Borders — constructed and reinforced by nationality, race, and language — create barriers to belonging, meaning and empathy and call into being the Other — the refugee, the migrant, the illegal, the unwanted. In Konik’s monumental work, thirty-five women in Stockholm, Nantes, Istanbul, Bucharest, and Bialystok recount the life stories of thirty-five women from Afghanistan, Burma, Cameroon, the Congo, Chechnya, Ecuador, Ingushetia, Iraq, Kurdistan, Nigeria, Palestine, Romania, Somalia, Syria, and Turkey who have fled war, discrimination, or poverty to forge a new life. The voices and images in the videos confront us with critical questions: “Who counts as human? Whose lives count as lives? What makes a grievable life?” (Judith Butler, *Precarious Life*, 2004). Konik’s art probes the borders that separate individual lives.

(TEXT FRAGMENT BY PROF. JUDY FUDGE)