

Sage Marshall

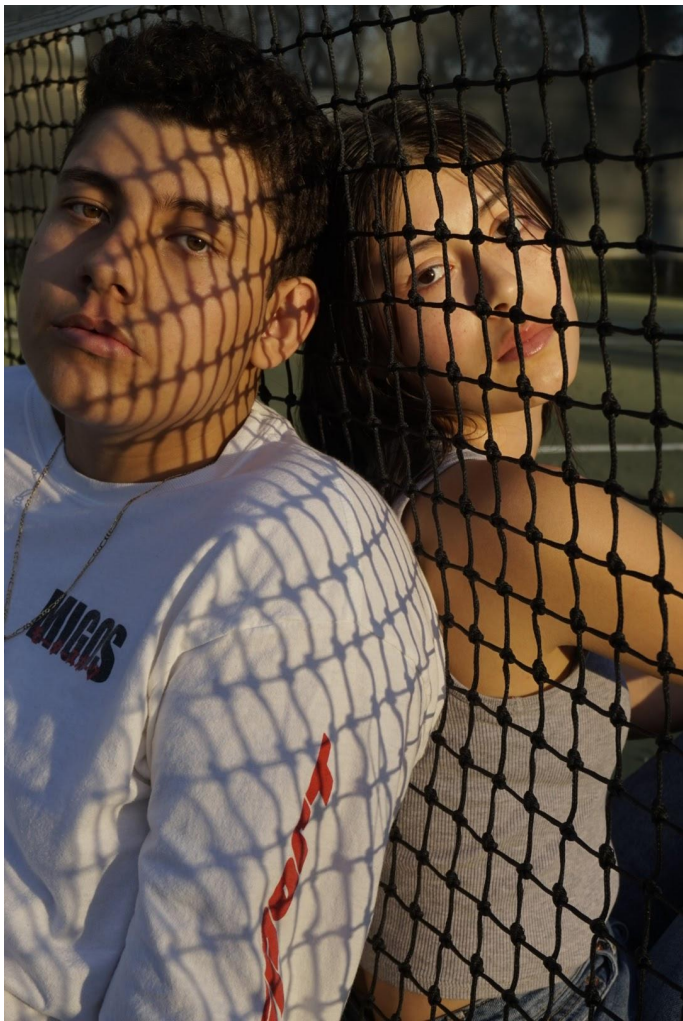
Photo 1-2/Moorpark College Final Portfolio

Breadth











Sustained Investigation

Needles, CA is a small desert town just on the edge of California. In the 1980's the town was a very popular destination because of its proximity to the Colorado River. But growing up I visited Needles and was never able to see it when it prospered. Over time the town began to struggle, less people came and businesses shut down leaving no grocery store or public transit for the community. All over Needles is evidence from it's past of a town that once thrived.

My photographs take the viewer all over Needles, CA. I focused my images on abandoned, run down buildings, they represent the desolation of the town after years of neglect. The first image opens the slides with a welcome sign to Needles ironically with barely operating lights and on a boarded up building. The third is of a old gas station and the last photo is of an abandoned motel. These three photos were taken during sunset, the colors from blue hour give the images a peaceful and calm tone. It represents desolation, how the sun setting down on the city leaves only quietness after dark just as Needles has been the past years. The second and fourth images are 35mm black and white film, they were taken when the sun had just come up and was already blazing over Needles creating harsh, dramatic shadows. They show the intense desert sun that represents what the town goes through during summers, the severe heat draws people inside leaving streets empty. All my photographs of Needles, CA represent the neglect of small, lower-income towns. Each photograph is a different story about what once was.

A photograph of a neon sign at night. The sign is rectangular with a blue border and is illuminated with red and blue neon lights. It is mounted on a light-colored building facade above a set of double glass doors. The sign reads "WELCOME TO NEEDLES, CALIF." on the top line and "ROUTE 66" on the bottom line. The building has arched windows and a brick base. The scene is lit by the sign's neon and some ambient light from the building.

WELCOME TO NEEDLES, CALIF.
ROUTE 66







