

## Hostile Terrain 94 Exhibit at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas September-December 2021 at the Barrick Museum of Art

HT 94 is a participatory art project sponsored and organized by the [Undocumented Migration Project](#) (UMP), a non-profit research-art-education-media collective, directed by anthropologist [Jason De León](#).

In 1994 the United States Border Patrol formally implemented the immigration enforcement strategy known as “Prevention Through Deterrence.” This was a policy designed to discourage undocumented migrants from attempting to cross the U.S./Mexico border near urban ports of entry. Closing off these historically frequented crossing points would funnel individuals attempting to cross the border illegally through more remote and depopulated regions where the natural environment would act as a deterrent to movement. At least 3,200 people have died, largely from dehydration and hyperthermia, while attempting this journey through Arizona. Prevention through Deterrence is still the primary border enforcement strategy being used on the U.S./Mexico border today.

These installations will be a 16-20 foot long map of the Arizona/Mexico border with ~3200 hand written toe tags. These tags represent the recovered bodies of people who have died between 2000 and 2020 crossing the US/Mexico border through the Sonoran Desert. These tags are color coded (manila for identified bodies and orange for the approximately 1,000 unidentified) and will be filled out by teams of volunteers who will then publicly place them in the exact locations on the map where those individuals were found. These tags are synched to a large grid to ensure accurate placement of individual remains. Each map will come with introductory wall text explaining the project and also feature an augmented reality (AR) experience to accompany the map that can be accessed for free using a cell phone app.

The exhibit opens on September 24th

For additional information on events and the tag-filling sessions that will take place from September to October, Contact Dr. Iván Sandoval-Cervantes at [ivan.sandoval-cervantes@unlv.edu](mailto:ivan.sandoval-cervantes@unlv.edu)  
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