Gabby Perez

Religious Studies

Bio:

Gabby Perez is a third year undergraduate student majoring in religious studies. Her interests include religion in America, religion and culture, liberation theology, and US Hispanic/Latino theology. Gabby plans to attend graduate school and continue the academic study of religion.

Abstract:

Following the work of David Morgan and Jeanette Rodriguez, this paper contrasts community engagement with two different works of art by two different artists. Although they are both interpretations of Our Lady of Guadalupe, both images garnered distinct reactions from their respective communities. In 1999, Alma Lopez’s *Our Lady* was officially installed in the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The work received negative feedback from the community. In 2011, the *Surfing Madonna*, by Mark Patterson, an Anglo artist, appeared illegally under a train overpass in Encinitas, California. The work was so well received that an environmental group called the Surfing Madonna Ocean Projects was established soon after. Both offer noncanonical interpretations of Our Lady of Guadalupe but one is created from an outsider’s perspective and the other from an insider’s perspective.