

VIVIAN RODRIGUEZ

January 5 - February 17, 2012
Nancy Dryfoos Gallery



Singer Plant, Elizabeth, New Jersey, 2011, Photograph.

According to Paulo Coelho, in his book "The Alchemist", one's personal calling is the path that God has chosen for us here on Earth, and we, "the warriors of light" must be prepared to have patience in difficult times and to know that the Universe is conspiring in our favor, even though we may not understand how. The struggle of having to leave Cuba and start a new life as an immigrant in the United States and the path my uncle chose to take during these difficult years is the theme in my recent work. For the last few months, I have visited with my uncle Jesus all the places where he lived and worked. I have heard stories about our family I never knew, and I have had the privilege of enjoying his company as we looked back at his life as an immigrant in the US. To me this project is more than just a photography exhibit, it is a tribute to him and all the members in my family that came to the United States to provide us a new life full of hope and opportunity. Like myself, I am sure you also have an uncle or other relatives that have struggled and are "warriors of light". It is my hope this exhibit will remind you to pay tribute to them in some special way.