MoMA’s Ingenious Anti-Trump, Pro-Muslim Art Protest

BY NICHOLAS FORREST | FEBRUARY 04, 2017

New York’s Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) has reconfigured its collection galleries in response to Donald Trump’s highly controversial executive order temporarily denying entry to the United States to citizens from seven predominantly Muslim countries. The museum has installed works by artists from some of the seven countries throughout its collection galleries, including works by Siah Armajani, Marcos Grigorian, Zaha Hadid, Tala Madani, Ibrahim el-Salahi, Shirana Shahbazi, Parviz Tanavoli, and Charles Hossein Zenderoudi.

One of the works is Zaha Hadid’s “The Peak Project, Hong Kong, China” (1991), which has been placed adjacent to Henri Rousseau’s "The Sleeping Gypsy” (1897). Hadid, who died in March 2016, was the first woman and the first Iraqi to receive the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2004.

Each of the works is identified by a wall plaque that reads: “This work is by an artist from a nation whose citizens are being denied entry into the United States, according to a presidential executive order issued on Jan. 27, 2017. This is one of several such artworks from the Museum’s collection installed throughout the fifth-floor galleries to affirm the ideals of welcome and freedom as vital to this Museum as they are to the United States.”