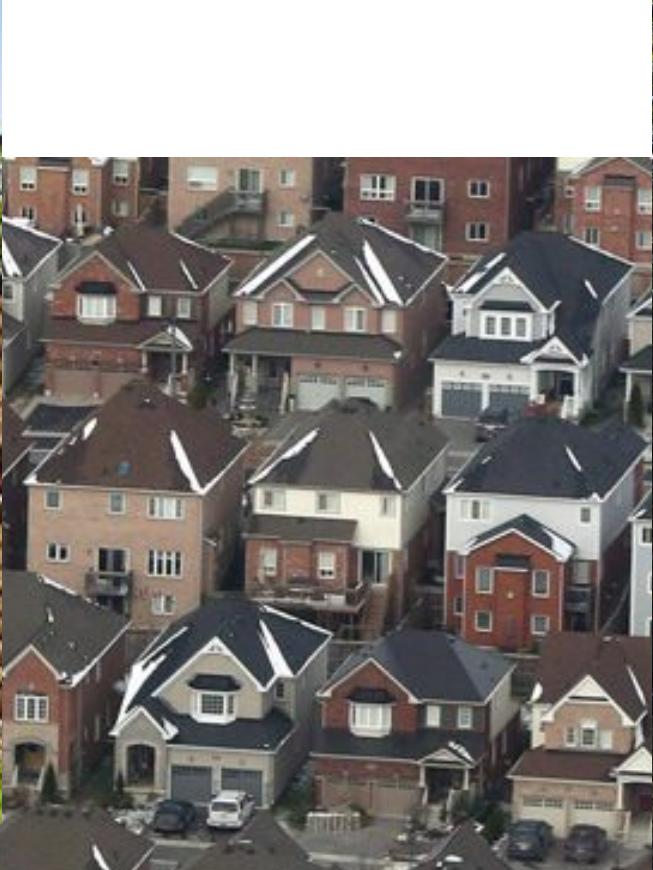




TIME - 2017
Jonathan Langberg



PLACE
Jonathan Langberg

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THEA 250

Michael Schweikhardt

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Mood Boards Explanation

While *Mojada* never explicitly says what year it is set in, it is presumed to be in modern day. For my mood board I looked into the year 2017, as that was a year that was full of turmoil for the immigrant population in America and falls into a range of time that fits all of the time setting aspects of *Mojada*. Most of the photos on the mood board reference protests related to some of the controversial policies enacted by President Trump. At the center of the board is a poster stating that “Immigrant Rights Are Human Rights,” which is not something that should need to be said, but it is in this time period. Another photograph shows children in ICE “containment centers.” At the end Medea makes her decisions out of her desire to keep Acan from ending up “in a cage in the desert somewhere.” This is another disgusting policy that predates Trump but needs to be stopped. No parents should have to be afraid of being separated from their children in this way, especially if they have not committed a violent crime. Other photos show various other protests happening that show the state of civil disrupt that the nation was in throughout the year. The picture of the American flag upside down outside of Trump Tower is from a protest about excessive costs incurred by the NYPD providing security for the first family, but it is a striking image to see outside of a president’s residence. The border wall is another photo that gives context to how difficult of a journey the main characters go on, just to be met with vitriol and hatred in the United States. All of this unrest and a growing dislike of

immigrants creates an important background to Medea's fear of leaving the house, and her fear of the people in New York.

The board for "place" shows mostly photographs of New York City with a focus on the quality of housing that most immigrants would live in. The central focus of the board is on a photograph of housing projects in Brooklyn, with small and similarly laid out houses packed together as tightly as physically possible. This reduces the sense of individuality and personal space most of the people who live there have. Two other pictures show low quality housing that is everywhere in the city. The one in the top left is the closest to what I imagine *Mojada* being set in, as it has a vacant lot behind it where the show would take place. Everything is overrun, showing the lack of care anybody has for it. Another photo is of the rental truck that was used in the 2017 truck terrorist attack in NYC. An immigrant man plowed that truck several blocks down a bike path, killing eight people and injuring eleven others. Following this tragedy there was a push by the government to crack down on immigrants and this led to further widespread xenophobia across the city. The photograph of the kids hanging out their laundry is obviously older than 2017, but it sets a precedent of what poverty in the city has been like for decades. If you are barely making rent, you can not afford a dryer, meaning tightly filled clotheslines were run everywhere they could find space. The last image is of a graffiti painting in New York, showing pride for cultural heritage and racial diversity. Even with all of the disorder in this time, immigrant and racial communities found ways to band together and create their own cultural centers. The graffiti shows strong African American women, which could also be inspiring to other minorities (such as Hispanics), that they can be strong too.