

Artist Statement

Jeanne d’Arc Koffi

“Exodus” is a visual chronicle of the Bakomeyes, a resilient Congolese family of nine, recently resettled in Nashville, TN, from a refugee camp in Uganda. Over three days, with the support of a translator, I delved into their lives, capturing moments and stories that reflect their migration journey and experiences. This photo series serves a dual purpose – it is a testament to co-storytelling, witnessing the complexities of their narratives, and a fundraising document to support them financially as it was produced as a zine.

Through language and photographs, I aimed to bridge understanding and expand knowledge about the Bakomeye family and, by extension, the broader migrant experience. As someone with a migrant background, this project is a personal exploration and expression of shared humanity, seeking to foster empathy and connection. By sharing their stories, my intention is to create a space for understanding, solidarity, and support within the diverse Nashville community.