

**Larger-than-Life Translucent Photographs Illuminate Immigrant Experiences
in Nancy Ann Coyne's *Speaking of Home***

***First Public Art Project in a Minneapolis Skyway Unveiled
as City Celebrates 150th Anniversary***

IDS – Macy's Skyway • Between 7th and 8th Streets, above Nicollet Mall
August 4 to October 31, 2008

Minneapolis, MN, August 4, 2008
– Fantastically enlarged snapshot portrait images of Twin Cities immigrants are part of a temporary public art installation this summer in Minneapolis. *Speaking of Home*, by Nancy Ann Coyne, will transform one of the city's iconic, glass-and-steel skyways into a 150-foot-long architectural light box that references the Twin Cities' greatly diverse population in an upscale and commercial downtown setting.



Each of the 10-by-13 foot windows in the IDS Center-Macy's skyway, as well as adjacent corridor and building windows, are filled with a single photograph showing immigrants on their own or with their families or friends. Accompanied by text culled from in-depth interviews, the installation presents biographical information about the 23 immigrants – their reasons for leaving their native countries, what they gave up or fled from, and the lives they have created in the Twin Cities. The installation also includes the words for "home" in 23 languages mounted overhead.

Speaking of Home shifts the perceived notion of immigrants from being in motion and often anonymous to "motionless and too big to ignore," while shoppers and onlookers pass through and underneath. Pedestrians on the street-level Nicollet Mall may look up to see 23 faces appearing to look out onto the city as a constant parade of skyway passersby intermingle with the still images installed on the bridge. Throughout the day and after dusk, the skyway appears as an architectural light box.

Although Minneapolis is home to 62 skyways and several exceptional visual arts institutions, none of its skyways has ever before been used for a major public art project. A variety of free public programs accompany *Speaking of Home*, organized by the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Minnesota. For more information, visit www.speakingofhome.org.

Speaking of Home is presented in partnership with Forecast Public Art, Family Housing Fund, and the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Minnesota. Assistance was provided by Intermedia Arts, CommonBond Communities, Minneapolis Downtown Council and The City of Minneapolis. Major supporters include the Knight Foundation, The McKnight Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation, Target Corporation, and Portland Color. Space was donated by IDS Center.

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