

The Cooper Union  
for the Advancement of Science & Art



Benjamin Menschel Fellowship Exhibition

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The Great I Am  
The Advancement of Science & Art



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The Benjamin Menschel Fellowship Program to support creative inquiry was endowed by a grant given to The Cooper Union by the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation in 1994 to support work in the fields of art, architecture, design, and engineering. This generous grant was intended to provide funding to exceptional students who propose scholarly, independent projects that will in some way provide a culmination to their educational endeavors at The Cooper Union. It is the hope of the Goldsmith Foundation that students designated as Benjamin Menschel Fellows will be encouraged by their awards to complete bodies of artwork, develop scientific protocols, or otherwise further their intellectual investigations in a manner that will provide inspiration and illumination to the community as a whole.

Aubrey Franchell  
Patrick McElnea  
Jeremy Mores McWreath  
Claudio Nolasco

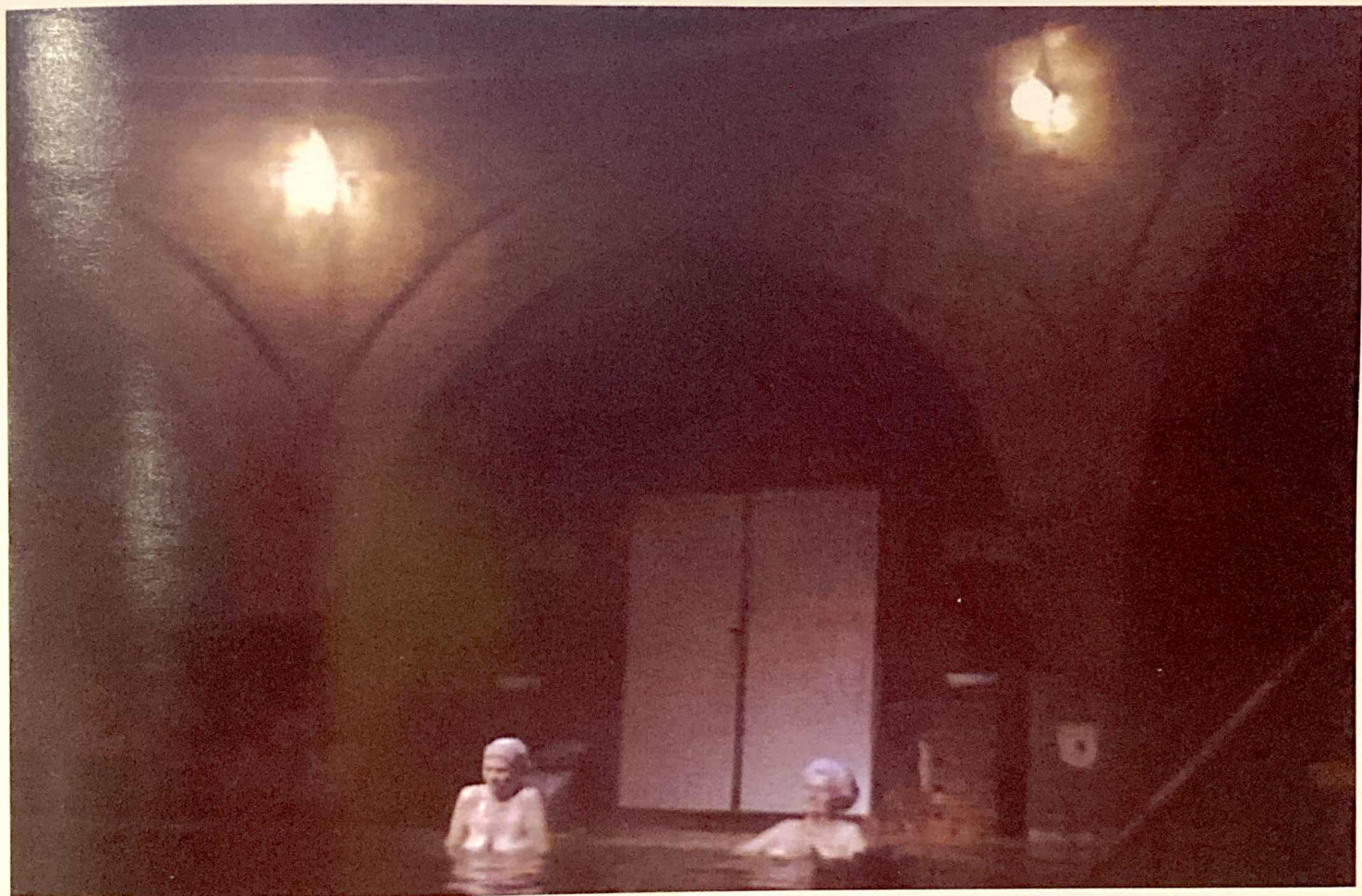
Benjamin Menschel Fellowship Exhibition

'03

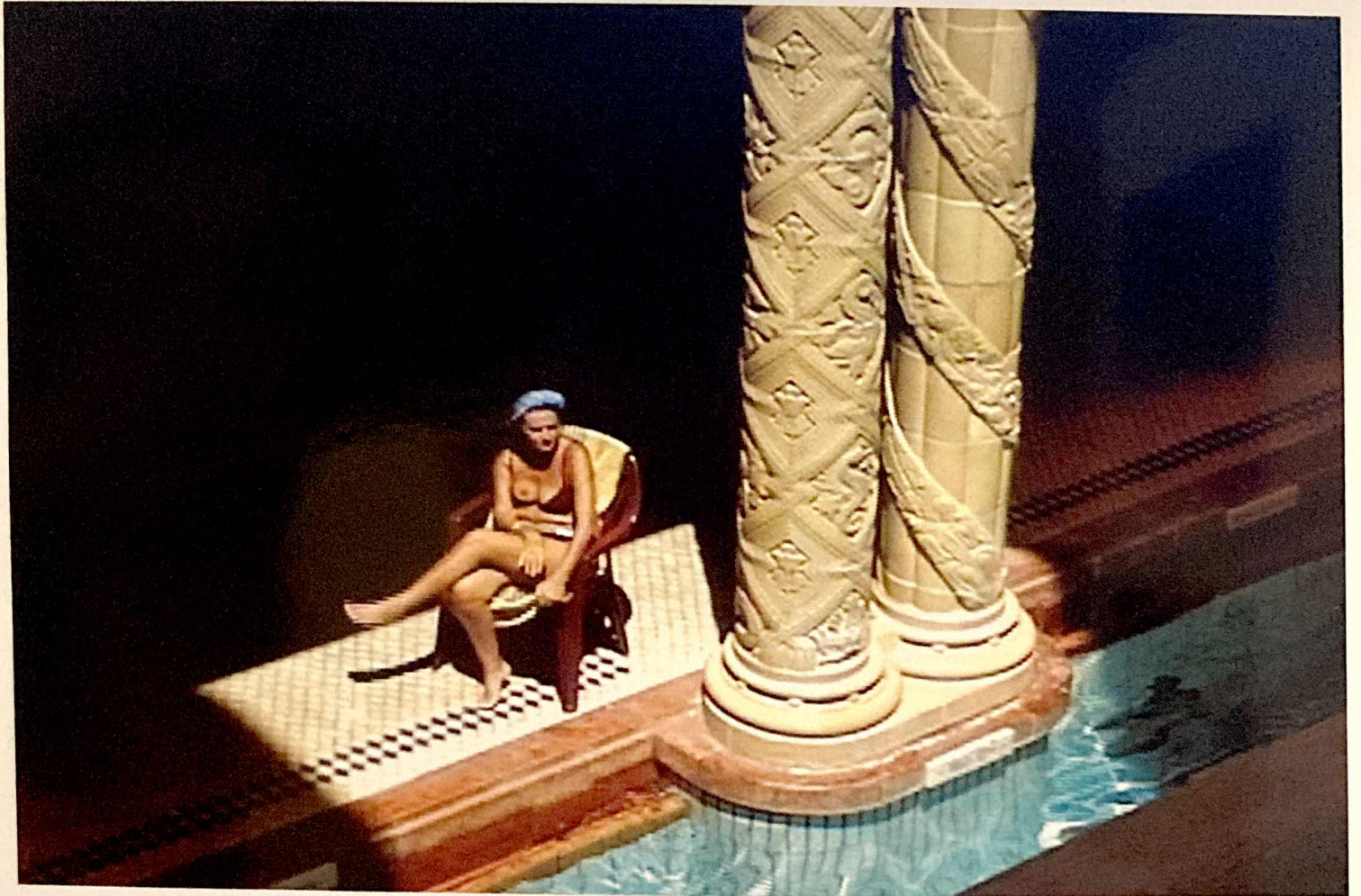
## Aubrey Franchell

My Menschel project was to investigate and to document the bath houses of Hungary as centers for ritualistic purification. I was interested both in their historic architecture as a testimony to the cultural exchanges in Hungary over time as well as in the act of bathing itself and its ability to induce altered states of awareness. Bathing in Hungary seems to have a dual nature: the internal experience of the individual and the external position of the bathhouse in the national panorama, or more simply, the personal versus the collective experience. I wanted to show both, the differences between the two as well as how they overlapped.

Images: Skinny girls with water-proof make-up performing their synchronized swimming routines, their toothpick legs peeking up out of the water in defiant, inorganic, pre-planned movements. Olympic water-polo matches, the pool swarming with men with insanely athletic builds, shimmering bodies rippling bronze muscle, slashing