

# THE ONLY SMART MODEL

CHINA

BURMA

USA

SYRIA

TEL-AVIV

EGYPT



# ABOUT THE CHILLY SMART MODEL

## MYANMAR, ALSO KNOWN AS BURMA

The largest country in mainland Southeast Asia, bordered by Bangladesh, India, China, Laos, and Thailand.

*Burman* or *Bamar* refers to the majority ethnic group, which constitutes 68% of the country's population.

*Burmese* describes the language, citizenship, or country.

## A MASS EXILE

Between 1885 and 1937, Burma was colonized by England and administered as a province of India. The British government ruled primarily among the Burman population, and had less involvement in the affairs of the rural ethnic minority groups. This disproportionate control of power deepened the existing divisions between the Burman population and the minority groups, which include Karen, Chin, and, Rakhine, and a Burmese independence movement became active during World War II.

The Burmese independence party has more or less been in rule of the region since they first gained momentum in the 1960s. Having come to power during a 1962 civil war, the party has historically used brutal military force against insurgent groups and the general population of minority civilians. After decades of ongoing civil warfare, most ethnic nationalist armies made ceasefire deals with the party. Despite the wars having subsided since the 1990s, human

rights abuses continue in many areas of the country, and hundreds of thousands of people of all ethnicities have been forced to flee. In addition to the ethnic minorities, the party has historically targeted democracy activists, students, intellectuals, and politicians from all regions.

Due to all these years of heavily militarized rule, close to half a million Burmese people have fled their country of origin. Most refugees reside in neighboring or nearby countries, and approximately 98,000 live in the U.S; most of which being of Chin and Karen descent.

## BALTIMORE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE REFUGEE YOUTH PROJECT (RYP)

The RYP is a joint program by Baltimore City Community College and the International Rescue Committee. Since 2003, the RYP has been providing quality after-school programming for refugee youth pre-K through 12th grade in the Baltimore metropolitan area. The RYP is committed to its mission of creating a safe environment for refugee children to improve their literacy skills, enhance their knowledge of American culture, engage in enriching extracurricular activities, and grow to be confident, caring young people.

## NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Through a partnership between BCCC RYP and Press-Press, an interdisciplinary publishing initiative based out of

Baltimore, MD, during the 2014-2015 academic year, we have been hosting weekly poetry and art workshops with a group of middle and high school aged students from Burma. The dynamic nature of this afterschool program has enabled us to befriend and collaboratively work with nearly twenty students, whose ages vary along with the number of years, months or weeks, they have resided in Baltimore. Each week, we continue to learn the multitude of their experiences through their thoughtful poetry and visual art, much of which echoes their memories of exile and their current reality of assimilating into a new culture.

As three women who have experienced the process of migration; Leila, from Syria to Cleveland, OH; Layla, from Egypt to London to New Jersey; and Kimi, from Tel-Aviv to Pittsburgh, PA; we have all had personal experiences with the struggles of second language learning, cultural barriers and social conflict. These experiences motivated the initiation of this project and continue to inform the development of our relationships and engagement within the group. We invite you to share in our experience through this collection of works that explore significant personal moments. Thank you for picking up this copy of The Chilly Smart Model; we hope you enjoy!!

Kimi Hanauer, Leila Khoury & Layla Macrory

# THE BAD BANANAS (CONTRIBUTORS)

JOJO PAV HAN  
NANG MUAN CING KIM  
WUTYI CING LUN NEIPAW LEILA  
KIMI MELINDA LAYLA MINMIN

# MOMENTS OF OUR BALTIMORE

Sai turn to a BMW  
 Han turn to a BMW  
 Sai turn to a girl  
 Sai turn to a banana  
 Sai turn to a apple  
 Sai turn to a mango  
 Sai turn to a pineapple  
 Sai turn to a orange  
 Sai turn to a strawberry  
 Sai turn to a coconut  
 Sai turn to a Tomato  
 sai turn to a dragon fruit

sai taste like a bad banana  
 Sai taste like a bad apple  
 Sai taste like a bad mango  
 Sai taste like a bad pineapple  
 Sai taste like a bad orange  
 Sai taste like a bad strawberry  
 Sai taste like a bad coconut  
 Sai taste like a bad Tomato  
 Sai taste like a bad dragon fruit.

