

Testimonials

“As the first public artwork ever to be installed on our skyway system, Nancy Ann Coyne’s *Speaking of Home* can demonstrate how public art can reshape and enhance the public’s experience of downtown while engaging audiences about important issues surrounding community and social-connectedness. The goals of empowering new Americans, supporting diversity and teaching tolerance are all critical to the long-term health of our city. To accomplish all of this while advancing design and innovation in the public domain makes this project a special one.”

-Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor of St. Paul, Minnesota.

“*Speaking of Home* is best if thought of as a place for pause and reflection in an otherwise chaotic world. I was drawn first to the content, the clarity of glance of the subjects, and the otherworldly quality of their lives. There are a series of heavy but open hearts here, bringing us home again, whatever time or place that may mean to each of us.”

-Jurors’ comments, 2009 Society for Environmental Design Award

“Nancy Ann Coyne used the skyway—ostensibly evident and omnipresent, though in fact, a hard-won site—to frame images and to magnify their meaning. It is the grand scale of this work, offering a total aesthetic experience, that makes it a powerful picture out in the world. Yet it is the artist’s creativity and restraint—to let the record of others speak for itself—that allows us to come to the work and make it our own story, too.”

-Mary Jane Jacob, Professor of Sculpture and Executive Director of Exhibitions at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Excerpt from forthcoming *Speaking of Home* catalog.

“The *Speaking of Home* project represents thoughtful public art with an agenda of social change and justice, envisioned through the particular lens of immigration, cultural diversity, and dynamically changing communities in urban environments.”

-Patricia Phillips, Arts Writer and Critic, Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Rhode Island School of Design

"The skyways of St. Paul will be the windows into the stories of immigrants, like myself, who now have made Minnesota their home away from home. Nancy Ann Coyne's *Speaking of Home* project, through the captivating images of diversity will show slices of time, places and perspectives that implant lasting curiosities in the minds of the viewers. I feel honored to participate, and have found the process to be inspiring which has given me a unique perspective—instantly engaging!"

-Jote Taddese, *Speaking of Home* participant

“The images and narratives presented through Nancy Ann Coyne’s *Speaking of Home* will give Minnesota immigrants an opportunity to share their stories, their thoughts and feelings about ‘home.’ new and old, and give audience members a new way to learn about—and maybe better understand—the complexity and richness of the newcomer community. More specifically, this project offers us a rich opportunity to learn about how art can help change attitudes among audience members about immigrants and immigration and, by extension, other complex community issues.”

-William Cleveland, Center for the Study of Art and Community and coordinator of project Field Study.