each other with amazing strength and violence, their heavy, inflated chests and massive shoulders tapering into tiny bottoms squeezed into even tinier Speedos. The mosque-like Turkish-style baths with domed ceilings that play with sounds: the steam, the running water, the snatches of voices blending and reverberating in the immense space. Ancient women rocking back and forth in the warm sulfur pool, moaning as the pain eases from their bodies, their tremendously wrinkled flesh swaying under the water, rhythmic and peculiar like the sea. Young men obsessed with their bodies and their positions in the world, day after day, coyly eyeing bikini-clad young women while scraping sweat off their bodies with a squeegee and discussing global politics. Old men, the most notorious habitués of the Eastern European bathhouse, gathered in circles around floating chess boards, chiding each other, laughing like kids, or still and silent for what seem like endless amounts of time, soaking up the unbearable heat like statues.



Aubrey Franchell



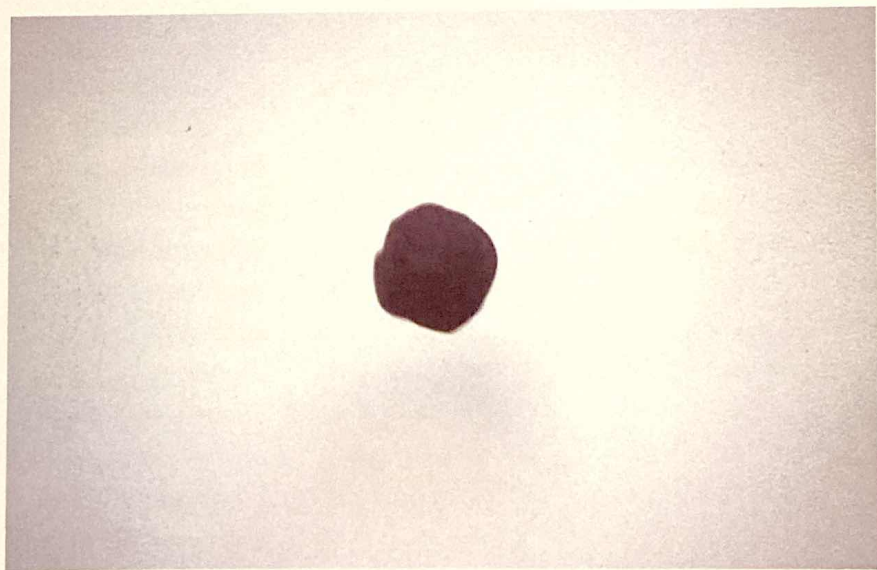
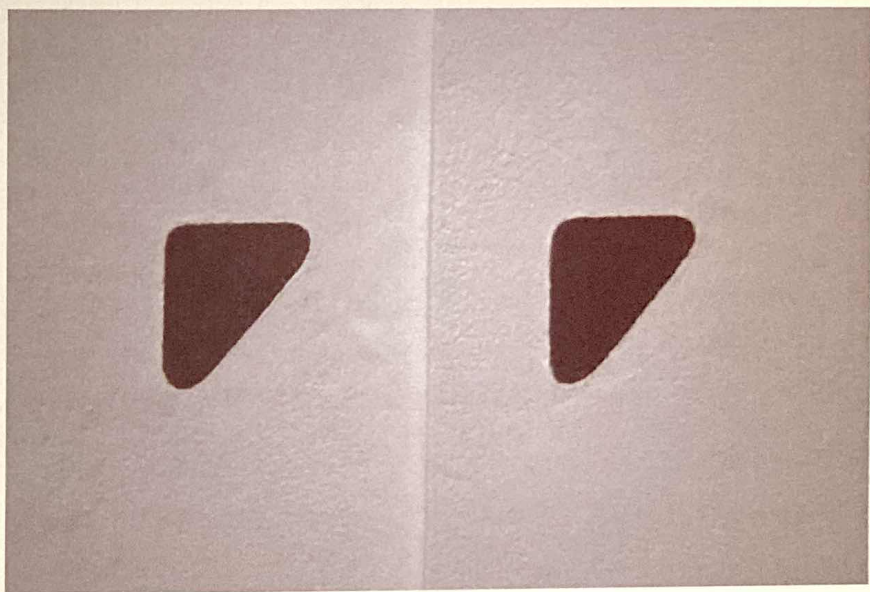


