

# International Artists Show the faces of Migrants

International Artist Show The Faces of Migrants Through Face to Face: Action. Healing. Solidarity from [Natalie Rodriguez](#) on [Vimeo](#).

On Thursday, July 25, 2013 artist [Favianna Rodriguez](#) and [CultureStrike](#) hosted [Face to Face: Action. Healing. Solidarity](#) in collaboration with [Ted Prize winning](#), photographer [JR](#) and his project [Inside Out](#) and [HUB Oakland](#). The goal of the project is to show the faces of migrants and their allies in “dignified ways.” Black and white poster-sized portraits were taken in a mobile photo booth, printed and put together to cover a large white wall at 2323 Broadway Ave. in Oakland, Calif.

Rodriguez is an internationally recognized artist who has become involved in the pro-reform debate on immigration at a [national level](#). She is also the [coordinator](#) of CultureStrike. According to Rodriguez, CultureStrike is a national organization that organizes “artist and musicians and filmmakers around migrant rights.”

Julio Salgado, CultureStrike network coordinator says that the event is meant to “put a face to the migrant and people of color community.”

Rodriguez says that the project is “about honoring our beauty and our resiliency as a community.” She says, “There’s many Trayvon Martin’s, there’s many Oscar Grants, and there’s also people

being deported every single day, over a thousand deportations a day.” Rodriguez explains the excitement about JR’s participation in the project and at the fact that “we’re able to really send a message to the entire country that black and Latino communities can come together.”

JR is a French artist who exhibits his black and white portraits around the world. His project [Inside Out](#) began in 2011. Portraits that are a part of the project have been exhibited in countries like Brazil, Mexico, Haiti, Italy, Thailand and Pakistan.

More than 10 volunteers helped with the project throughout the day. By approximately 2 p.m., more than 50 people had already participated by having their pictures taken. The wall on which the portraits were placed belongs to [HUB Oakland](#), which according to their website, is a “physical space where community leaders and social entrepreneurs can join together, cross pollinate, bloom and thrive.”

According to [The Pew Research Hispanic Center](#), there are currently an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. The Senate passed the immigration reform bill in June.

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An ongoing national and international controversial issue of interest is same-sex marriage. According to [ProCon.org](#), an

# Same -sex marriage : The Debate

independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, “gay marriage has been legalized in 12 US states” and the District of Columbia. A recent [Gallup Poll](#) shows that 53% of Americans believe that same-sex marriages should be legally recognized “with the same rights as traditional marriages.” Despite this increase in support, opponents continue to organize against same-sex marriage.

Opponents of same-sex marriage include organizations such as the [National Organization for Marriage](#), [ProtectMarriage.com](#), and the [Marriage Law Foundation](#). The arguments opposing same-sex marriage include those that state that marriage should be defined as “between a man and woman;” same-sex marriage “[denies] children their right to a mother and a father;” and that it “threatens religious freedom” by imposing beliefs on religions that do not believe in same-sex marriage. The [National Organization for Marriage’s](#) recent [Marriage March](#) in Washington DC in opposition to same-sex marriage gathered speakers of all walks of life, including religious leaders, political figures and [Doug Mainwaring](#), who is gay and opposes same-sex marriage.

Nation For Marriage (2013, March 26). Marriage March Washington DC. Retrieved March 27, 2013, from <http://youtu.be/xYcLY2tbftE>

Like opponents of same-sex marriage, supporters also come from different walks of life. Religious leaders, such as [Reverend Al Sharpton](#), a Baptist

Minister, support the [Human Rights Campaign](#)'s argument in favor of same-sex marriage by stating "all of us must fight for what's fair and what's right." Sharpton also states "as a Baptist minister I don't have the right to impose my beliefs on anyone else." [The American Academy of Pediatrics](#) is a supporter of same-sex marriage and full adoption "for all parents, regardless of their sexual orientation – as the best way to guarantee benefits and security for their children." Supporters of same-sex marriage argue that same-sex couples should be entitled to receive the [same benefits](#), such as Social Security, health insurance, pensions; that same sex marriages are entitled to. The trailer for the upcoming documentary [Bridegroom](#), which spurred from a previous [YouTube clip](#), tells the story of a man who was denied information and banned from his partner's funeral after his death despite the fact that the two had been together for years, purchased a home and owned a business.

L. Bridegroom (2013, April 4).  
Bridegroom Trailer #1. Retrieved  
March 27, 2013, from  
<http://youtu.be/uN1F49l8DDc>