

DitM Stories_ Rubén Torres – 04 Forty-Three Students

Transcript of Audio from the Backstory

[Ditm Stories - Ruben Torres - 04 43 Students.mp3](#)

00:00:03

I worked in a series [on] the 43 students disappeared in [Ayotzinapa, Mexico](#). It was an event very traumatic for the community, the people in Mexico. 43 college students [had] disappeared [and] all the investigations points [to the likelihood] that the government had to do something with it, by corruption or covering up, and some drug cartels.

00:00:37 The thing is that I wanted to do something with that because always ... number... number...number “43.” And nobody talk[ed] about the humans, about them personally. My goal was to make it more human, [to] make the connection about [each and] every one, personally telling their story. So I research[ed] a lot their lives, their families, the hobbies they had. So, I did the series of the 43 portraits, the faces in just one color, in sepia.

00:01:15 Around their faces I put some basic drawings telling their story. [They are] very, very personalized paintings. I displayed them all in just one wall and there were three lines of 11 and one line of 10. So, I had space for one more and I was struggling to decide what to paint. And I thought to paint myself like one of them.

00:01:42 At the end I decided to do the same figure like one of them painted on a mirror but with no face, so they [spectator] can reflect themselves and probably understand better their situation.