

An aerial photograph of Los Angeles, California, with a blue color cast. The image shows a dense urban landscape with a mix of residential and commercial buildings, interspersed with green trees. In the distance, the city skyline is visible against a hazy sky. The overall tone is monochromatic and serene.

**C O M M U N I T Y** on los angeles architecture  
**P H O T O W O R K S**

photos by Room 13 LA at Foshay Learning Center



## **UNTITLED**

*Alberto Bravo*



Out of many photos I took around the neighborhood by my school, this photo of a crosswalk is the one I chose. Honestly, I wasn't so sure about this photo, and I almost ignored it. But now, there are many reasons and feelings behind the photo that I now recognize.

This crosswalk ties to the architecture of Los Angeles because of the repetition of rectangular buildings within these old neighborhoods. Never will you find anybody not using a crosswalk in the community. They are a common part of LA life. These old buildings obviously show their worn-out walls and their many years of "standing tall" in the community. The color in this photo brings out the idea of the old, cracked community of yesterday, and the fresh bright neighborhood of tomorrow. Take the Chinese restaurant and compare it to the building across from it. Brightness vs. dimness is something to think about in a building's color and age, and we can apply that to these two buildings. Obviously, the brightness of the restaurant shows how young the building looks, as opposed to the fading paint of the other building's walls. In other words, color is a simple way of converting the "old" to the "new".

The big ditches dug up for some sort of construction go to show that this community, like the rest of Los Angeles, is taking up a new form. Right now, you can't identify this new addition to the street corner. Symbolically speaking, it is only by going to the end of this "road" that you'll discover what lies on the end of the path. One can notice a contrast in darkness with the paved concrete on the street. It's almost as if the left side of the street is worn and torn out, like the rest of the buildings and structures. Up until the midsection of the crosswalk, the entire right side of the street is coated with fresh cement. This street really serves as a crossroad to two different worlds: old and new.

## PEOPLE'S DAILY LIVES

### *Valary Campos*



In this image, what catches my eye is the Food 4 Less sign that goes at an angle that leads my eye to the background. That diagonal line stops at this vertical line in front, which it contrasts with. The pole in the front leads to the tree in the back, which also leads to the lamp-post because they are all vertical.

The sky usually doesn't have a nice blue with it because of all the pollution people put in the air. I would like to experience a nice blue sky, so I edited the background to see how it feels. I also made the foreground lighter to make the background stand out. On the car, I made the windows darker and taillights really red; I think that's cool because it just makes it stand out.

Usually people think that LA has big tall buildings, but this building is wide, short, and rectangular. I think that's really unique. It actually looks like the shape of a house on the inside, and usually buildings don't have that shape.

## NEGATIVE ILLUSION

### *Christopher Canenguez*



The man stands on the proud summit of a volcano, although it may not be as it seems: an illusion of sorts. What is the very being of a human without thoughts? Should the reflection of an illusion matter if it is intangible? It is what it seems, if you wish to believe the vision of the blaze. The heat and tension of this city will soon erupt into a chaos, of what was never to be established here. A metropolis, which was originally a paradise, slowly crumbles only with minor suggestions of change. Please do not get me wrong if you think that this city is a paradise. I do not disagree.

Why should beauty be defined by just surface appearance? If it feels as if a moment is infinite, in this metropolis of stimulating thoughts, then let it be infinite, which may not stand forever. The originality of what was an urban town has taken a turn. For the good or for the bad? You decide. Only perspective can define what something seems to you. What was once natural has been overrun with a new activity. If this city has both good and bad

personalities, why should we be judges of what it is? Live. Prosper. Perceive. If change is virtuous, it can also be corrupt. Think about the metropolis, Los Angeles.

## **CREEPY DOLL**

*Johana Chavez*



This picture was taken around my school. It's a picture of a thrift store window that had a doll in it. I picked this picture because it shows how Los Angeles is mysterious and makes you think twice. I think Los Angeles is creepy because of its different buildings and the way they're designed.

