

**NATIONAL
COALITION
AGAINST
CENSORSHIP**

**ARTS
ADVOCACY
PROGRAM**

June 26, 2019

Marci Glazer, Chief Executive Officer
Jewish Community Center of San Francisco
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San Francisco, CA 94118
Tel: 415.292.1200
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Dear Ms. Glazer,

As an organization dedicated to promoting free speech, including freedom of artistic expression, we were deeply concerned to learn that the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco (JCCSF) removed two works from *La Frontera: Artists Respond to the U.S.-Mexico Border Crisis*, the current exhibition at the Katz Snyder Gallery. We strongly urge you to restore these works to the exhibition.

The JCCSF's Chief Program Officer David Green asserts that these works depict violence against children and dead children, and hence are not appropriate for display in the center's gallery, which is accessible to children. However, given the exhibition's theme of immigration, detainment and asylum, and similar dark content of other works in the show, this seems an unlikely justification for their removal. Indeed, it is absurd to require an exhibition that explores issues of global turmoil, migration, borders and human rights to reduce its content to material that would not disturb a child.

Since JCCSF administrators reportedly rejected another work initially chosen to be in the show because it references the Gaza Strip, the removal of the works suggests that they were, in fact, excluded because they reference conflicts and displacement in Syria and the Middle East. Such viewpoint-based censorship is a blemish on an institution that prides itself on providing a platform for the discussion of complex issues.

We strongly urge the JCCSF to reverse its decision to censor these artworks, to instead support the choices made by its curator while upholding its responsibility to artists in the show and the center's mission: to bring people together to explore, connect and flourish in a changing world. We hope to receive your response by Tuesday, July 2.

With best regards,



Joy Garnett
Arts Advocacy Associate
National Coalition Against Censorship

**NCAC PARTICIPATING
ORGANIZATIONS**

Actors' Equity Association
AICA-USA
American Association of
School Administrators
American Association of
University Professors
American Association of
University Women
American Booksellers for Free Expression
American Civil Liberties Union
American Ethical Union
American Federation of Teachers
American Jewish Committee
American Library Association
American Literary Translators Association
American Orthopsychiatric Association
American Society of Journalists & Authors
Americans United for Separation of Church
& State
Association of American Publishers
Authors Guild
Catholics for Choice
Children's Literature Association
College Art Association
Comic Book Legal Defense Fund
The Creative Coalition
Directors Guild of America
The Dramatists Guild of America
Dramatists Legal Defense Fund
Educational Book & Media Association
First Amendment Lawyers Association
Free Speech Coalition
International Literacy Association
Lambda Legal
Modern Language Association
National Center for Science Education
National Communication Association
National Council for the Social Studies
National Council of the Churches
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Teachers of English
National Education Association
National Youth Rights Association
The NewsGuild-CWA
PEN America
People For the American Way
Planned Parenthood Federation
of America
Project Censored
SAG-AFTRA
Sexuality Information & Education Council
of the U.S.
Society of Children's Book Writers
& Illustrators
Student Press Law Center
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Democratic Intellectuals
Unitarian Universalist Association
United Church of Christ
Office of Communication
United Methodist Church,
United Methodist Communications
Women's American ORT
Woodhull Sexual Freedom Alliance
Writers Guild of America, East
Writers Guild of America, West

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