

When home won't let you stay

Mixed Media

BY LEY KILLEYA

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This painting takes as its title a line from the poem, *Home*, by Somali-British writer, Warsan Shire. It is part of a series exploring the often dangerous and dissociating journeys that refugees take, losing their homes, unwelcome in new places, desperate and vulnerable. The figures are depicted naked without heads, faces, identities, and exposed and vulnerable, to reflect the depths of their loss.

[Link to *Home*](#)



Unless the water is safer than the land

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A painting inspired by and with a title taken from Warsan Shire's poem, *Home*. This line has been quoted many times to try to explain why parents would risk their children's lives in perilous journeys across dangerous seas, but the dangers are too great to remain where they are. So many find a new home in the cold depths of the vast oceans.

Link to [Home](#)



Bodies breathing and unaccounted for

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Naked and faceless figures run, escaping from the dangers of home, and blindly searching for an unknown and strange destination. They run in formation, leading and following, regular and rule-breaking. Their breath is all they take with them, voicing their hope and crying their desperation.





a b o u t • a r t i s t

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Ley Killeya is a research project manager at the UNC School of Medicine. She received her Ph.D. in Social Developmental Psychology from Rutgers in New Jersey in 1998 and later completed a postdoc at Duke University. She has fifteen years of experience at Rutgers, UNC, and Duke University, managing health and psychology research projects. Ley has had art exhibitions throughout North Carolina and is an active member of several local arts organizations. Ley recently joined 5 Points Gallery in downtown Durham as a member artist: <https://www.5pointsgallery.com/ley-killeya/>.

Learn more about her work at: www.instagram.com/art_ley.