I like this picture because it made me feel like it was Halloween. How the doll is looking at you makes me feel like someone is following me and watching every step. It looks like there is a ghost next to the doll in the background. In this picture the parallel, vertical lines emphasize the doll and make you feel like a wall is there. The horizontal line that comes across the picture makes your eyes go from dark to light, and makes you change emotions. The dark side looks mysterious and scary, but the light side looks really angelic. The building in the window's reflection makes you feel surprised because it's unexpected. The reflection makes you think and look deeper into the picture.

## **SLOPE**

*Erick Chavez*



The Getty has interesting and amazing buildings in LA. It uses a unique type of architecture, which is shown in this picture. The vanishing points draw people in. The shadow and the big wall make it seem like there are two paths leading to the vanishing point. This picture consists of mostly square patterns; as a result, the wavy building in the background stands out.

This picture is calming; it makes me feel like I'm inside. The absence of people, and the light colors from the sun and sky relax the eyes.

## **URBAN AND NATURE**

### *Alma Colmenares-Rosales*



This picture emphasizes the importance and beauty nature can bring to a very dull, rough-textured building. This picture shows many contrasting details such as shape and color. The image is geometrically contrasting. The building figure is very simple, with a cliché rectangular shape. Even the windows are rectangular. Both trees have curvy and indefinite shapes that contrast with the solid building. Another contrasting detail is the colors of the solid building, sky, and trees. The tree branch is a brown color, and the leaves have a variety of colors such as orange, red, green, and yellow-green. Also, the sky was a bit cloudy, and the building is a cement color.

## **UNTITLED**

### *Belinda Coronado*



Architecture in LA is dull, dreary, and boring. You can walk two miles in Central LA and see the same building at least twenty times. LA has prized buildings such as Walt Disney Concert Hall, but most of the buildings in Central LA are poorly constructed.

LA never ceases to amaze tourists and even residents with its humor. Thankfully, humor seems to wash out the poor structure in this photograph. The most eye-catching element of this photograph is the multicolored sign. The sign clearly suggests that this store is not just A Smoke Shop; it's DA SMOKE SHOP. You can see many items that this store sells, such as cigarette wrappers, sunglasses, and Pro Club T-shirts and jerseys. There's a huge sign in the storefront that lets you know they can ship to Belize. Also, even though the store sign says "DA SMOKE SHOP," the parking is for Sea Breeze customers only.

## **UNTITLED**

*Karla Delgado*



Our class took a trip to the Getty to take pictures of local architecture in Los Angeles. It was a bright day, yet there was a little bit of wind, and the sky was really blue with no gray. You can tell the time of day because of the shadow going to the right from the person taking the picture. The lighting allowed the colors to come out of the building so that you were able to see the shape of the building next to the colored blocks of nature. It also made it easier to show the style and size of the building. I was able to take a picture of the curved, smooth, and rough parts of the building because I was standing more on the far right side. I was able to see both the curved part of the building and the linear part, which is characteristic of Getty architecture because both elements are present. The building was so big and tall, which made the person taking a picture and the two people standing on the building look really tiny. This really shows the power of perspective.

## **UNTITLED**

*Sabrina Espiritu*



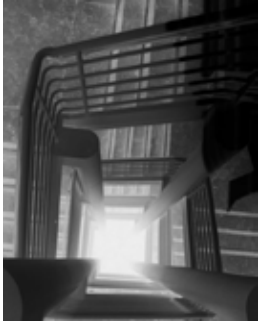
Los Angeles architecture is not always what people expect it to be. In this photo LA's architecture is something that'll make the doubters think twice. Some may think LA is trashy and has graffiti on public surfaces and abandoned buildings, but this photo shows that not all parts of LA are tacky and cheap.

The Getty is good architecture that is part of Los Angeles. In the photo background you can see good structures that are not run-down or deserted. You know you'll feel safe inside good buildings: no open cracks in the floor, no parts of the structure falling from the ceiling. At the Getty you'll find beautiful structural design, like the amazing waterfall, nicely created hedges that are frequently trimmed, and dazzling trees.

All I'm trying to say is that people may think of Los Angeles as an old disgusting city, but not all parts are. The Getty, the Science Center, Walt Disney Hall, and many other places are in desirable locations that show not all parts of Los Angeles are bad.

