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James Gonzalez: Exploiting ground Web Posted: 08/06/2009 12:00 CDT

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Since he first began taking pictures in the seventh grade, photography has always been a very private experience for San Antonio native James Gonzalez.

"I never took pictures for a reason or because someone told me to take them. When I started I took them as little pieces of art," he said. "I could draw and I had some artistic talent but I always thought of photography as art and an easier way to create art."

Gonzalez, 54, will be displaying 15 photographs in his first exhibit, "Pictures Without a Story," as part of FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA, an international photography festival highlighting photographic artists and enthusiasts from around the world. The exhibit features different photographs of the road and pavement taken at various angles.

"I walk around and I look down at the ground and everything just sort of becomes an art piece. I think I'm really exploiting the ground more than any photographer I've seen. I'm just trying to show that sometimes it's overlooked," he said.

The exhibit, on display Aug. 14-Nov. 24, marks a milestone for Gonzalez because he has never put his photography out for other people to see.

"This exhibit means a lot. I've been doing this kind of photography for a very long time but I'm very unsure about what people think about what I'm doing. Even though I like it, I'm still unsure," he said.

Gonzalez says he is honored that Michael Mehl, director of FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA, not only selected him to be a signature event in the festival but is also the curator of his exhibit. He feels this opportunity will lead him to more exhibits and give him the confidence to continue putting his photography out on display.

He says the main focus of his photographs is to give a different perspective of everyday objects and to mix photography and traditional art.

"I hope people find my photographs interesting and different and I hope they will want to put them on their walls," Gonzalez said. "There's nothing really specific said in those pictures, but I think it gives people a nice feeling because someone took pictures of something so simple."



Courtesy photos

James Gonzales is making his public debut as a photographer in FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA.

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