

QUEENS MUSEUM

Corona Park, Flushing Meadows
New York

The Partnership Gallery
November 21 - December 31, 2015

Bordr

WE EXPLORE BORDERS

WHAT BORDER HAVE YOU CROSSED?

Exhibition that explores your own border crossings
Seminar on borders in space, mind, and time



THE BORDERS THEY CROSSED



Sherif Sadek

"Project Borders Queens" - 2012

Sherif Sadek of Queens, New York, travelled to Egypt with a borrowed camera. He was one of six Bordr project participants - all New Yorkers from five continents returning to their roots. The mission was to photograph and tell stories of borders crossed during their lives between multiple homes.

Sherifs' strongest crossing turned out not geographical, but emotional, it was when he met his wife, Claudia, then crossing into parenthood, and returning to Egypt after the revolution.

Stories of the project became a new media player and laid the ground for the Bordr app.

Project organized by the Bordr team for:
Queens Museum, Columbia University, and The New School



Aida Tomela

"Across African Borders" - 2010, 2014

Aida Tomela of Maputo, Mozambique, was one of eight cross border traders that borrowed cameras to document the life of Southern African cross border traders for a Bordr advocacy project.

Aidas' stories told of injustice and intimidation, but also of family warmth, the making of good grilled chicken, and the frustration of being unable to help those in need.

Stories from the project have travelled exhibitions in nine countries and are now turned into a live interactive database of African borders.

Project organized by the Bordr team for:
Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA, South Africa



Amanda Dahlin

"Borders of Dals Långed" - 2013

Amanda Dahlin of Dals Långed, Sweden, borrowed a camera to photograph the borders of her daily life in school. She was one of 62 pupils in a Bordr school project in arts and literature.

Amanda told the story of her crossing between the schoolyard and the forest where she used to play. Other pupils told of crossings between life and death, young and old, and love and hate.

Stories from the project were used for in-depth workshops, a digital platform, and a mutual public exhibition.

Project organized by the Bordr team for:
The Ekbags Middle School, Bengtsfors County, Steneby School of Craft and Design, Sweden



Said Mohamad Ali Hmada

"Stateless in Jordan" - 2012

Said Mohamad Ali Hmada of Jarash, Jordan, borrowed a camera to document life in the refugee camp where he lives. He was one of ten participants in an OSF/ Bordr research project on statelessness in the Middle East.

Said told stories of being stuck between systems, what life is like without papers, the power hierarchy of the camp, and how basket ball and the Quran becomes escapes from daily life.

Stories from the project were part of OSF research and published in magazines.

Project organized by the Bordr team for:
Open Society Foundation Justice Initiative, New York/Amman

THE BORDERS YOU CROSS

Centred around the stories of people like Sherif, Amanda, Aida, and Said - the exhibition show and tell their most important border stories - this exhibition also, and crucially, ask the exhibition visitors to tell their own stories!

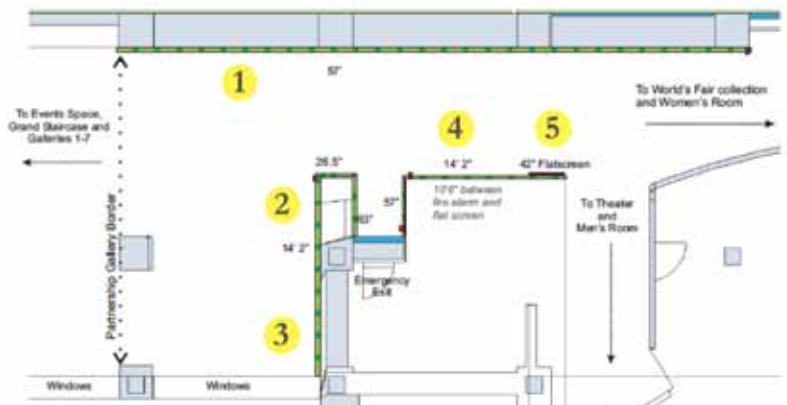
“What border have you crossed?” is part of a continuing, and developing Bordr exhibition series. It is a direct descendant of its Swedish predecessor “Project Borders Vision” at the Steneby School of Craft and Design in 2013.

