



# ONION KIDS

Hersley-Ven  
Casero

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The Link  
Ayala Center  
Makati

ART FAIR   
PHILIPPINES

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# THE TRUTH ABOUT ONIONS

“Life is like an onion.  
You peel it off one  
layer at a time, and  
Sometimes you weep.”  
- Carl Sandburg

Hersley-Ven Casero is a street photographer and visual artist seasoned by the saline hues and aromas of his hometown of Dumaguete in the island of Negros. For a creative mind, nothing beats the rich and colorful innocence of a coastal city, compact enough to wander afoot and gentle enough to embrace as if it were the last paradise on earth.

In this exuberant playground, Casero captures the shapes and shadows of its people. His subject of predilection are children whose expressions and bodily gestures transport the viewer to a moment of effortless abandon. Picture-poems appear during his photowalks, similar to poet Sandburg’s social narrative of Mrs. Giovannitti in *Onion Days* (1916).

From a collection of photographs entitled “All In Good Time,” *Paligid* and *Freefall* show Casero’s instinctive control over form and atmospheric circumstances. *Onion Kids* shows a profound understanding of the human condition. It is shot in the aftermath of the pandemic in a most fortuitous manner that frames the unwavering determination of mankind to survive.



## **Free Falling, 2020**

Limited edition of 3

Pigmented ink on Smooth Cotton Rag

Photograph: 105.5 X 156 cm | 41.33 X 61.41 in

Framed: 125 x 176 cm | 49.2 x 69.3 in

## FREE FALLING

"Midday, mid September, continuing to document the effects of the pandemic on Dumaguete City, and on a photowalk in a location I often return to, knowing the energy and dynamism of the diverse characters that share and frequent the space. On this particular day like many others, a group of young friends find relief from the biting midday sun by leaping off the sea wall and diving into the ocean, each jump challenged by the creativity and impressiveness of the last."

This photograph has won international awards and placed in various photography contests. It has been featured nationally and internationally in various publications and exhibitions, physical and online. Free Falling also features as the front cover of the artist's first photography book, All in Good Time.





## PALIGID

"December 31st, early in the morning, while fulfilling my annual tradition of catching the last moments of the year on camera, I wandered just outside of my house in a small village on the outskirts of Dumaguete City. This morning, like every other, my neighbours had been up very early to sweep the leaves in the surrounding area and burn them in a small pit, hoping to drive away mosquitoes with the smoke. Their kids, already full of energy, race down a pathway through trees and shrubbery playing a native game called 'Paligid' meaning to 'roll', from the root word 'ligid'; 'wheel' or 'tire'."

### **Paligid**, 2015

Limited edition of 3

Pigmented ink on Smooth Cotton Rag

Photograph: 105.5 X 156 cm | 41.33 X 61.41 in

Framed: 125 x 176 cm | 49.2 x 69.3 in



## Onion Kids, 2020

Limited edition of 3

Pigmented ink on Smooth Cotton Rag

Photograph: 105.5 X 156 cm | 41.33 X 61.41 in

Framed: 125 x 176 cm | 49.2 x 69.3 in

## ONION KIDS

"Labor Day, almost noon, in my small village on the outskirts of Dumaguete City. I came across this scene happening right outside my home as I was arriving back for lunch after a morning of documenting the effects of the pandemic around town. I had recently volunteered myself as a documenter for Dumaguete City as we were entering into global lockdown and beginning to realise the severity of the looming threat of Covid 19. These kids clearly had no concern however, and I watched for a while, with camera in hand, as adults unloaded a truckload of purple produce, and the kids frolicked in innocent bliss, climbing, leaping and playing pretend among the potent piles."

This photograph was recently featured on the front page of a local newspaper accompanying an article about the current state of onion affairs.



**Catch a Moment - 01, 2015**

Limited edition of 3

Pigmented ink on Smooth Cotton Rag

27.9 x 35.6 cm | 11 x 14 in



**Catch a Moment - 02, 2013**

Limited edition of 3

Pigmented ink on Smooth Cotton Rag

27.9 x 35.6 cm | 11 x 14 in





**Catch a Moment - 03, 2020**

Limited edition of 3

Pigmented ink on Smooth Cotton Rag

27.9 x 35.6 cm | 11 x 14 in

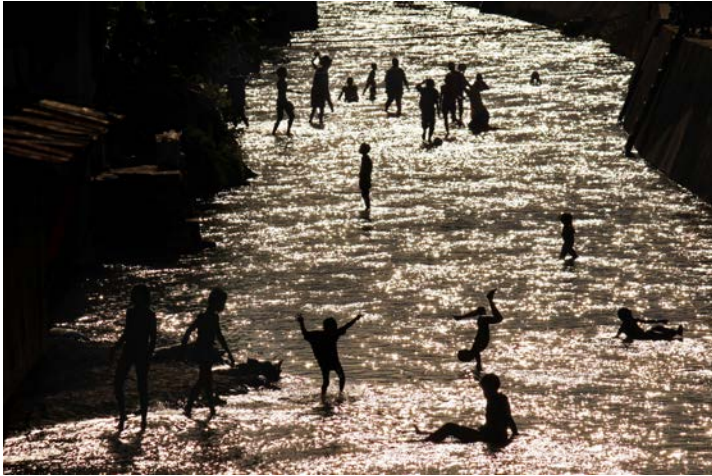


**Catch a Moment - 04, 2020**

Limited edition of 3

Pigmented ink on Smooth Cotton Rag

27.9 x 35.6 cm | 11 x 14 in



**Catch a Moment - 05, 2012**

Limited edition of 3

Pigmented ink on Smooth Cotton Rag

27.9 x 35.6 cm | 11 x 14 in



**Catch a Moment - 06, 2020**

Limited edition of 3

Pigmented ink on Smooth Cotton Rag

27.9 x 35.6 cm | 11 x 14 in





**Catch a Moment - 07, 2020**

Limited edition of 3

Pigmented ink on Smooth Cotton Rag

27.9 x 35.6 cm | 11 x 14 in



**Catch a Moment - 08, 2021**

Limited edition of 3

Pigmented ink on Smooth Cotton Rag

27.9 x 35.6 cm | 11 x 14 in



**Catch a Moment - 09, 2015**

Limited edition of 3

Pigmented ink on Smooth Cotton Rag

27.9 x 35.6 cm | 11 x 14 in



**Catch a Moment - 10, 2022**

Limited edition of 3

Pigmented ink on Smooth Cotton Rag

27.9 x 35.6 cm | 11 x 14 in



**Catch a Moment - 11, 2020**

Limited edition of 3

Pigmented ink on Smooth Cotton Rag

27.9 x 35.6 cm | 11 x 14 in



**Catch a Moment - 12, 2016**

Limited edition of 3

Pigmented ink on Smooth Cotton Rag

27.9 x 35.6 cm | 11 x 14 in



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