



Anh-Thuy Nguyen
in collaboration with **Craig Baron**

CITIZENSHIP PROJECT

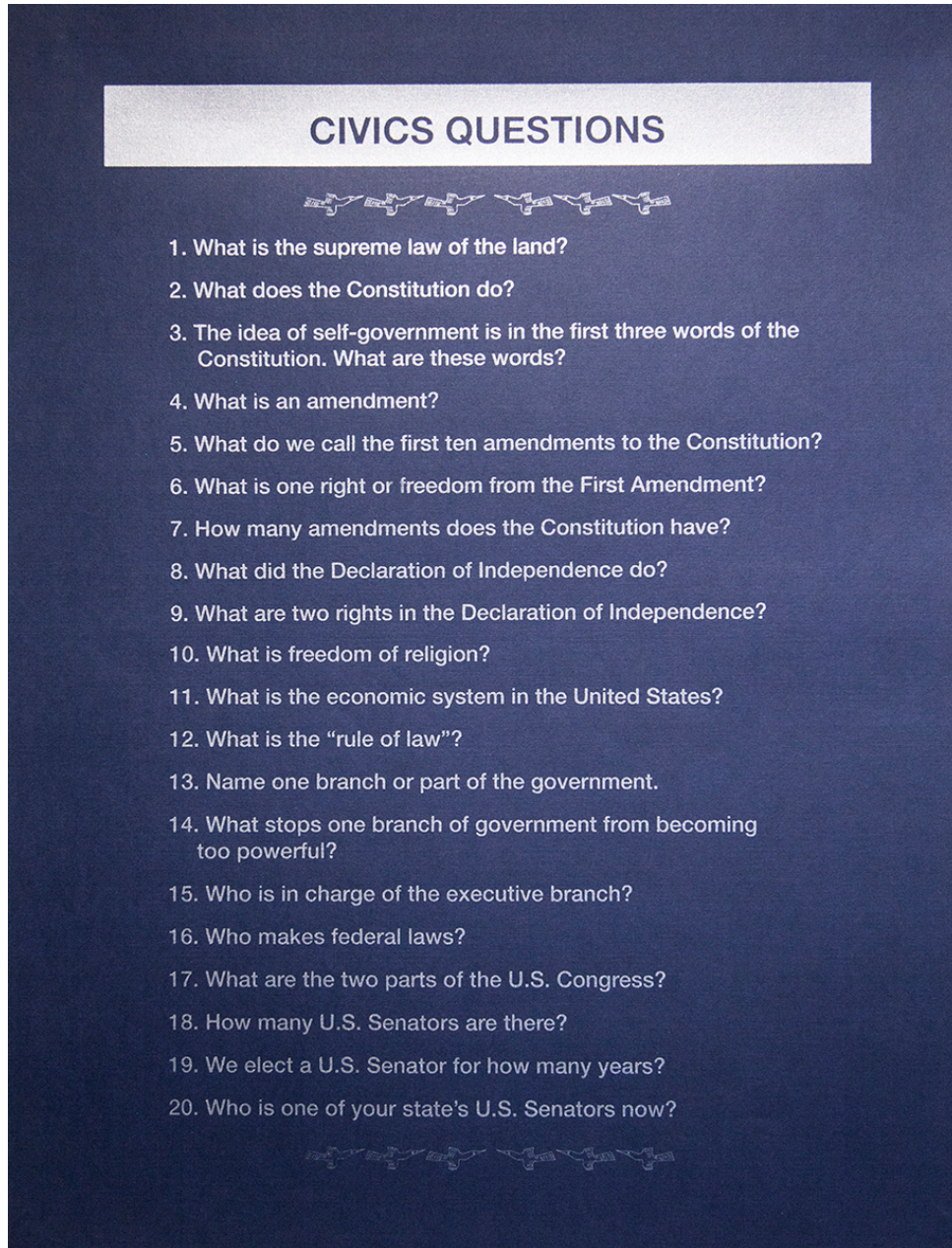
Citizenship Project, a personal interpretation of the American naturalization process, was conceptualized as Nguyen studied for her own citizenship exam. This interactive installation comprises multiple pieces: *Civics Questions* (serigraphs), *Homework* (three-channel HD video with sound), *ID Cards* (dye-sublimation prints), and office furniture, creating a single participatory work of art. *Citizenship Project* explores the following questions:

- Does memorizing answers for 100 questions help one to earn status as a US citizen?
- Does speaking English qualify one to gain full membership in America?
- Who will pass the test and who will fail it—US-born citizens or the immigrants?