## Patrick McElnea

My installations are a direct response to experiences in Andalusia, Spain, where I had traveled on a Menschel Fellowship five months prior to the current exhibition. In such cities as Seville, Granada, Cordoba, and Malaga, I found myself meandering in amazement through palaces, mosques, and fortresses. At the end of each day I took asylum in my hostel for drawing. Gardens with a cyclical sense of space and chalky stone walls, rich in sun-stained color, taught me (a student accustomed to the interiors of New York City) anew about reflected light and its movement. The treks between cities culminated in an experience overlooking the town of Nerja. I stood facing a typically Mediterranean cluster of plaster white buildings, a simple collection of curves and angles, forever fluctuating with the changing colors of daylight. The light had taken their surfaces and put them through a transformation via yellows, oranges, reds, and finally a pale violet. Architectural surfaces, as with the lustrous glazes and worn paint of the Spanish Old Master paintings that I had observed weeks prior, became inconstant. In front of me were the most fundamental physical aspects of painting: surface and reflected light. The notion of a painting as a "real space" had already been explored by formalists in the '60s and '70s; I became consumed instead by the possibility of a painting as a happening in "real time."

As I continued to contemplate the scene before me, a simultaneous event further complicated my experience of it. Hundreds of sparrows began swooping, circling, and diving over my head, like a trapeze act in a circus. As it turns out, this happened each day at the same time for about an hour. It became clear to me that this performance in the sky was no different from what was taking place below. These two isolated events, the colored walls and the active sparrows, one painterly and the other sculptural, came to define my experience in Spain by forcing me to see the potential to conflate architecture and surface with incidence. They were the inspiration for the present projects, *Cut and Puncture Painting* and *Tennis Ball Hallway*, which were fabricated uniquely for the Houghton Gallery space.





Visual Dictionary 2003  
Mores McWreath

abandon abnormal	asteroid astronaut	button cabin cage
above absolute	attach attic audio	cake California calm
absorb accelerate	author authority	camera camouflage
accept accumulate	autumn avoid axe	cancel candy
ache across action	axis baby back	capitalism captain
addition adjacent	backpack bad bag	car card career carpet
admire adolescent	balance ball Band-	carry car wash
adult affluent	Aid banjo barefoot	cashier castle casual
Afghanistan	bark barn barrel	cat cave celebrate
afternoon aggression	bartender basket	cemetery center
aim air air-	battle beach bean	centipede chain
conditioning airplane	beard bed beetle bell	champion chant
alcohol align alligator	belly belt bend	chapter charge chase
alliance alone	beneath berry	check checkerboard
alphabet always	between Bible bicycle	chew cheer child
ambient ambivalence	bikini billboard bird	chimney chimpanzee
ammunition	birth biscuit black	chock chopstick
amphibious	eye blank blind block	church circle
amputate ancestor	blow blueberry blue	circulatory system
angle ankle	jeans boat body	circus clairvoyance
announce ant	bomb bone book	clap claw clear-cut
antenna antifreeze	border bottle bounce	cliff climb clone
antisocial aphasia	bowl box brain	cloud clutch coast
apocalypse apparel	branch break breath	cockroach cocoon
applause apple arbor	bridge broad	cohere coil collapse
arch archer	broadcast broken	collect coma
argument armpit	brush bubble bucket	combustion comfort
aroma arrow artery	bulldozer bump	comic book common
ascent ash asleep	bundle burrow burst	communicate
assemble asterisk	bush butter butterfly	compass compile