## **INVERSION**

*Alexander Fuentes*



In this picture you will see that everything is its opposite. The light becomes dark. The dark space in the top right corner used to be filled with light, and the center was darkness. By reversing negative and positive, I allowed the viewer to get a sense of either bad lurking 'round the corner or help on the way. The absence of color can make you imagine any colors that might be. The light in the center can represent something infinite and a mystery at the end of the road, if ever reached. You can also think of the light coming toward you, or you heading toward the light. Usually, when you see the light, it means that you may be dying, but it can also be seen as your only hope when in a dark place.

If you live in LA, you will see that this picture is sort of unusual because the city is usually very crowded. This picture makes you feel out of place because of the lack of people. It may be a simple picture of a staircase, but inverting the colors can create something so mysterious and ambiguous.

## **THE HIDDEN BEAUTY OF A SUCCULENT**

*Gloria Funes*



I chose this picture because I liked the colors and the way the plant is formed. It tricks the viewer because at first glance it seems it might be a rose, but it is a succulent.

This plant has its own architecture, its own structure and shapes, like lots of triangles.

The flower was born in LA. The community here is not gritty; it is somewhat clean. Out of the grittiness nature still thrives if you know where to look for it. In the image that I chose, I decided to take something tiny and enlarge it. This makes the viewer pay attention to something insignificant and see the hidden beauty amid the big concrete structures of the city.



## **THE DREAM REFLECTION**

*Victoria Garcia*



The American dream. A dream for many around the world. People come here for freedom and a better life. Isn't that what we all want? I sure do. I want the American dream. The fuzzy American dream.

This photograph taken at the Getty resembles that dream. As you can see, the picture is not that clear—neither is the journey you take to get to that dream. Look at it not as it is, but as who you are. Reverse it. That is what I did for this photograph. The effect was caused by not taking the picture directly, but by its reflection.

I feel as if I haven't seen the world, yet LA is my world. I was born and raised in the second-most-populous city. When I was on top of that building, looking over LA seemed different than normal. I saw it as another city. It was beautiful. It seemed to be the only place that existed at that moment. I felt as if I was on top of the world.

## **FLOW**

*Lizbeth Gaytan*



Don't you get the feeling of being relaxed in Los Angeles? So does this image, the water flowing down the steep passage. In Los Angeles we may not see waterfalls, but we see fountains with nice shapes and patterns.

Every waterfall you see in Los Angeles is different, and so is this picture. You can have the feeling of falling or the feeling of sliding. There are bricks that look like they're floating, and rectangles that hold the waterfall. This picture has many bold color details. I liked how the colors get darker and darker; it starts white, then becomes brown, then green and dark blue.

I decide not to change anything in this photograph because I liked the colors and the angle of the camera. I still can't remember what the actual angle was.

## **UNTITLED**

*Wilber Gomez*



The image represents how nature and houses in parts of California intertwine and how humans aren't the alpha dogs. In reality, nature is the more dominant party. No matter where you are, there will always be a piece of nature with you, either a worm under your feet or a bird in the sky. They are all parts of nature, even ones you can't see like the water bears (tardigrades) that live on moss. Some even live inside your body, and without them you can't live.

The image also shows that the Los Angeles sky is very full of pollution and smog. Another thing that stands out is that the houses have lots of space around them, not like other neighborhoods in the Los Angeles area.

I chose for the image to be black and white to represent how Los Angeles has a lot of pollution. Another reason was to get a feeling of suspense.

## **A SIGN'S ATTENTION**

*Amanda Gonzalez*



This sign caught my attention because it really popped. The contrast between the dark blue of the sky and the white letters made the sign really stand out.

It isn't unusual to see billboards here, but this billboard brings up a big issue Los Angeles has had for quite a while now, which is pollution. Smog is one of the reasons there's pollution in LA. In this picture, you would have never thought LA had an issue with pollution because of how the sky looks so clear.

## **SEPTEMBER TO JUNE**

*Edward Gonzalez*



One reason this photo is significant is the massive size differential between the sign and the school. The sign is simply an example of youth rebellion. Though school was in session at the time, the empty field shows, in my opinion, the lost faith in today's education. There are a limited number of children who truly appreciate the value of learning things for free. Most people in the world are forced to spend a large amount of their income on their child's education.