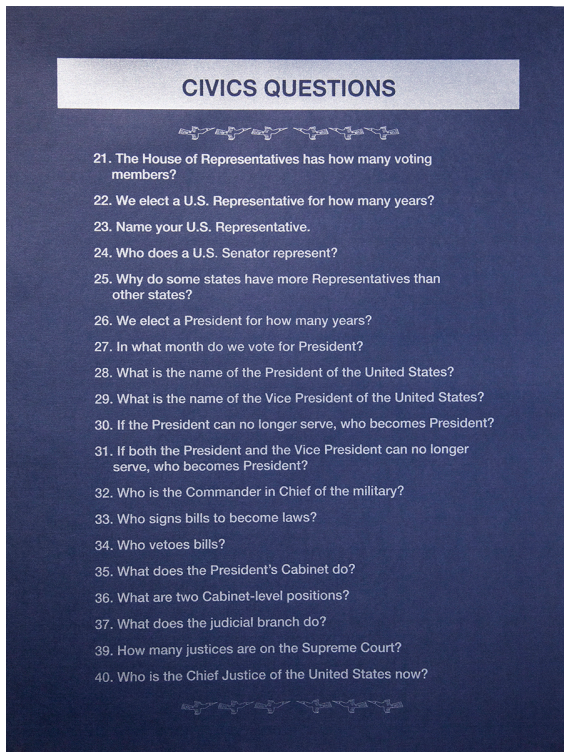


CITIZENSHIP PROJECT (performance and Installation): office table, chair, serigraphs, plastic, and dye-sublimation prints.

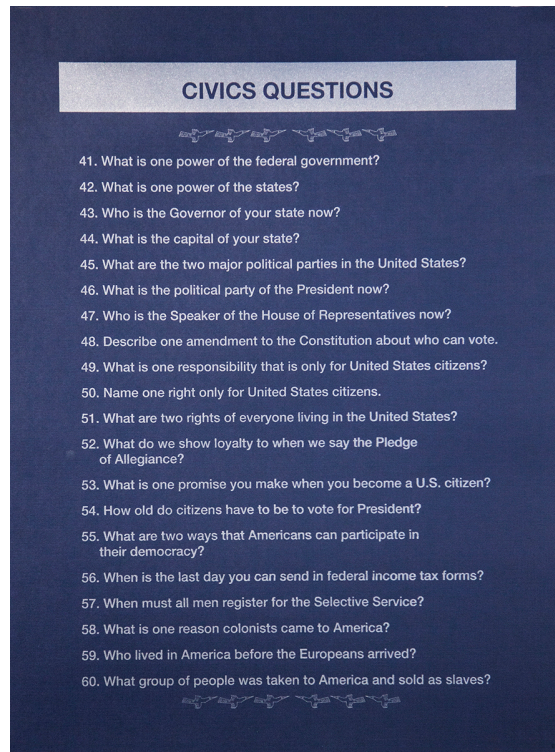
Performing as a mock USCIS officer, Nguyen (or a performer) requests each participant to have a full-face color image photographed before taking a civics test. Since language ability is one criterion one must meet to be eligible to become a US citizen, the participant must know how to speak and write in English. To pass, (s)he needs to answer 60% of the questions correctly. An ID card is given to the participant as a reward, stating his/her pass or fail status along with his/her photo and personal information.



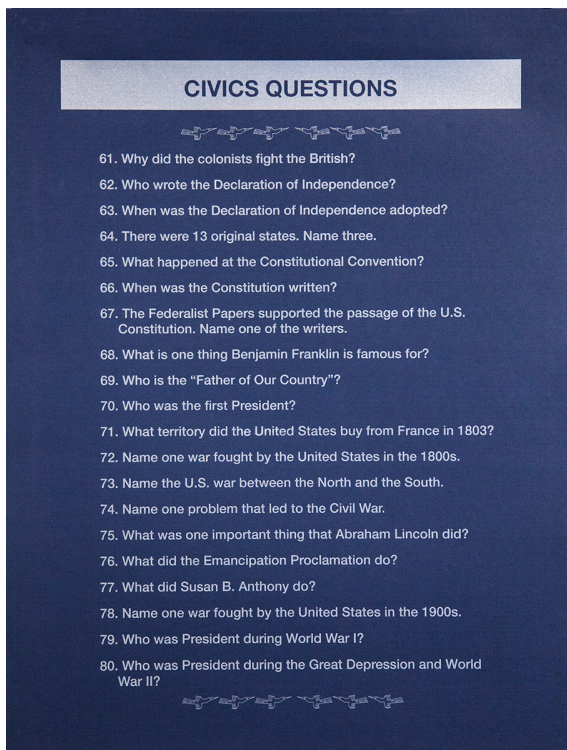
Details of *CIVICS QUESTIONS* 1–20 (serigraphs, 2016)



