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## Riding Through the Puddle

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## Riding Through the Puddle

By Carlos Castro

### Summary

*In his photographic work Carlos reveals the hidden beauty in the community of East Salinas through analog black and white images. His work is unique because he is photographing the streets of East Salinas as it has never been done before. Carlos wants to bring his viewers to wonder and ponder through his work. He wants the viewers to be puzzled and hopefully, to find their own perspectives. Carlos has transformed his work over the years. The maturity of his work is palpable as he is now more comfortable with the camera, manipulating the instrument to its fullest potential. Carlos is influenced by his community and those past experiences that shape him in to the young artist he is today.*

### 1. Field workers

Undocumented field workers are very hard working people that bust their butts off in the hot rays of the sun to provide food and shelter to their families. For President Trump to call these people criminals is a shame! They are here to provide a better future for their families, not take peoples' jobs. This photograph shows how strong and dedicated the field workers are despite the hard labor they do.

### 2. East Salinas

East Salinas often has a bad rep for being the youth murder capital of California, with so many homicides of teens. However, East Salinas is filled with talented young children with huge goals and dreams. The youth in East Salinas are the most warm-hearted kids you'll ever meet. Talk to them for a few minutes: you will realize they have goals just like another kid despite their living conditions. The youth of East Salinas are future community leaders, doctors, lawyers, artist, etc...

### About the artist

Carlos Rene Castro was born in El Progreso, Yoro Honduras, in 1998. He migrated to the United States at five years old with his parents to pursue the American Dream. Carlos and his family settled in what known as an agricultural town of Salinas, California. His family lived there for two years before moving across the nation to Coral Gables, Florida. While in Coral Gables, Carlos experienced the multicultural environment that South Florida has to offer. Due to financial issues, Carlos and his family decided to move back to Salinas.

Carlos graduated from Alisal High School in 2016 and is currently now a freshman at Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey, California. His plan is to transfer to a four-year university to study Fine Art. Carlos was first introduced to art a young age when his dad bought him a point and shoot camera for Christmas. He would photograph scenery in family trips

and capture the moments with his camera. Growing up in East Salinas, Carlos feared that one day he would be murdered due to the high rates of youth violence in Salinas. It was common for Carlos to read in the local newspaper that former classmates were killed. He was afraid that he would be another homicide added to the list. He used this fear to illustrate emotions in his photographs.

Carlos reveals the hidden beauty in the community of East Salinas through analog black and white photographs. His work is unique because he is photographing the streets of East Salinas

which has never been done before. Carlos wants to persuade his viewers to wonder and question his work. He wants the viewers to be puzzled about the work and hopefully, the viewer will find his/her own perspective of the work. Carlos has changed his work over the years by being more comfortable with the camera and manipulating the camera to its fullest potential. Carlos is influenced by his community and the past experiences that shape him to be the young man he is today. 