compress computer	dew diagram	euphoria Europe	gift give glad glide	incise incline
concept concert	dictionary die dig	even evil exercise	global gnash goatee	incorrect indent
condominium cone	dinosaur diptych	exhale exhaust	God godless good	independent indirect
confusion	director discharge	expand explore	gouge grab grain	individual industry
conglomerate	disconnect discover	explosion extend	grant grape grapple	infant infest
connection conscious	discuss disguise	external extract eye	grass grave greet grid	influence inhalator
consensus constant	disorient dispose	eyetooth face faint	grip ground grow	ink inline skate
consume contact	dissolve distance dive	fall familiar family	guard gulf gut gutter	insane inside instant
contrary convalesce	divide dizzy dog	fan fast fast-food fat	gyrate habit hack	instrument interact
converge cookie copy	domestic dominate	feast feather feel	hair half hall hand	intercept interior
coral core corner	donor door dot	fence ferry fetus	handcuff hang happy	interview intestine
corrugate costar	doughnut dove down	fibula field flight film	hard harmony hat	introvert invert
couch cough	drag dream dress	filter finger fire fish	haul Hawaii head	inward irradiate
countryside	drill drink drop dry	fist flag flagstone flat	heal heart heavy heel	irregular isolate itch
courtroom cove crack	duel dull dunce dunk	flavor flexible flip	height hello help	jagged jar jellyfish
cradle crawl credit	dynamite ear earring	float floor flower	here heterosexual	jerk jet jog joint
card creep crest cross	eat echo edge	flush fly foam follow	hide high hike hinge	juggle juice jump
crowd crown crutch	edutainment egg	fool foot forehead	hipbone history hit	jungle jury karate
cube cul-de-sac cup	egg-roll elbow	forever fork formula	hold home	kernel key kick
curl curve cut cyclops	electricity elephant	fossil foundation	homework	kidney kink knee
dachshund dairy	elevator ellipse	frame frantic	homosexual hood	kneel knock koala
dance dart dash day	embrace emerge	freedom freeze fresh	hook horn horse hot	label labyrinth lake
daze dead deaf decay	empty encase end	frighten frog froth	tub hour howl hug	lamp landscape lap
decline decrease	energy engine	fruit full funeral fur	human hump	laser late laugh
deep deflate	enlarge entangle	fuse future gaggle	hunger hydrate	laundry lay leak leap
dehydrate delirium	enter envy	gallop garage gargle	hysteria ice igloo	leave leg lemon
deliver dendrite dent	equilibrium	garlic gate gaze gear	image imagine	length letter lettuce
deodorant deplane	equivalent erase	genetic code genius	immortal impact	lever lick life lift
derail descend desk	erupt escape escort	geodesic dome	impede implant	lightning limb line
dessert detach devil	eternal etymology	Germany ghost giant	impotent inarticulate	linguistics lint liquid

Visual Dictionary 2003 continued

litter load lock locker	motion mouse	party past path patio
log loincloth look	mouth move muddy	pattern pause peak
loop lose low lull	mug murder muscle	peel peg pen pepper
lump ling lush	mushroom mute	percent perch period
machine mad	muzzle myopia nail	periphery permanent
magician magnet	naked name nausea	person perspective
magnify mail mall	navel neck	pet phallus phantom
mallet mandarin	neighborhood nest	phone photography
mandible mangle	net neurosurgery	piano pick pickle pie
maple marble	newspaper New York	pill pin pinch pipe
margin	night nipple nod	pitch place plane
marshmallow mascot	none noodle normal	plant pleasure
mask massive	north nose novel	plethora plow plug
material mattress	now nuke numb nut	pocket point poison
meal mean measure	obedient obese	polar pole
medium meet melt	oblong obstruct	polyethylene pool
memory meow	ocean offshore Ohio	pop portion portrait
merge metal	oil olive on one ooze	postpone posture
metamorphosis	open opposite oral	potato pound powder
meteor microphone	order orgasm	power precarious
microscope midriff	orthodox osmosis out	precipitation prefab
migraine military	outrage outside over	pregnant prejudice
milk mind minivan	overcast overhang	present press
minute mirror misfit	oversize owl ozone	pressure prey print
misogyny mitten	package paddle paint	printer private
moan moderate	palette palm pan	proceed process
module moist molt	panic paper	profile progress
monitor monorail	parachute parasite	projector propulsion
monument mop	parent Parkinson's	prostrate protractor
morning Morse code	disease part partial	provide provoke