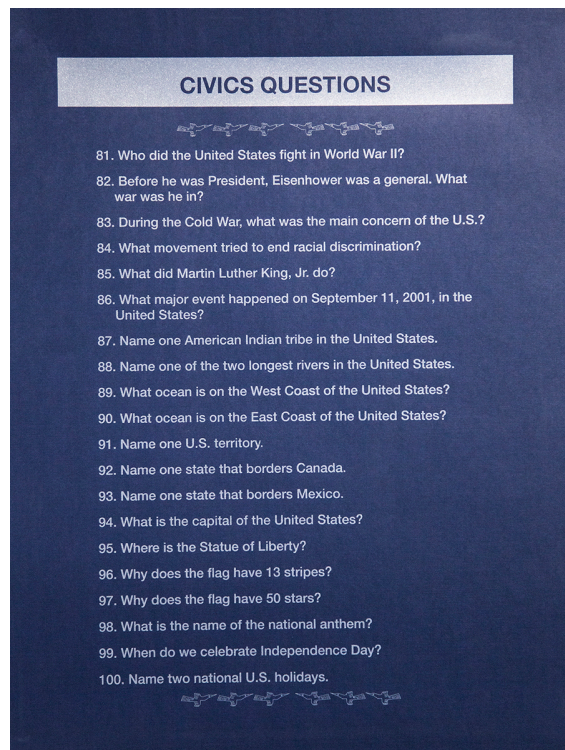
Details of *CIVICS QUESTIONS* 21–40 (serigraphs, 2016)



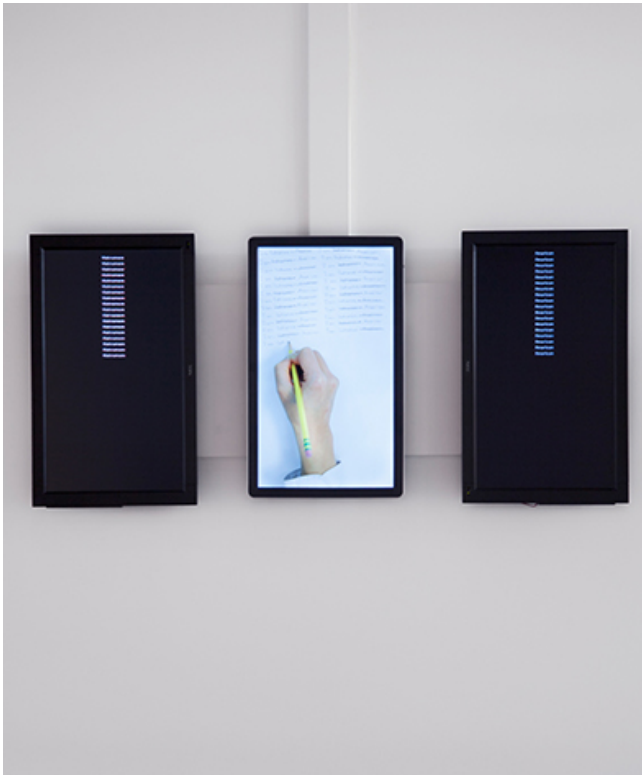
Details of *CIVICS QUESTIONS* 41–60 (serigraphs, 2016)



Details of *CIVICS QUESTIONS* 61–80 (serigraphs, 2016)



Details of *CIVICS QUESTIONS* 81–100 (serigraphs, 2016)



Installation view of *HOMEWORK*
(three-channel HD
video with sound)



Still from *HOMEWORK*

This project is an expansion of Nguyen’s artistic interests to include screen prints and graphic design alongside her primary approaches: photography, video, installation, and performance art. The three-separate-channel video piece *Homework* portrays a fight of identities Nguyen must embrace, which is not a winning nor a losing battle, but a constant search for a balance to define selfhood. *Citizenship Project’s* installation blurs the lines between art and life, when it resembles a workspace, where a series of five serigraphs serves as wall decorations, and a group of ID cards becomes a form of document. *Civics Questions* is a serigraph series of 100 questions that come from the United States Citizenship text, which is an oral exam where 10 questions are asked out of the 100 civics questions. In order to pass the civics portion of the naturalization text an applicant must answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly.



Details of *ID CARDS* (dye-sublimation prints)

Anh-Thuy Nguyen is a multi-media/transdisciplinary artist, whose work spans from photography and video to installation and performance art. Using her personal history as a resource, Nguyen’s work delves deeply into conflicting emotions, feelings, and thoughts, through the portrayal of often strikingly strange yet hauntingly beautiful visual manifestations of gain and loss. She received a BFA in Photography from the University of Arizona and a MFA in Photography/Video from Southern Methodist University. Nguyen has exhibited and taught photography, painting, linoleum, performance art, and concept-driven workshops nationally and internationally.