

THE WANDERING HOUSE (Northfield, summer and fall 2019)

The Wandering House features an ice-fishing house retrofitted as a mobile audio-recording studio. With support from partners throughout Northfield, Minnesota, I will invite community members to record their oral testimonies as they reflect on the significance of *home* and how current debates surrounding *immigration* affect this notion. *The Wandering House* will engage the community in the production of collective, mutual knowledge, while challenging the prevailing representations of rural people and immigrants alike.

Similar to the act of ice fishing, *The Wandering House* will search for the bounty that lies below the surface. Conceived as a space for personal reflection the house will offer the calm and privacy that people need to freely speak. Participants will enter the space alone and respond a series of questions presented to them in advance. They will not be asked to identify themselves, and if people prefer not to record their voice they will have the option to complete a written questionnaire and leave it in the house's mailbox. I will be outside the house to assist anyone who may have questions about the project and to make sure the technology works seamlessly. In addition to collecting oral testimonies I will capture the rhythms of the town in a series of long takes. This visual imagery will be loosely combined with the oral testimonies and presented to the community at a capstone event in late 2019. While the goals of the event include discussing the project's findings and collectively deciding how to best use, share, and learn from them, specific details of the event will be worked out as the gathering process unfolds and its contents are revealed.

As an immigrant woman of color who for the past twenty years has lived in the Midwest, I am interested in exploring notions of *home*, a multilayered concept in a constant state of flux as more people around the globe become displaced. I intend to pursue this investigation in collaboration with the Northfield community, my home for the last 8 years, in order to reclaim thoughtful interaction amongst immigrants and host communities, two groups that are continuously positioned as having little in common. By offering an inviting, non-judgmental space for people to express their thoughts on prickly subjects-- while featuring the community of Northfield both as producers and recipients of hard-earned knowledge-- *The Wandering House* holds the potential to contribute in crucial ways to a greater understanding among those of us who call Northfield home.