The sign is inscribed with layers upon layers of graffiti. If you look closely, you can see that there is a picture of a school on the sign. The graffiti, in a way, is overpowering the school. The only thing standing out is the black letters, which are like a crack in the system. This shows that even school, a place expected to be a safe facility for children, has already been penetrated by the unfortunate plague of gangs. All too often, innocent civilians, many of them children, are killed in the crossfire of gang turf warfare.

There are also murals alongside the school walls. Most people would consider them actual art compared to the scribble on the sign.

In a way, the sign appears to look like a man peering through the chain-linked fence searching for his next victim. The chain-link fence is often acknowledged as a wall of oppression keeping children from being free, and no one seems to think to say, "Thank you for keeping me safe."

## **WAY OF LIFE**

*Jonatan Gonzalez*



On one side of the street we can see that the people do not care much. The other side of the block is completely clean, and there is no trace of debris. The tire says something important about transportation; it shows how there is a need to get from place to place here in LA. People here tend to buy the latest thing and usually throw away the old item (whatever it is), and that is probably why we see the old tire in such a trashy environment. But is all of LA like this?

One important feeling I was trying to get was the unease when we look at the area that's trashed. The shadow that's cast also adds a certain level of darkness and would probably make someone very uncomfortable. An important element that you may miss is the contrast between both blocks. It's important to see that visually the trash and debris tells a story all on its own.

LA can't be represented in just one photo. When we examine the trash on this block, you begin to examine the whole area. And at one point you'll find yourself asking, "Well, if this block is so dirty, why isn't the other block just as trashed?" I too have come to the same question and can't seem to find the answer. Living in LA, you'll find, has the most inconsistent form of living. This isn't a bad thing, but it's just that it's a really unique place to live in or grow up. You really can't find another place quite like it.

## **UNTITLED**

*Juan Hernandez*



Upon first glance at this photo, it may seem like you are looking at a white wall behind a rocky counter. Well, looks can be deceiving. This picture was taken from a different view than normal pictures; I took the picture looking upward. I was leaning on this pillar and looking at the ceiling. Many people prefer to take a picture from one certain angle but don't. There are many things interesting about this photo, like how it is blurry in the front but clear in the back. And the craters in the pillar and the shadow on the ceiling make it seem more three-dimensional.

This stone was imported from Italy. I was interested in why they wanted to import this specific material and not just use what we have in LA. I think they wanted to have different buildings made of different materials. LA architecture is very unique because of the materials used and the way it is formed.

## **NOW AND THEN PLACES**

*Lisbeth Hernandez*



You might ask how this photograph can relate to vintage LA. Well, in my opinion, this photo demonstrates how architecture has changed and developed throughout the years. For instance, architecture way back then was just simple and ordinary, but now architecture has expanded and become more complex. Perhaps this was just a simple building, but it has turned into a nice scene of colors, writing, items, plants, paintings, planters, and much more. This photo makes you ask what is so significant about this place. For all we know it could've been an important place, or a barber shop or 99 cent store. But now you can observe how it's a small restaurant that provides a variety of Mexican food. Even though there is a lot of writing going on, it's still a relaxed and chill atmosphere. This small restaurant got my attention, and it lured me into taking a picture. Who knew something so small could get someone's eye?

In this particular photograph, there is much going on, including motion. The Mexican restaurant is sort of complex in a way. There are many colors included in this photo, such as light khaki, red, kinds of blue, green, black, etc. You can also find lines and pattern and repetition that make you think.

## **ABANDONED**

*Martha Hernandez*



This picture emphasizes the idea of loneliness. The house is a fading dirty white color, and the paint on the house and gate is chipping. Parts of the gate are rusting and becoming a dirty metallic red. The house also seems abused: the window has graffiti on it.

The house is styled in an old-fashioned way. The gate and windows are simple and old-fashioned. The roof is being held up by old-fashioned roof supports, with an old design, that looks like they will give out soon. This picture, and many buildings in LA, give off the idea of being abandoned.

## **THE VIEW FROM THE GETTY**

*Martha Hernandez and Dayanara Saucedo*



This photograph has an interesting theme: LA and how it represents architecture. The reason why I chose this picture was very weird and interesting. What caught my attention were the colors and the view. I chose this picture because I feel very calm when I look at it. I decided to change it to all blue because blue is one of my favorite colors, and it seems even more peaceful. I didn't leave all the colors different because it seemed very busy with all the cars going to work. I actually wonder sometimes how the world would look if it was all in one color.

