

LANA STEPHENS



In response to the human rights crisis along the American border, Lana Stephens has created a diptych aptly titled “Migrant Mother.” One might recall Dorothea Lange’s famous photograph by the same name which features a desperate mother looking out onto the destitute landscape as her children take refuge against her chest.

Lana’s work however features two figurative pencil drawings that face each other but are ostensibly separated. In one frame, an exhausted woman lies in bed, cradling the emptiness that was once occupied by her child’s body whilst in the other frame, her child cries out for her but is left alone to console himself.

This piece calls into question the inhumane policies and practices at U.S. border control facilities.

Lana Stephens is an emerging artist from Hampton Roads, VA. Lana has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions since she began exhibiting her work professionally in 2009. Professional accolades include being personally selected by senior curator, Joanne Moser, of the Smithsonian American Art Museum to have her work featured in the lecture “Why Draw,” delivered at Mary Washington University in the spring of 2011. Lana has been the recipient of three prestigious artist residencies including the Vermont Studio Center, Los Altos de Chavon, Dominican Republic and Nes Residency in Iceland. Lana teaches art professionally both at the secondary and college level. Lana earned her BA in 2006 and her MFA in 2009.

Migrant Mother I
Charcoal on mylar
diptych
50 x 40 cm