

***Border Crossing***

*Cruzando El Rio Bravo*

**Luis Jiménez**



**Location**

Exterior of MacKay Hall, South Lawn

**Materials**

Fiberglass with Urethan Finish

**Size**

127 x 34 x 50 inches

**Date**

1989

**About the Work of Art**

*Border Crossing*, a totem-like sculpture, is one of Luis Jiménez's signature works of art. The sculpture is of a man crossing the border carrying a woman on his shoulders. The woman holds a crying infant in her arms, sheltering the child. This sculpture commemorates the hundreds of thousands of immigrants who have travelled across the southwestern border from Mexico into the United States in search of a better life. It is a celebration of the immigrant and is dedicated to Jiménez's grandfather who crossed the border illegally with his grandmother, their son, and his father.

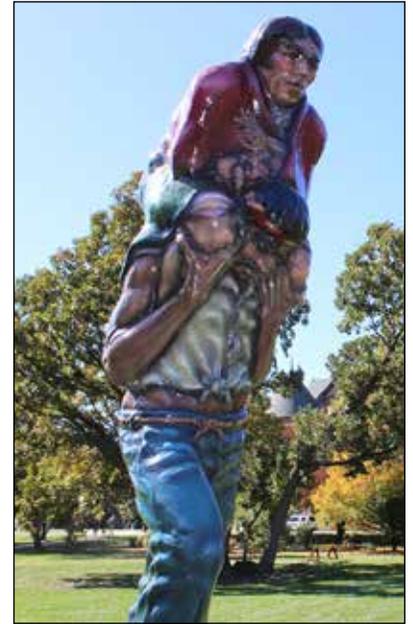
*Border Crossing* is typical of Jiménez's other works of art with its larger-than-life figures. These figures are depicted to give the feeling of movement towards a goal and a will to survive, while also apparently fixed in time, exposed and in peril. The sculpture is made of fiberglass, a medium which Jiménez preferred. Crafting in fiberglass allowed the illusion of a flawless finish and gives a look of mass production. The color is a jet aircraft acrylic urethane which is applied directly to the fiberglass. Once the sculpture is finished, an extraordinarily tactile surface is left, which is a hallmark of Jiménez's style.

*Border Crossing*, 1989 by Luis Jiménez (Latino American, 1940-2006). Fiberglass with urethane finish. Located on the south lawn outside MacKay Hall. Purchased by the College of Consumer and Family Sciences. In the Art on Campus Collection, University Museums, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. U2000.67

## About the Artist

Luis Jiménez was born in El Paso, Texas in 1940. After high school he attended the University of Texas, Austin and Cuidad Universitaria, Mexico City, Mexico. Upon completion of his studies he moved to New York City in 1966 where he assisted Seymour Lipton, an accomplished artist whose sculpture is also at Iowa State. Jiménez is known for his large polychrome fiberglass sculptures of Southwestern and Hispanic themes that captured the everyday person as a hero.

As an artist, Jiménez was fascinated with popular culture, relating his art to everyday experiences. The art produced by Jiménez is very personal and he established himself as a role model for people both inside and outside of the Latino community. Jiménez was named a Goodwill Ambassador by the City of Houston and was awarded the Governor's Award in New Mexico in 1993. In 1998 Jiménez became a Distinguished Alumni of the University of Texas for his influential art. He died in June 2006 at his studio in Hondo, New Mexico.



## About the Art on Campus Collection

Iowa State University is home to one of the largest campus public art collections in the United States. Over 2,500 works of public art, including many by significant regional, national and international artists, are located across campus in buildings, courtyards, open spaces and offices. In 1982, the University Museums created the Art on Campus Collection that codifies acquisition, education and care and conservation of the campus public art collection.

From its founding, Iowa State has recognized the value of integrating art with the educational experience. From early founder Peter Melendy and first President Adonijah Welch's vision for central campus to President Raymond Hughes' embrace of public art to President James Hilton's construction of the Iowa State Center as a hub for cultural spaces, the arts have remained an integral part of Iowa State.

## About University Museums

University Museums is a distinctive organization that encompasses two art museums (**Brunnier Art Museum** and **Christian Petersen Art Museum**), a National Historic Landmark historic home museum (**Farm House Museum**), a sculpture garden (**Anderson Sculpture Garden**), and one of the largest campus public art collections in the nation (**Art on Campus Collection**). University Museums brings world-class exhibitions with educational programming to Iowa State University, actively acquires works of art to add to the more than 30,000 permanent collection objects, conserves and preserves collections, conducts and publishes curatorial scholarship, and fosters student engagement.

University Museums, Iowa State University - 1805 Center Drive, 290 Scheman Bldg, Ames, IA 50011

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*This information sheet is intended to be used in addition to viewing the Art on Campus Collection.  
At no time should this sheet be used as a substitute for experiencing the art in person.*

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