

# X and Y v. France: The Case for a Legal Precedent



Project author or developer:  
**Patrick Bernier + Olive Martin**

Where:  
**BE / Belgique / Anvers**

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How to legalize an immigrant's status making him part of a collective art work.

Despite all of what has been said, I am interested in a certain invisibility that someone's practice acquires as soon as it goes beyond the borders of the art world into other domains. A twist comes in precisely here, where art leaves its own field and becomes invisible as art, but visible as part of something else. Or art that retains all the potential of a magic object combined with rules of law, like in a case of Patrick Bernier and Olive Martin, who weaved their story masterfully in the voice of "undocumented" citizens to be deported so that their expulsion is halted. A gift of collective storytelling becomes a burden for prosecutors—they cannot deport someone that claims an authorship of a collectively authored work of art. A rather different thing happens when something starts as an art project and then becomes a reality of its own.

