Setting the stage: Facts about El Salvador

1.) It is the smallest and the most densely populated country in Central America.

2.) El Salvador has had many flags throughout its history.
The blue stripes **symbolize** the ocean and the sky.
The white represents peace.
The gold represents beams of sunshine.

3.) The country's name comes from Spanish **colonizer conquistador** Pedro de Alvarado who named the province for Jesus Christ – *El Salvador* ("The Savior").

Can you locate El Salvador on a Map? →

One of the artists featured in Displaced is Guadalupe Maravilla.

Guadalupe Maravilla is an artist born and raised in El Salvador. When he was a child he was brought into America by a **coyote**. He is a **multi-disciplinary** artist who often makes fantastical sculptural **headdresses** that mimic and disfigure pre-Columbian attires, which serve as costumes in his performances and **rituals**.

A "coyote" is a **colloquial** term for someone who smuggles migrants across the border from Mexico into the US. "Coyote" is also a term used in the complex racial **caste hierarchy** of Spanish colonies in the Americas, and refers to someone born of an Indigenous person and a Mestizo/Mestiza (someone who is half Indigenous, half Spanish). In North American **mythology**, the coyote is known as a trickster animal. The "trickster" character is found in mythologies worldwide and represents a kind of "holy fool".

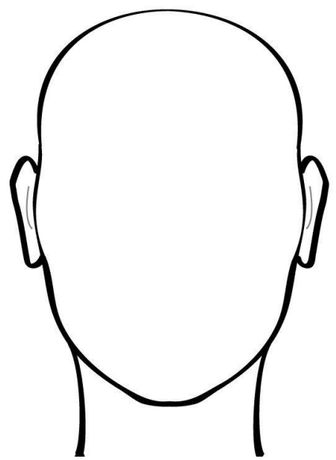
Vocabulary Definitions

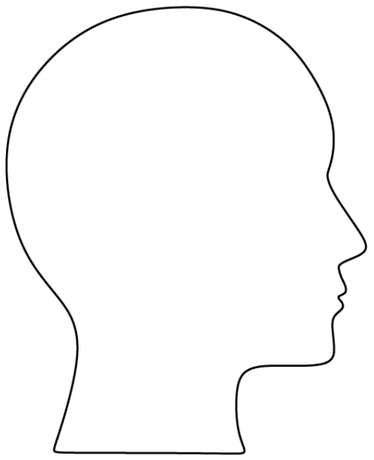
Guadalupe Maravilla
El Fantastico,
2010

Caste: A system of dividing society based on family history.
Colonizer: A country that sends settlers to a place and establishes political control over it.
Conquistador: A conqueror, especially one of the Spanish conquerors of Mexico and Peru in the 16th century.
Headdress: An ornamental covering or band for the head, especially one worn on ceremonial occasions
Multi-disciplinary: Combining or involving several academic disciplines or specializations in an approach to a topic or problem.
Ritual: a religious or solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a prescribed order.
Symbolize: To represent something with a shape, sign, mark, or character

Guadalupe Maravilla
Crossing Performance
US/Mexico Border, Ruidosa, Texas
2011

Design your own headdress or head gear:





DIY Time: Write about an experience you had, while traveling between two places, that did not go as expected.