



PROTESTING TRUMP'S MUSLIM BAN THROUGH ART: AN IMMIGRATION LAWYER'S PERSPECTIVE

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There are many ways to protest Trump's travel ban, also known as the Muslim ban. Lawyers have successfully sued against the ban in the courts. People protested at airports in an unprecedented and spontaneous manner. Art can also be a powerful form of protest against the ban. The Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) has also joined the protests by [displayng works of artists from the banned countries](#) among other iconic works of art in its permanent collection. One has to go through the galleries housing the permanent collection to serendipitously come across the work of an artist from a banned country, which in the age of Trump, have also attained iconic status. Art is able to inspire the lawyer in protesting the ban. Trump's exclusion of an entire people from a banned country casts all of them as terrorists, including the artist. This is both legally wrong and morally shameful.

These are three of my favorites among the works of the artists from the banned countries at the MOMA. I have also included at the end the works of two artists from my own very modest art collection. I am happy to possess these works, which have always been beautiful, but resonate more powerfully today. They inspire me as I protest Trump's ban.



Charles Hossein Zenderoudi - born in Iran



Ibrahim el- Salahi - born in Sudan



Parviz Tanavoli - born in Iran

These are two works from my own collection, the first which I acquired in 1993

and the second in 2010.



Reza Derakshani - born in Iran



Mary Yahya - born in Iraq