

# THINKING ABOUT MIGRATION THROUGH LATINX ART



Sandy Rodriguez, *Jakelin Amei Rosmery Caal Maquin (age 7)*, from *You Will Not Be Forgotten*, 2019 (private collection)

## CHARLENE VILLASEÑOR BLACK JANUARY 30, 2023

**205 Freeman Auditorium**  
**Woldenberg Art Center**  
**Tulane University**  
**6pm**

The Phi Beta Kappa  
Society Visiting Scholar  
Program

Can art effect political change, and if so, how? Can it move us to action, empathy, and hope? I consider these questions as I investigate Chicax (Mexican American) artists' responses to global migration, in particular, Los Angeles artist Sandy Rodriguez (born 1975).

Her 2019 installation, *You Will Not Be Forgotten*, comprised of twenty works, was created with traditional Indigenous materials and techniques. Featuring an unusual series of portraits, it commemorates seven Central American child migrants who died in US

Customs and Border Protection during 2018 and 2019. I consider the portraits in the context of practices of memorialization, both contemporary and historical, secular and sacred. Why talk about art in the face of such heart-wrenching injustice?