman with a huge personality. Diva, business owner and Holocaust survivor, Sonia has just been served an eviction notice for John's Tailoring, the last (and most popular) shop in a dying mall in suburban Kansas City. While Sonia struggles with retirement, her life lessons span generations. 93 minutes.

Welcome to Refugeestan

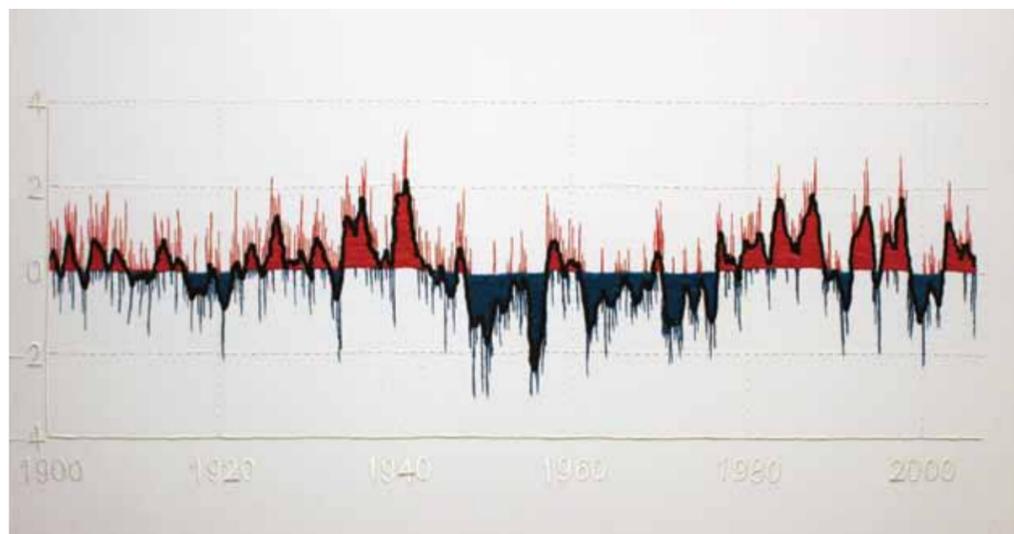
Thu, Mar 22, 7pm
Magic Lantern Cinemas, Ketchum
\$10/\$12 nonmembers

Almost 17 million people—refugees, displaced persons and migrants—live in camps. The names of these places do not appear on any maps, but together they constitute a virtual country the size of the Netherlands. The United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) and NGOs have developed ways of running these camps that are both efficient and absurd. This film explores the land of camps, revealing an immense system that combines humanitarian concerns with the management of "undesirables" who rich countries want to keep out. 71 minutes.

This Land Is Whose Land? BIG IDEA project is generously sponsored by Jeanne Meyers & Richard Carr



Community partners:





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Center hours & location
in Ketchum: Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm
Sats in Feb & Mar, 11am–5pm
191 Fifth Street East, Ketchum, Idaho

Sun Valley Center for the Arts
P.O. Box 656, Sun Valley, ID 83353
208.726.9491 • sunvalleycenter.org

COMPANY OF FOOLS

110 N. Main Street, Hailey, Idaho
208.578.9122



Cover:
Shiva Ahmadi, *Ascend* (still), 2017, animation, duration: 6:48, ed. 7, courtesy the artist and Haines Gallery, San Francisco

Back Panel:
Angie Smith, *Paw Lah Tse and Paw Lah Htoo, 21, twin sisters from Myanmar, stand on the sidewalk next to their host family's house in Boise, Idaho, 2015*, courtesy the artist

Introduction Panels:
Tiffany Chung, *In between foraging sites, first raindrops and the Big .50* (detail), from the installation *Tomorrow Isn't Here, 2012*, hand crafted glass bison, courtesy the artist and Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York

Fazal Sheikh, *Sisters, Sima and Shahima, Afghan refugee village, Nasir Bagh, North West Frontier Province, Pakistan, 1997*, private collection, image courtesy the artist and Pace/MacGill Gallery, New York, © Fazal Sheikh

Inside, left to right:
Angie Smith, *Sarbah, a refugee from Myanmar, moved to Boise in 2007, 2015*, courtesy the artist

Tiffany Chung, *The Pacific Decadal Oscillation Index: 1900–2006*, from the installation *Tomorrow Isn't Here, 2012*, embroidery on canvas, courtesy the artist and Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York



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Prompted by national conversation around the topic of immigration, this BIG IDEA project considers the United States' relationship to the international refugee crisis. What role should our country play in resettling refugees? What responsibilities do we have as a nation? What are the potential risks and rewards of refugee resettlement?

The Center tackles this subject in large part because of Idaho's commitment to welcoming a growing refugee population, particularly in Boise and Twin Falls, where multiple agencies and organizations work to help recent arrivals adjust to life in a new country. *This Land Is Whose Land?* uses a local perspective as the platform for a larger conversation about refugees within the national context. The project also considers how we determine who is welcomed in our neighborhoods, towns or country and who gets to decide.

Although the current news media focus is primarily on the Syrian refugee crisis, those seeking asylum come to the U.S. from all over the world. The nation's debate about how to address the refugee crisis is not a new one. The U.S. is a country composed largely of immigrants, all arriving in search of new

opportunities, many having fled conditions such as war, famine, or religious, ethnic or political persecution that made life in their home countries impossible. The state of Idaho began accepting refugees beginning in the 1970s and has seen more than 20,000 arrive over the last four decades.

While this BIG IDEA project is prompted by current conversation about refugees in the U.S., it explores the topic within the larger framework of this country's history as a place of resettlement. It also considers the history of the U.S. as a place of contested (and sometimes contentious) claims over land.