Sai smell like a stinky sock  
 Sai smell like a rotten egg  
 Sai smell stinky

# I pass through the pass.

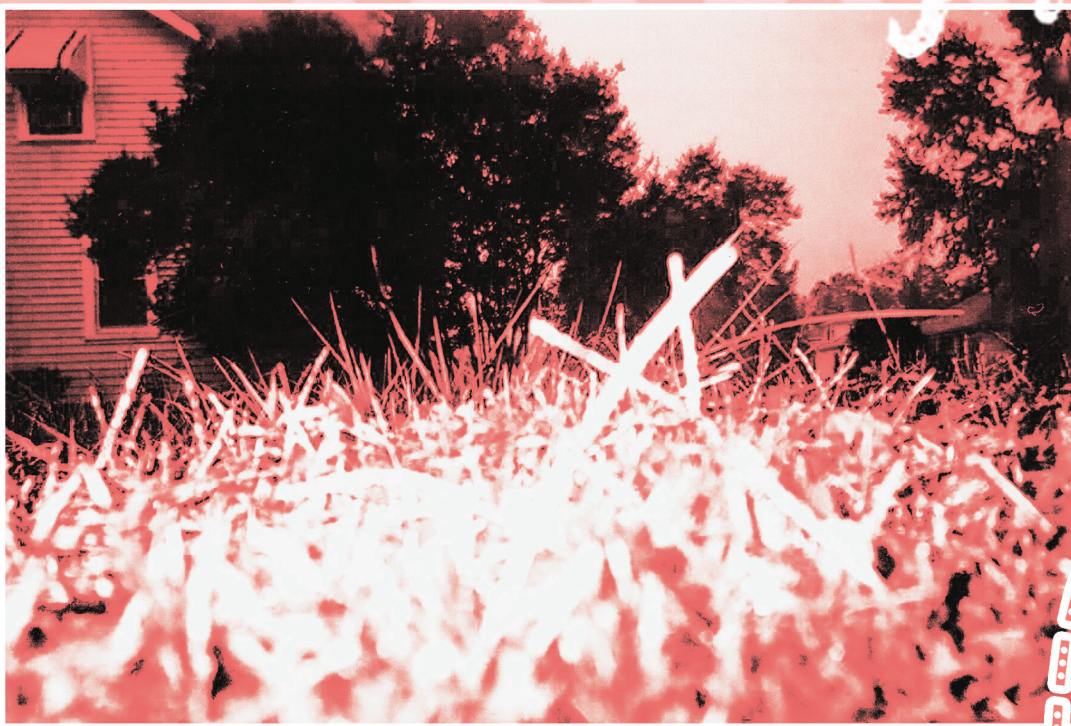


PHOTO BY PAU

I see people, buildings, habitats, school and company. Coming to here feel and taste fresh. I feel sad because I miss my friends, neighborhood, school. I heard more about talking and sound. Feel so sweet we I come here. Feel so sad because we have to leave country, friends and school. When I come here I learn that how important is my life and how I pass through the pass.



PHOTO BY MUAN

I see birds flying through the sky and makes me feel happy. When I hear American people talking it smell like a flower.

## MELINDA

a stinky sock  
 a rotten egg  
 a bad tomato

# THE CHILLY SMART MODEL



grandma has a beautiful  
It time to dance grandpa was de  
I saw something beautiful smile in  
All family are together in the party and  
Mom will be happy to be the

... dress.  
... with grandma.  
... my grandparent face.  
... really never go away.  
... heaven.



# MOMENTS OF OUR BALTIMORE

every thing is changes fast  
lose every thing and start  
to new life from the begeing  
In my mine I always going back  
to the past but my foot step are  
going fornt.

Deep down in my heart I alway  
say "all is will in jesus name".

food at home every day

I see my family,  
my brother, building. I taste  
to eat apple, orange. I feel  
very happy. I hear  
America people. I smell  
pizza. This was moment  
important Because I am  
happy. It change me and  
my family  
To good to my family

always going back to the past



PHOTO BY MELINDA

but my foot step are going



# MANG

1. I saw alot people at RYP.
2. I have tasted some protein.
3. I felt better than yesterday
4. I heard when we weren't obey at RYP that the teacher spoke loudly.

hear the news everyday.



PHOTO BY PAU

Today I see. I have lot of Homecake. I feel sadness when my girl friend break up with me. I smell chinese food at home everyday. I hear the news everyday.

Coming to Baltimore  
 I See Plane = Smell Gas and Baltimore taste like bad Banana and Baltimore feel like sad I hear American people talk, English animal

# MINNIN

fort.

THG



PHOTO BY MELINDA



PHOTO BY PAU

OHLY



SMART



PHOTO BY PAU

MODEL