THE MIGRANT PROJECT
CONTEMPORARY CALIFORNIA FARM WORKERS
WHAT IS THE HUMAN COST OF FEEDING AMERICA?
A PHOTO-DOCUMENTARY BY RICK NAHMIAS

THE STORY:

Though images of migrant farm workers of the 1930s are now iconic to many, rarely seen are their contemporaries - one of America’s largest invisible and cast-off populations - California farm workers, a workforce numbering over a million, and one responsible for harvesting over fifty percent of the nation’s food. “The Migrant Project,” an in-depth photo-documentary (with bilingual text), proudly places the faces and stories of those currently working our fields front and center, providing a present day microcosm for numerous issues surrounding the human cost of feeding America.

The exhibit depicts everything from family life, children and pesticides, to the search for housing, work, health care, to their scraping together of community and culture. By providing these and other human details it aims to foster a greater sense of empathy towards today’s farm workers as well as provide a humanistic lens through which to better understand what historically has been and remains the poorest segment of our society. It was shot in over 50 towns across the state, from Calexico to Sacramento, and premiered as an official affiliate exhibit of the California Council on the Humanities “Reading Grapes of Wrath/California Stories” program. Since then it has been touring museums, universities, and cultural centers throughout North America as an art, education, and humanities exhibit.

The exhibit is also the source of a companion book (University of New Mexico Press), a standards-based curriculum for middle and high school students, and stand-alone educational workshop. Since its creation, universities, human relations & cultural development organizations have employed it as a tool to spark dialogue and symposia around important but difficult to approach issues in their own communities. Several images from “The Migrant Project” are now part of the permanent collection of the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian, and it has received a U.S. Congressional Citation of Merit.

AUDIENCES:
This exhibit is well suited for everything from general fine art and humanities museum audiences, to Latin American cultural centers, to university programs focusing on anthropology, food systems, human rights or history studies. “The Migrant Project,” employs a rich mix of artful black & white photography and incisive detailed text to address numerous themes including:

- Immigration
- Labor/Race Relations
- Human Rights/Social Justice
- U.S. Agriculture History
- The Latino American Experience
- Tolerance and Marginalization
- Documentary Photography/Photojournalism

EXHIBIT ELEMENTS:
- Forty framed and matted selenium toned silver gelatin prints
- Seven Cuntra-mounted text panels. (All exhibit didactics supplied in English & Spanish.)
- Twenty-minute 2009 documentary “Fair Food: Field to Table,” created by Rick Nahmias and CA Institute for Rural Studies (DVD)
- Educational Lectures/Programming/Curriculum and workshops available
- Size: Approximately 125 running feet
- Security Requirements: moderate
- Schedule: 8 and 12 week bookings available

ABOUT THE ARTIST:
Rick Nahmias is a photographer, writer, and filmmaker who focuses on documenting the stories of invisible populations. His acclaimed traveling exhibitions have toured over three dozen national museums, universities, and cultural centers across the U.S., and his images and writing have been published in newspapers, magazines, journals and news weeklies, as well as being presented on the floor of the U.S. Congress. His work is part of numerous private and public collections.

For more information, exhibit loan fees, or to book this exhibit please visit ricknahmias.com

RICK NAHMIAS PHOTOGRAPHY is the Exclusive Booking Agent for The Migrant Project

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