

*We Defend, We Harvest, We Work!* and *Mexican Cook*, by Michele Ramirez

Art selection and comment by [Lil Copan](#) in the [May 11, 2016](#) issue



My ethic is inspired by the rural farming community to which I was born,” writes painter and printmaker Michele Ramirez, whose grandparents grew and harvested crops in California’s Central Valley. In her black-and-white linocuts, Ramirez details the lives of Mexican-American laborers, creating poignant freeze-frame moments. “Despite their critical role in our economy,” says Ramirez, these farmworkers “remain largely invisible—usually viewed from a speeding car as abstract figures grouped in fields.”