The exhibition grows and changes constantly with input from its audience. No two visits will be the same, and it will ultimately say as much about Queens as about the visitors, the local-global world they live in, and the borders they care about. The options of input are much varied. Digital and analogue.

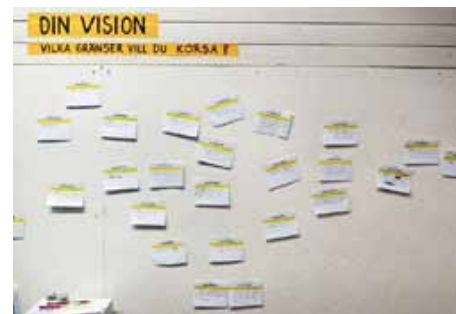
The design shown here is preliminary and will be ultimately decided when we work in the space. All the modules are, however, already in existence and tested.



1. On the main wall fifteen, 7’ tall, portraits of participants in Bordr-projects show one border photograph and one story each.



2. “Where do you come from”, “where are you going”, and “where/how/why do you cross the border” - interactive Bordr blackboard.



4. Bordr post-it notes ask about the borders you want to cross towards the future. The visionary borders of the audience.



3. A whiteboard world-map to draw new borders and countries to make your own world.



5. An iPad with the Bordr app, ask: “What border have you crossed” - “here- there” inputs are followed by experience questions. Live border pairings and visualizations shown on the data connected flat-screen TV.



OPENING and SEMINAR

November 21, 2015, Partnership Gallery
Preliminary program

10 - 10.45am

Official opening and Bordr presentation
- Live video link to simultaneous opening at the
Steneby School of Craft and Design, Sweden

12 noon - 2.30pm

Lunch Workshops

- Food borders, and the border foods of Queens
- Border art and the art of borders - whats your story?
Lunch served - and investigated

3 - 4.30pm

Seminar: Borders in place, mind, time

- Panelists from across the world, and Queens

Borders in place, mind, time

Five people with vastly different personal and professional stories are brought together. for the first time and connected through their border crossings. The seminar is structured around the core Bordr idea that our borders connect us, and it turns out these very different life stories are in fact surprisingly similar.

The list of panellists (still to be confirmed) includes:

- A prominent American Author
- A Swedish Furniture Designer
- A Greek/International Theatre Director
- A Cross Border Trader from Malawi
- A Queens New New Yorker

Moderator: Marcus Haraldsson, acting Exec Director, Bordr





Panorama view of the first Vision Exhibition at the Steneby School of Design and Craft, Sweden, in November and December 2013.

Partners for this exhibition and seminar:



QUEENS MUSEUM

STENEBY



CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWEDEN



VÄSTRA GÖTALANDSREGIONEN

Kultur i Väst

THE BROWN INSTITUTE FOR MEDIA INNOVATION

Columbia Journalism School 
Stanford | ENGINEERING

The Bordr Story

Bordr, an organization that explore borders, started in two ends: A digital artist was curious of the concept of “checking-in” *between* two places - and a political journalist was doing border-stories in China and Southern Africa.

In 2010 the two, Christo de Klerk and Marcus Haraldsson, met in New York and started working together. Their first collaboration “Project Borders Queens” with the *New New Yorkers* program of *Queens Museum* resulted in a border-story media player, and the Bordr iPhone app.

In 2013 a number of mutual exhibitions culminated with “Project Borders Vision” at the Steneby School of Craft and Design in Sweden. It was a fully interactive exhibition built to capture the border-stories of the visitors themselves.

“Project Borders Vision” became a conceptual milestone for the formalization of the Bordr organization, and larger scale projects across Europe, Southern Africa, and in the US.

Today Bordr consists of Chrissie Faniadis (chair of the board), and Erik Faxgård in Stockholm, Shriya Malhotra in New Dehli, Christo de Klerk (Secretary) in Seattle, and Marcus Haraldsson (acting Executive Director) in Steneby.

Read more on www.bordr.org



A slightly better world