

# FINE BARGAINS IN FAT CITY

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*"Oppression is the domination of one group by another, politically, economically or culturally." "The problem of the immigrant has its roots deep in the laws of psychology." Fear of oppression leads to a near suicidal dare to risk your life seeking the opportunity to find some level of freedom and unfettered self-expression. The form of pathology in this problem may be called the oppression psychosis. "*

*Herbert Adolphus Miller*

The history of police violence in America extends disproportionately to Black, Latinos, Native Americans and immigrants. The focus of this project is the history of Latino and immigrants experience with police violence and the violation of human rights by authorities.

This photographic project is a re-examination of recent historic incidents in America between the police and Latinos living in the United States. Some of these incidents led to major changes in laws and social uprisings that caused cultural shifts.

Each case was researched to find the model of police car used for the arrests or incidents.

Surviving original cars were found and documented.

The viewer is placed in the backseat, facing an unlikely, yet ominous landscape from the point of view of the prisoner or victim.





Mirando, Miranda, Mirones 1963

122 x 223.44 cm

- *"You have the right to remain silent and refuse to answer questions.*
- *Anything you say may be used against you in a court of law."*
- 

Ernesto Arturo Miranda was a laborer whose conviction on kidnapping, rape, and armed robbery charges based on a forced confession from interrogation by the Phoenix Arizona police, was set aside in the 1963 landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Miranda v. Arizona*, which ruled that criminal suspects must be informed of their right against self-incrimination and their right to consult with an attorney before being questioned by police. This warning is known as a *Miranda Warning*. Today all police officers in the United States must read out loud the "Miranda Rights" when arresting an individual. Ernesto Miranda was arrested 1958 Chevrolet Biscayne sedan.

- *"Knowing and understanding your rights as I have explained them to you, are you willing to answer my questions without an attorney present?"*
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*El Aztlan 1970*

122 x 219.3 cm



**Ruben Salazar** (March 3, 1928 – August 29, 1970) was a civil rights activist and a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*, the first Mexican-American journalist from mainstream media to cover the Chicano movement and community.

Salazar died as a result of injuries sustained during the National Chicano Moratorium March against the Vietnam War on August 29, 1970, in East Los Angeles, California. During the march, Salazar was struck in the head by a tear-gas projectile fired by a Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy. The coroner's inquest ruled the shooting of the tear-gas canister a homicide, but Tom Wilson, the sheriff's deputy who fired, was never prosecuted. At the time, many believed the homicide was a premeditated assassination of a prominent voice for the Los Angeles Chicano community. This was never proven or disproven.

The story of Salazar's killing was the subject of a 1971 article by gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson. Titled "*Strange Rumblings in Aztlan*," it ran in the April 1971 edition of *Rolling Stone* magazine with an 11-year-old Michael

The Los Angeles sheriff's deputy Tom Wilson, drove a 1968 *Plymouth Belvedere* the day he killed Ruben Salazar.



Campos Torres and the Gran Fury

122 x 202.07 cm



**José Campos Torres** (December 20, 1953 – May 5, 1977) was a 23-year-old Mexican-American and Vietnam veteran who was ruthlessly beaten by several Houston Police Department officers that subsequently led to his death. He was assaulted by a group of on-duty police officers after being arrested for disorderly conduct at a bar in Houston's Mexican-American East End neighborhood. The officers convicted for the death of Torres, at the state level, received minimal sentencing; 1 year probation and a \$1 fine. Torres' murder and sentencing sparked community outrage and led to multiple community protests, with one gathering escalating to a riot. His death led to advocacy based non-profits and Houston Police official's negotiations leading to the addition of policies addressing police-community racial relations.

In 1978 the African-American poet and singer Gil Scott-Heron, one year following Torres' murder, created a poetic song focusing on America's systemic abuse of Asian-Americans, African-Americans and Hispanics in the heartfelt "Poem for José Campos Torres. The song was released as track 4 of the album titled; *The Mind of Gil Scott-Heron*.

The police car the Houston Police drove the night of Campos Torres murder was a *1976 Plymouth Gran Fury*.





Wynwood 1988

122 x 219 cm



