

RAEL SAN FRATELLO WITH COLECTIVO CHOPEKE

MEXICO

Teeter Totter Wall by architecture studio Rael San Fratello with Colectivo Chopeke went viral, and made global headlines in 2019, despite being installed for only 30 minutes. The project allowed children on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border to play together on the neon pink seesaws. In fact, each side needed the other in order to perform the act of seesawing. The work was part of an ongoing, decade-long research project lead by Fratello on the border wall. This particular part was intended to put the focus on the trade and labor relationships between the two countries, highlighting the fact that actions on both sides of the border directly affect the other, and viewing the boundary as a “site of severance.” He

adds, “Mexicans throng to the United States to find work, but often long to live comfortably in their own country,” Fratello states on his website and adds, “United States industry and agriculture are dependent upon immigrant labor pools, yet the Department of Homeland Security, Border Patrol, and Immigration and Naturalization Services have made it increasingly difficult to attract foreign labor. The *Teeter Totter Wall* demonstrates the delicate balances between the two nations.” Another reading of the work, triggered by the children playing, is a symbol of a future alliance, one in which the next generation acts and behaves with respect and a sense of community with each other rather than alienation and fear. (PR)

1–3
Teeter Totter Wall
2019, Intervention