If you look closely at the buildings, you might think that's Downtown, but it's not. Downtown is in the background, but it's very small and blurry. The buildings that are close are Century City. If you continue looking at the freeway, you would see that there are lots of cars with people are going to work. When I looked at the end of the freeway, the surroundings seemed lonely and deserted. I also noticed that the end of the freeway is also a vanishing point. The foreground is all grassy and covered in trees and bushes. In the middle ground there are few trees. Then, in the background, there are no trees or signs of nature; there are more roads and freeways. When I think of LA, I think of just buildings.

## **THE ILLUSION OF WATER**

*David Juarez*



I took this picture at the corner of a fountain at MOCA as the water shot up. Some of the water that's shooting out forms shapes together, and the other part of the water is just flying somewhere else, as if it were broken pieces of ice floating around.

The light in the picture makes the water alive, and the shapes of the water make it look like it's still moving. The water that's already going down looks like it's being broken, as if it was falling. The light makes the shapes stand out even more: they're bubbly and very abstract. You can't capture the water falling down with your eyes unless you take a picture.

In the background there's the curve of the fountain, but this picture focuses on the water shooting up. There really isn't any lighting in the background, making the water have more action. The ripples of the water add perspective and make the picture look three-dimensional.

## **LOS ANGELES: THE INVISIBLE CITY**

*Deborah Lopez*



I took this picture from a ledge at the Getty. I was experimenting with different angles to shoot LA and capture all of its beauty. I wanted to be able to capture the skyline. It shows how big Los Angeles is, and it goes on forever. In this picture, you are able to see the different types of architecture that Los Angeles is made from. You have skyscrapers, but then you also have small houses and apartments. It makes it look like Los Angeles is a city made out of puzzle pieces. The fog looks like it is consuming Los Angeles and making it invisible. Maybe it doesn't want Los Angeles to be seen at all. It gives me this eerie feeling, but also it is kind of peaceful.

This picture has a lot of very soft colors, which capture depth and perspective. There are a lot of grays, blues, and greens—this was an important factor because most of the time Los Angeles does not have these soft colors. You usually only get to see a lot of harsh colors, and that makes it seem like Los Angeles is a dull place. These soft colors bring Los Angeles to life. The light in the photo makes you able to see all of the different sizes and shapes of buildings that Los Angeles has. The background of my photo is all of the sky, and that adds to the vastness of Los Angeles. To me, the mid-ground is the best part because of the fog. Finally, the foreground is the fog lifting up, where you are able to see the beginning of Los Angeles and also a lot of trees.

From the ground, you are not able to see all of Los Angeles because it so big. But when you are high up like where I was, that's when you can see every little part of Los Angeles, and that's when it comes to life.

## **UNNOTICED BUT IMPORTANT**

*Olivia Maheia*



I thought that the tree symbolizes how LA can still hold up on its own through the many things the city and its people go through. It was interesting how the tree fit in between the buildings at the Getty Museum. I liked how the tree and the grass were really standing out. The buildings around it were unnoticed, but they were the most important thing to observe.

In the picture, the colors blue, green, gray, and white combined kind of perfectly.

## **UNIVERSAL FREEDOM**

*Jason Mares*



Vanishing. Point. The bars (known to entrap) are a paradox now. In this case they seek to soar into the horizon, turning from a snare into wings. As the bars extend to the horizon, they maintain their role as a jail, limiting the point of view but giving a clue of what the future will hold. The blue sky, the paint, and art are clean, conforming to purity.

Listen to the man of rock as his steady moving mouth stays emotionless. The distant zephyr is ready to take you away, to wherever your mind permits you.

Let my heart go along to the extent of the bars. Let them take me away from the jail that is also my savior. Lead me into the horizon, the horizon of the world, full of mystery and magnitude. The road is just outside.

I see the monuments

I see the obelisk

I see my land

I see its origins

I do not stand. I am there. I'm omniscient and serve my city with unorthodox manners. I reside as a guide who has learned from this sight. I have gone to places even beyond the horizon and brought this vision back home. This vast city, Los Angeles, has brought from the outside world new ideas, new culture, new people—and built them into a creature un-



like any other. I have heard Los Angeles called a “melting pot.” And from this vantage point, these ideals ring so true.

