

Lars Howlett findlars@gmail.com 415.810-4906 www.findlars.com based in San Francisco

Visual Artist and Photography Teacher

with a focus on fine art and documentary photography

+ San Francisco - Maine - Chile +

Lars Howlett is a visual artist based in San Francisco with over ten years of experience working on long-term professional and personal projects in photography. In 2006 he began an on-going documentary study focused on immigration, first traveling to the U.S. / Mexico border as a teacher during a one week immersion at a refuge for migrants in Tijuana. Along with making portraits of the men (many recently deported), he photographed the walls and fences separating the two countries and aspects of daily life in neighborhoods 'por la frontera.' He has returned to the Tijuana three additional times, most recently to document a historical encampment of artists and activists on both sides of the wall in Calexico and Mexicali. Lars has also documented protests and community meetings promoting immigrant rights in the San Francisco Bay Area as well as day laborers waiting for work on the streets of the Mission District.

Continuing to work on the project both locally and at the border, Lars has exhibited selections from the series at a forum on day labor at San Francisco State University, at the Mission Cultural Center, as part of a commissioned altar for Dia de los Muertos in San Francisco, and on the border wall itself in the Fall of 2007. Lars has also undertaken three other major photographic expeditions, the first to Patagonia (southern Chile and Argentina) hitch-hiking and backpacking remote wilderness areas with the intent of viewing the first sunrise of the new millennium as far-removed from civilization as possible. In 2003 he traveled to Cameroon to work in conjunction with a documentary film detailing the life of the last living master of a tribal instrument from the rainforest, the mvet. Last October he traveled to southwestern Bolivia, completing an off-road circuit through the lagunas altiplanicas, Salar de Uyuni and the Atacama Desert.

Lars is represented as an editorial and stock photographer through the Aurora photo agency and has been published nationally and internationally in publications such as Outside Magazine and Newsweek International, among others. He graduated from Northwestern University with a B.S. in Communications with a concentration in Fine Art. He has furthered his studies at the Corcoran School of Art, the Maine College of Art, and the San Francisco Art Institute. From 2004 – 2007 he was a high school photography teacher with a traditional black and white darkroom at Sacred Heart Preparatory in Atherton, California. There he was awarded a curriculum development grant in which he created an advanced photography course culminating in a student project on immigration and a week-long photographic workshop for teenagers at the border. The project was featured in the San Jose Mercury News as well as Sojourners Magazine and was presented in two well-received exhibitions.

A recognized and award-winning photographer, Lars has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in Washington, D.C., Maine, San Francisco, and Chile, his visual art displayed and cherished in collections nationally and internationally.