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A Whitney Museum Vice Chairman Owns a Manufacturer Supplying Tear Gas at the Border

Warren B. Kanders, a vice chairman at the Whitney Museum of American Art, purchased defense manufacturer "Safariland" in 2012 for \$124 million.

Jasmine Weber

November 27, 2018

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woven + bonel or disastrous = owners hip



A teargas canister manufactured by Safariland, discovered at the San Ysidro Land Port of Entry by immigration journalist Patrick Timmons (image courtesy of and by Patrick Timmons/@patrickwtimmons)

On Sunday, November 25, a calamitous scene ensued at the US-Mexico border between Tijuana and San Diego, when US border agents discharged tear gas on hundreds of Central American asylum seekers, including children, shutting down the border to prevent entry. As the migrants

marched toward the border, a blockade of Mexican police wearing riot gear attempted to thwart their crossing, before they were met with chemical weapons by United States Customs and Border Protection officers.

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website, is "Less lethal solutions." Safariland's site sells law enforcement and sporting equipment, including "riot gear," their mission statement boasting, "Together, We Save Lives." Safariland also offers a training academy for law enforcement, military, and similar professions. The Department of Homeland Security is included in their list of organizations applicable for training.

Donald Trump has adamantly defended the use of tear gas at the border, as reported by the *Military Times*. At a roundtable in Mississippi on November 26, Trump posited: "Why is a parent running up into an area where they know the tear gas is forming and it's going to be formed and they were running up with a child?" He also accused asylum-seeking women of being "grabbers," rather than mothers, saying they kidnap children to increase their chances of being offered asylum.

Hyperallergic has not yet received a response from Safariland or the Whitney in response to multiple inquiries.

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