

Heart & Soul *of Mexico*

Journey through Mexico's Ethnicity
Mario Castillo

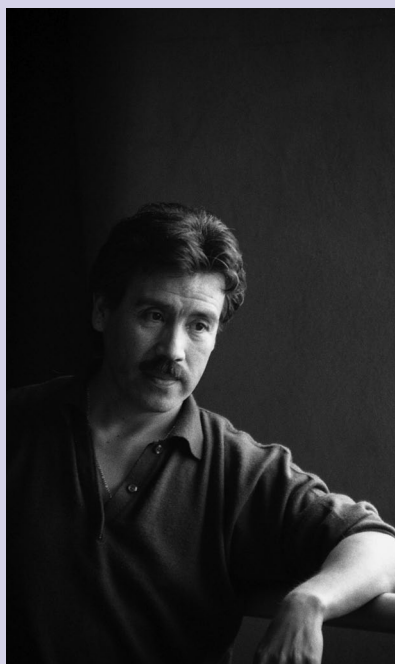
A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT

The California Center for the Arts, Escondido is very proud to present this collection of photographs which honor the Mexican people, their spirit and traditions.

Mario Castillo was born in Ocotlan, Jalisco, Mexico in 1953. He studied at the Autonomous University of Baja California (UABC) and received a Master's Degree in Law in 1981. In 2000, he was awarded a scholarship from the State Fund for Arts and Culture. He holds memberships in the Professional Association of Photographers and Videographers of Baja California and the Seminary of Mexican Culture.

A self-taught photographer, Castillo had his first major solo exhibition at the Tijuana Cultural Center in 1993 where his collection called "Presencias" was displayed and later acquired by the International Institute of Photographic Authors. Other exhibitions of his works have been presented by many international institutions including the Italo-Latinamerican Institute in Rome and the Cultural Center El Agora in Mexico City.

Castillo is the recipient of many prizes and awards including 1st Place in the 1989 First Contest of Tourism Photography in Baja California; the "La Diosa de Luz" Award as photographer of the year; the 1994 EGREN Award for best photograph exhibited in Havana, Cuba; 1st Place Award for black and white photography in the 1995 annual competition of Photographic USA Magazine and 1st and 2nd Prizes in the 2004 "Best Image of Tijuana" competition.



Many of the photographs in this collection were taken in Angahuan, a picturesque town in the Mexican state of Michoacan. Other photographs were taken in the Chiapas Highlands in southeast Mexico inhabited by the Tzotziles and in various locations in Baja California featuring people of diverse ethnic backgrounds. The objective of this collection was to create a vision that shows the transcendence of Mexico's ancestral cultural heritage and its ethnic groups. To be allowed to participate in the cultural richness of Mexico's ethnic groups; to enter the enigmatic and magical world of their festivities; to engage with them, their music and other traditions has definitely been one of the most incredible experiences that I as a Mexican and photographer have ever experienced.

Mario Castillo



Maria de la Luz, 1990, Cibachrome print



Irene's Look, 1990, Cibachrome print

“With deep respect and admiration for the indigenous people of the Americas and the entire world...

In my search as photographer, I have found a melody of images with their own voice and tempo, with light refracting in colors on the soft contour of subtle shapes, profiles which among shadows revealed to my profane eyes, with shyness, their mystery and magic.

I must say that the essential factor in my work is the human being, the common man surrounded by magical traditions. In our contemporary world, the Purepechas, Tzotziles, Pai Pais and Kiliwas are indigenous groups full of enigma and spiritual beliefs”

Mario Castillo



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proudly presents

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