

BAJA FUSION

A PHOTOGRAPHY SERIES

BY

NEIL A. MILLER

Sometimes a connection is made between photographs taken at one place and another group of images made at another location. This relationship can offer a new vision. A kind of compression or fusion of the initial experiences creates the final result. This altering view changes the character of the elements and brings into consideration new associations these environmental/social/political items may have, and with it new areas of appreciation.



Three things brought these images together. The first was a remarkable encounter on Calle Note, La Paz, Baja California Sur; a street, really an alleyway, not usually taken by the casual visitor. There were inscriptions, drawings and remarks of all types offered to protest, inspire or entertain. Taken together they become a pallet of design elements.





The second encounter came at a small turnout on Mex 1. Trucking on high-ways in Baja can be a challenge of maintenance. Tire repair stops are frequent and small repair shops offer their help. A semitrailer pulled into one of these small shops was attractive because of the load it was carrying. One of the many defective tires was being replaced and a stop brought the opportunity to record the many rectangular compressed blocks of metal being transported. It was a truly intriguing photographic opportunity perhaps not understood by the truck driver who accepted the interest.



The third event happened on the road north from Nuevo Chapala to Puertecitos, an unpaved portion of Mex 5. Traveling this road by car is difficult. Traversing this imperfect, windy, back road with a semitrailer seems impossible. These truckers do it, much to their credit. It was during this drive while coming around a corner we discovered heartache on the road. Not an accident. No signs of injury. Just the sadness of seeing many rectangular compressed blocks of metal strewn around and partially blocking the road. A load lost along with the efforts of a man trying to make a living.



Deriving meaning from these impressions was the challenge. The apparent relationships are visual with the caveat that the individuals involved, from the graffiti artists and truckers to the many who originally used the recycled items, have affected the result. The finished products are abstract and open to interpretation.