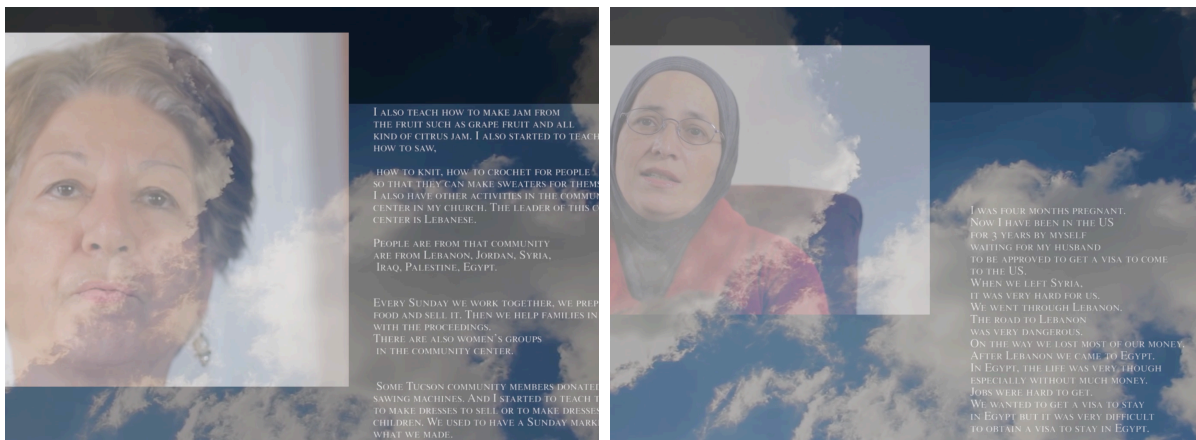




Özlem Ayse Özgür

UNDER THE SAME SKY



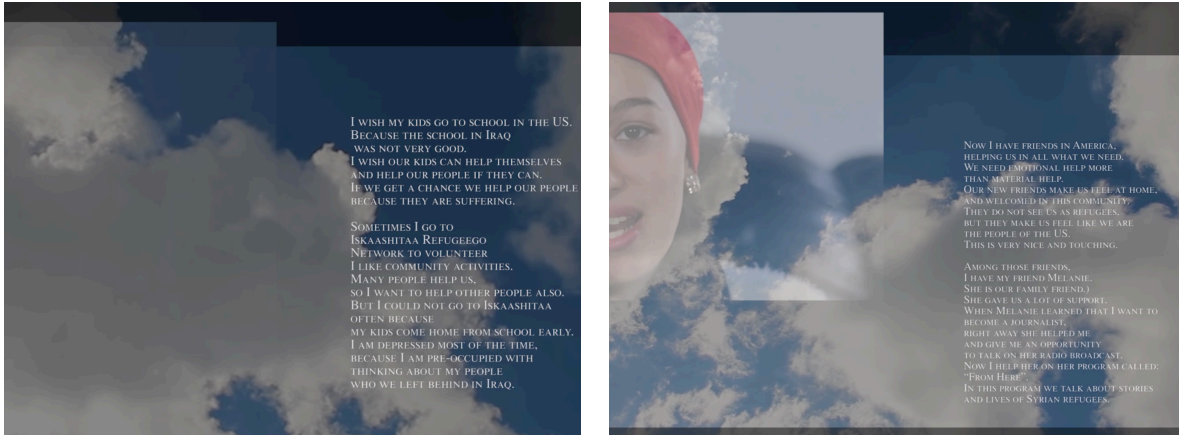
Stills from *Under the Same Sky* (2018)

Under the Same Sky is a video project compiled by Özlem Ayse Özgür. In this work, Özgür interviews six refugee women who all share their unique story under the same sky. Traci Quinn, Curator of Education at the University of New Mexico Art Museum, introduces this work by reflecting on the responsibility of institutions—such as art museums—to present, reflect, and share these narratives.

Traci Quinn on Özgür's *Under the Same Sky*:

I see and hear these stories during a time in which the heightened sense of fear and hate towards difference is palpable in this country. I listen to these women's truths and I wonder (as a museum worker) what is a museum's responsibility to correct such a cultural discourse and misstep? I see the museum and art as linguistic tools—where knowledge(s) are presented as a dialogue and an invitation to engage, translate, and shift contemporary culture. Recognizing the complexity of language as a translational and processual thing, I read these videos through

the lens of Phillips and Glass (2010)*, where translation (literal, cultural, or otherwise) moves beyond “making sense of,” in order to displace, de-, and re-contextualize meaning that is marked with agency.



Stills from *Under the Same Sky* (2018)

Özlem Ayşe Özgür is an Istanbul-born multimedia artist and filmmaker, based in Tucson, Arizona. Her work focuses on questions of justice and social and economic human rights. She makes art and documentary films exploring issues of homelessness, inequality, freedom and xenophobia. In political philosophy she has published on equality, distribution, and human rights. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, and was included among the Best Experimental Films of 2015 in venues including the Frozen Film Festival in San Francisco, and was invited for the Boston Biennial in 2016 and 2018. Her first documentary film “Home Is In The Heart” won a Best Shorts Competition Award in 2016. She recently completed her latest film, “Taste Bud Memories,” on refugees, foodways, and community in Tucson, which was screened at the Loft Cinema also in Tucson. She is currently in production with an international team on the feature documentary “Aşıklı Höyük,” about villagers' relations to an archaeological excavation in their midst in Turkey. Özlem is the creative director of Cool Genie Pictures film production company, which she founded in 2015. She works as a multimedia design specialist in the Marketing and Communications Department of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Arizona. Özlem has a MFA in film from the San Francisco Art Institute, an MA in philosophy from Stanford University, and a BA/BFA in philosophy and art from the University of Arizona. She has taught digital film editing, cinematography and post-production, as well as philosophy at Pima Community College. She is currently a doctoral student in the School of Geography and Development at the University of Arizona, studying Critical Human Geography. You can see her work at the [Cool Genie Pictures](#) website, as well as at her [personal website](#).

* Phillips, Ruth. & Aaron Glass. 2010. “Materiality and cultural translation: An interdisciplinary exploration.” Symposium: Material World: A Global Hub for Thinking about Things, Harvard University, May.