

Dear Festival Committee,

*Border* is my AFI second year 35mm visual essay project in the cinematography program. I'm a female Asian cinematographer from China.

As a first-generation immigrant, I came to the U.S. to pursue my Hollywood dream three years ago. My very traditional-thinking Chinese parents have been so concerned that once I travel back to China, I may never be able to return due to the unpredictable change of immigration policies. As a result, I never got to say goodbye to my grandma or attend her funeral when she passed away.

I am deeply scared and concerned about xenophobia and inequity judging from color and nationality. I have heard and read many stories regarding border-crossers' families that couldn't grieve because they don't know whether their loved ones are still alive due to the lack of data collection over the dead bodies because they are not U.S. citizens. I hope this film could strike attention among people regarding human equity regardless of nationality.

I'm looking forward to hearing back from you, it would be an honor to attend festival events and to have the opportunity to exchange thoughts with the audience and other filmmakers. Thank you.

Ino Yang Popper

AFI Cinematography Fellow