## **MOTION OF LA**

*Jesus Martinez*



This photo was taken accidentally. However, due to the timing, I was able to capture more than I had intended to. The photo showcases a sample of the architecture of Los Angeles, and the car that had accidentally made its way into the frame shows the movement of this dynamic city.

Here is a storefront in Exposition Park. It was a clear, blazing hot day, and the sun really made all the paint colors pop out. The motion in the photo comes from a car zooming by in front. This is a representation of the driving culture of LA. Though it may be hard to tell, the driver is wearing sunglasses, which is often necessary in LA weather. Not only can you see through the glass windows of the car, but you can also see inside the glass windows of the store. This allows the viewer to get an inside look at everyday LA life. On the front of the store, there is a bright neon green sign spelling out the word “bienvenidos,” which is Spanish for “welcome.” The fact that there is a sign next to it in English gives a sense that the store welcomes the diverse population of LA. Having parents who emigrated from El Salvador, a Spanish-speaking country, I know from firsthand experience that the presence of their native tongue helps make the big city seem less intimidating. I relate to this photo in particular because I go to the store every day to buy chips. It is a part of my daily routine that I really enjoy because I love eating chips.

## **MUNDANE ART**

*Kimberly Mejia*



The people present in the photo are looking downward. This is done for safety reasons, of course, but in doing so they end up missing out on different architectural creations: simple walls, staircases, and rails. To a normal group of Getty visitors, all these common sights are not art pieces. They are busy searching for complex pieces of art within the walls of the museum. Searching for all the labeled art, the people might have even looked past the paper masks displayed in the picture. The masks are interestingly next to the walls that are also unnoticed. The white masks do in fact attract attention—they sure got mine—even though they probably took two minutes to make, unlike the surrounding art that took a lot of time and effort to build.

Both projects give off a similar feeling, a very sterile feeling. The students coming down the stairs are in uniform with similar-looking masks. This act is expressed more due to the fact that the kids are next to a building consisting of some repetitious shapes: the stairs, ramp, and stone wall all have a parallel build. The children themselves are wearing uniforms and similar masks that make the whole photo look mundane. Although the picture has a very repetitious theme to it, the masks and walls do have their own touch. The masks each have a different expression to them, and the buildings have a different texture. Both arts are created differently, and yet they share similarities.

## **WHAT MAKES KIDS GO OUTSIDE**

*Geovanny Mena*



I took this picture at the Getty because I was interested by the many types of architectural elements. I always did like beautiful landscapes. I know this landscape was not naturally made, so I think that's another reason why I chose this photo, to show that we need more of these things in LA.

The big connection between the background and foreground is that they are both man-made. They have a contrast of colors, and both have different shapes and textures. The buildings are square shaped and are made of big blocks of stone and fossils, while the gardens are circle shaped and are made by a lot of little elements with bushes and leaves. The

white of the buildings makes the garden stick out like a picture hung up on a white wall.

I think there should be more places like this because lately everything is so technological. People are mostly on their phones or devices, but this view took many people's attention from their phones and made them focus on the landscapes and architecture. I think we need more landscapes like this to start making kids like to go out play rather than sit down always watching TV. Our world has started to be polluted a lot, and we could start making the world a better place and at the same time have fun making art, like at schools and in neighborhoods.

## **LA VIEW**

*Liliana Mendez*



I took this picture on top of MOCA Grand Avenue. I wanted to capture how the angle and the view looked different from the top of the building. This picture represents LA architecture because of the different buildings you see.

The picture itself shows part of Downtown LA. I saw it from a different view, and it made me see more than I would if I was below the building. This picture shows how each building is different. They reflect each other depending on the angle each building stands at. The sunlight also helps them reflect one another. This picture also shows how the street looks.

It makes me think how the architects planned the buildings and how long they took to build.

## **RADIOACTIVE LOYALTY**

*Luis Navarro*



Perspective. When looking at this picture from a certain angle, the lines begin to disappear. Multiple vanishing points eat away the fence from another dimension. Patriotism, a value learned by cadets, somehow finds a way to enter the image through the American flag, which is still untainted by the graffiti. Education, portrayed by a small image of a school, is partially blurred.