prowl pull pump  
punch puncture  
pursue push push-up  
puzzle quack quake  
quarter queen quick  
quiet quote rack  
radar radio raft raise  
ramp ranch house  
rapid raspberry raw  
read real rear rebirth  
receive recipe recline  
record recover  
recumbent reduce  
reel refill regain  
regenerate regular  
reject relax release  
remain remote  
control remove  
representation  
reproduce reptile  
resonance respire  
rest retina retort  
return reverse  
revolve rhythm  
ribbon right ring  
road roar robot rock  
rod roll roof room  
rope round row rub  
ruler rumble run  
rupture sack saddle

safety pin sailboat  
salt salute sand  
satellite satisfaction  
sauce saw scab scan  
scarf school scissors  
scowl scratch screw  
scribble scrub seam  
seat secondhand  
smoke section see  
self self-conscious  
self-propelled sell  
semen sense  
sentence separate  
serve settle shade  
shaft shake sharp  
shave shell shine  
ship shoe short  
shoulder shower  
shut shuttle side sign  
signature silent sing  
sink siren sit skip  
skirt sky slant sleep  
sleeve slide slug  
smell smoke snake  
snap snow soap  
sober soda soil solar  
somber song sound  
soup south space  
spaghetti sparkle  
spasm speech spike

spin spiral spit  
splash split spur  
square squash  
squeeze squid  
stagger stamp stand  
star starve steady  
steam step stereo  
stick stink stir stitch  
stone stop straight  
strength stretch  
strike string strong  
struggle stump  
stutter substructure  
subtract suck suffer  
suicide sun  
sunflower sunken  
superior support surf  
surgery swarm sweat  
sweep swing swirl  
stitch symmetry  
syringe table tack tail  
talk tandem tap  
tarantula taste taxi  
tea tear telescope  
television tent  
terminal textile thank  
then thick think  
thirst throat throne  
throw tide tight time  
toast toe together

tomato tongue top  
torch tornado touch  
tower track trail  
trance transcend  
transfer trap trash  
tree triangle trigger  
tripod trophy truck  
trunk tub tuck  
turban turn turnip  
turtle twist typewriter  
tyrant udder  
umbilical cord  
unbalanced unclasp  
unconscious under  
underarm  
underground  
undersea undertow  
underwear undress  
unfold unheard  
uniform United  
States unknown  
unpack unrest unzip  
up uphill upright  
upstairs uterus  
vacant vacuum valley  
vampire vasectomy  
vault vegetable vent  
Vermont version  
vertical vest vibrate  
video view violence

vision vocal voice  
volcano vortex wait  
walk wall warehouse  
warmth warp wash  
water wave web west  
wet wheel whip whirl  
whisk whisper wick  
wide wiggle wimp  
wind window wing  
wink wither wobble  
womb wood word  
world worm wound  
wrist write x-ray yank  
yarn yawn yell yolk  
young yo-yo zero  
zigzag zipper zombie  
zoom

## Claudio Nolasco

In the 1980's most of my family, including myself, emigrated to the United States from the Dominican Republic. However, some members of our extended family decided to stay in our native Province of Higüey, Santo Domingo, in order to try to reap the benefits of the changing social and economic environment. My Menschel project is a kind of photographic documentary of that part of the family that has remained in the Dominican Republic. It is a presentation of their lives and their lifestyles, of their surroundings, their personal spaces and the larger landscape in which they carry on their lives, in other words, their everyday. The images record my experiences in the short period of time over the summer that I spent in Higüey and points in between. They are part of an ongoing process of placing myself within a cultural context and breaking down personal misconceptions and assumptions created by second-hand accounts and the distortions of distance, time, and nostalgia.

The series is dedicated to my grandmothers, one of whom passed away shortly before I returned, may she rest in peace, and the other, still holding on. Their strength and passion shaped the family and in turn has shaped me. I thank them and keep them always in my heart.





# Cooper Collection

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