Breaking Barriers

As part of the annual Literary Mews Festival, Deutsches Haus at NYU will present a photography exhibition that kicks off on April 28. *La Frontera: Artists Along the US-Mexican Border* will feature the work of German, New York-based photographer Stefan Falke, who visited 180 painters, musicians, writers, and architects on both sides of the border to document the abundant cultural activities in a region that is usually portrayed by the international media as a site of violent crime. Because the high-security steel fence erected by the US government along most of the 2,000-mile-long border creates a psychological and physical barrier, Falke wanted to capture the culture and creativity of the separated communities. "Artists are the pulse of a society, and I believe if we ignore the cultural side of troubled spaces, we will soon stop caring altogether," he says.

In Texas, Falke visited cartoonist Cayetano Garza Jr. and painter Manual Miranda in his home studio.

In Juarez, Mexico, Falke photographed the young artist collective Jellyfish and Jose Antonio Galvan, a painter and pastor who runs a rescue mission.

Falke caught musician Siki Carpio in Tijuana and peace activist Raecheal Running with her self-made flag.