The sign has many hidden meanings: the words “PROTECT YOUR SCHOOL” and “HELP” remain visible. The graffiti scribbled on the sign is territorial, as if saying, “This school is ours, and all of these gangs will keep it that way.”

## **THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW**

*Katerin Ortega*



So, where was this picture taken? It could have been by a beach, in Downtown, or even by an amusement park, but no—it was actually taken in a very common place in my life, right in front of my school. Such a photograph was taken in a place no one would acknowledge, a place you could pass by any day. It was taken very quickly and not with much thought. This brings out how a person from Los Angeles can live there but not really notice what’s right in front of their eyes. I, as a current resident of Los Angeles, find it extremely interesting to observe things other people don’t notice because they show a story of what Los Angeles was then and is now.

The structures in this photograph all have different feels and tales to them. This photograph contains many layers, and the two main ones have two different time periods. In the back of the photograph, you can see the old Los Angeles: A-shaped houses where regular low-income people. When the background colors are compared to the foreground objects, the houses have some lines that aren’t as bold and powerful as the lines from the Metro bars. They have more of a dark or faded feeling, and that’s because they are not new at all. In fact they are pretty old, like 1990s old! The last layer of the background has a solid light green tree compared to the very foreground, which not only contains a plant but bright orange flowers as well. These can represent how the community of Los Angeles has evolved.

The middle ground has figures that catch your eye when you first observe this picture. The balance seems to be spread equally with both mid- and background. There seems to be unity in each object from their corresponding grounds; for example, the bold and sharp lines from the Metro bars show parallelism, and the houses and trees in the background have unity as well.

This image also shows movement in the way that the male figure is waiting for the train to pass. This shows what the average Los Angeles university student might be doing on a regular basis. Overall, this picture is very full of life in the way that it shows movement, blasts colors, and also tells a story in different time periods.

## **IMAGE OF LOS ANGELES**

*Carla Ramos*



Los Angeles is a beautiful growing city; however, attractive and comfortable housing are important but can be difficult to find. Despite the crowdedness of Los Angeles, people tune in to modern architecture and are attracted to live and visit here. In this photo, the architecture is very simple and modern. The colors are bright on one side, and the majority of the building is a light brown shade. At first glance, it seems like an apartment because of the jagged lines. I choose this angle because it seems almost abstract. The jagged lines made by the balconies seem like Lego blocks; it's almost like a toy. This large scale dwarfs the humans, but if you look closely you may notice the pots, flowers, and chairs reveal human activity and make this apartment seem more of a home.

Living in an apartment in Los Angeles can affect the way people live and interact with each other. Being able to hear your neighbors on the other side of your wall is "Los Angeles living." This apartment complex seems substantially uncomfortable.

On the other hand, Los Angeles apartments have their good side. Having close neighbors in the same building can open up opportunities. You are able to meet new people and make friends, and in some ways it can be safer: it creates its own community. Some people even think it is a smarter choice to live in an apartment rather than living in a house and paying a high mortgage with a risk of debt.

Living in a city like Los Angeles, everyone is in a rush and on the move. Having tall apartment complexes around is a plus, especially when they have a modern look. Los Ange-

les does have a lot of different people, food, backgrounds, and neighborhoods, but all are vibrant, lively, and full of color. Los Angeles is a place to be and is open to changes, and it shows that more and more every day.

## **TUNNEL**

### *Salvador Salinas*



Beams of light coming down through any open spaces.

Leaves shine making the shadows of window traces.

Looks like the McDonald's golden arches.

When the ant marches.

A nature nave forms at its top.

It's just a five-inch crop.

California's Nature shines bright  
day and night.

What I really liked about this picture was how the leaves were formed into a tunnel shape. Nature has its own ways to form art.

This picture makes me and others feel like we are small people in the jungle exploring something amazing, just how ants feel.

One other thing I found interesting was the colors and lighting, and how they mixed perfectly well with each other. It draws me in; I feel peaceful and calm looking at it.

