

Organizer: Professor Susan Larson

**Description of the Use of the Miguel Brieva Materials for the exhibit "Welcome to the World"
Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas
Spring 2019**

Between the dates of January 26 and March, 2019, the traveling exhibit (images and accompanying translated text) created and curated by Palmar Álvarez and Spanish graphic artist Miguel Brieva found a home in a central and high-profile location on the Texas Tech University campus in Lubbock, Texas. Professor Susan Larson (Professor of Hispanic Studies) worked with curators Joe Arredondo and Scotty Henseler of the TTU Landmark Arts Gallery to create the "Welcome to the World" exhibit from January 26-March 3, 2019. This is the prime gallery space of the Texas Tech School of Art.

The nature of the exhibit was announced to faculty in Spanish and Portuguese as well as the School of Art three months in advance, and they were encouraged to work the images into their courses. Courses that integrated visits and writing assignments into their syllabi included the large Humanities requires course Hispanic Studies, Hispanic Civilization, Social Justice in the Hispanic World and a number of drawing classes in the school of art. The exhibit inspired a group of local (but international) art students to create a 'zine that responded to the artwork and was displayed as part of the exhibit.

The exhibit enjoyed an opening reception where some 150 faculty and students spent quality time with the images, and then the closing reception of the exhibit coincided with the keynote lecture of Professor Iñaki Prádanos-García (Miami University) "Post-Growth Imaginaries in Post-2008 Spain" where there was an equal number of people enjoying the artwork.

All in all, there were probably 500-600 people who came to the gallery to see the artwork itself, and a great number of people who passed through the space as part of their daily movements through the Art Building. I regret not having taken many pictures of the use of the space, but attach two of them here, one of students interacting with the images as they took notes for their writing assignments and the other of me working with the curators and student assistants making decisions about how to hang the images.

The images were hung with magnets after we determined that this would be the best way of protecting the images. Our Texas Tech curator Scotty Henseler was extremely worried about the damage that the paper that had been used to package the exhibit previously had done. He thought that the paper used was very acidic and had leached some of the color out of the images. When the exhibit was over, he took great care to provide plastic sleeves for each artwork that would not harm the sensitive ink and paper of the posters.

We greatly appreciated the opportunity to bring Texas Tech students into contact with the artwork and discuss the ideas they contained. Almost all of the students here are from families who have worked for generations in the cotton, beef and oil industries. They understand better

than anyone what the costs of the extraction economy are for everyday working people. Being able to connect these economic and ecological issues to the creation of propaganda used in the service of politics was a very powerful learning tool.

Thank you very much for sharing this treasure with us --
Susan Larson