

Daguerreotypes

Written by Carlos Darío Albornoz

Traditional arts and crafts in extinction

Tucumán, Argentina – 2004

Installation of contemporary daguerreotypes

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These are 14 daguerreotypes of 9 x 12 cm. mounted on lighted wooden artifacts.

These are portraits of craftsmen that still practice trades that are on the verge of extinction due to new technologies and new ways of marketing. It has been a long process of losing old knowledge and traditional tools. These formerly common activities are increasingly disappearing.

Some of these characters are the only remaining practitioners of their trade, like the photographer of the plaza or the milkman, who have been driven out of business by the growing demand or the death of the tradesmen themselves.



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the photograph of the man sitting next to the camera, which is a classic example of a daguerreotype. The man is wearing a dark jacket over a striped shirt and a dark cap. He is looking towards the camera. The camera is a large, boxy model with a prominent lens. The background is dark and indistinct.



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