## **PORTRAIT OF THE 'HOOD**

### *Jocelyn Sandoval*



One of the things that LA is famous for is traffic. You see the Metro? Even though there are no people in this photograph, there are people everywhere. The bus is overcrowded all the time. The telephone lines connect people who use the electricity carried by the power lines. In the background are apartments under construction that will house many people. Also, if you look closely, there is only one tree in this image. This part of LA has a lack of nature compared to the amount of concrete, which causes people to be stressed all the time.

The sign at the center of the photograph is supposed to show a traffic rule for drivers, but you can no longer read it because people have covered half of it with stickers, gang

tags, and graffiti. Now, we don't know what the right lane must do; it's now open to our imagination. This sign shows how people disrespect the rules, but they also want to express themselves and be seen. This also shows the people's lack of pride in their neighborhood because they continuously vandalize the city's property. You don't really see this in other neighborhoods in LA.

I decided to make this photograph black and white in order to emphasize different textures. For example, on the Jefferson sign, the letters are beginning to peel. So are the pole and the stickers on the sign, emphasizing the effect of decay. The street signs in the background seem as if they are floating off of the right turn sign.

All the lines in the photo, including the power lines and edges of the signs, are all converging to a point on the left. This emphasizes movement in a static photo where there are no visible people.

By pointing my camera up, I tried to tell a little story of my 'hood; a story foretelling what our future community will be like.

## **MISCONCEPTIONS**

*Dayanara Saucedo*



This photo was taken from a gate, and it had a tiny peephole. I wanted the viewer to feel like a spy trying to see something that you're not supposed to. When you look, it makes you wonder what's inside. It's actually a small tree in a backyard. But the floor may look like a pyramid. You might wonder: Is the tree big or small? Is it a close shot or from far away, just zooming into the tree? Your eyes are drawn to that small circle in the darkness. It feels like you are in a dream, completely dark, and then a light appears with the tree. Los Angeles has many big things that you might notice, but you might not want to overlook the small things. You might miss something important.

The colors in this picture are very bright and vibrant. This picture tricks you in many ways. If you didn't know how this photo was taken, it would've been a mystery to you. It can look like you're blocking the world and only focusing on the tree. You may feel like you're using a telescope, microscope, or even some binoculars. When you take a look at the photo for the first time, you might say, "Well, this is just a tree." But then you might be asking yourself



questions afterward. The photograph makes you ask so many questions that it might give you a headache.

## **PERSPECTIVE**

*Oswerd Xol*



The first element that stands out in this photograph is the name of the store. It can be more easily read than the sign above, or any other sign in this photograph. The sign of the shop is less bright than the other white parts in the photo, and the letters on it are purple and black—this makes the letters stand out, rather than the background standing out like the sign above.

The other part of this photograph that stands out or makes you think a little more is the inside of the store. It is dark, and you really can't see anything inside. That makes it interesting because it's sort of mysterious.

In Los Angeles every single building can give you a different feel to it, depending on when you look at it. You can look at a building in the afternoon when the sun is out and feel how the building looks nice and beautiful. You can look at that same building during the night, and it might give you the feeling of darkness and fear. Every building can be looked at from different perspectives, and that is what the building in this photograph is doing. On the outside of the building you see everything bright, and it feels safe and nice. But the inside of the building is dark and gives you the feelings of fear, emptiness, and also mystery.

## **FALSE HOPE**

*Juan Zacarias*



This photograph represents life in a bad neighborhood and how it would give you false hope. It shows how things that are used to enforce the law are also used to break it. The vandalism itself, the designs made by different graffiti artists, make it its own unique piece of art.

The X shape is being repeated on the sign; for example, the red sticker that was placed in the opposite direction from the original slash forms another X. The already vibrant colors on the sign could have been a little more enhanced, so that's what I did.



The layers of vandalism, or in this case layers of art, look like they've been placed over time. Although it sends bad messages about gangs and drugs, it also has a beautiful side to it. Others might look at it like any ordinary thing in LA, but it's something that cannot be imitated again.



# **C O M M U N I T Y e on los angeles architecture**

**photos by Room 13 LA at Foshay Learning Center**

**a Community Photoworks exhibition**

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John Midby Room 13 LA / Foshay Learning Center

Julius Diaz Panoriñgan 826LA

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