

Photographer's Statement

My start in photojournalism began with a slide show program during a beginning photo class at the University of La Verne. It was presented by a well-known photojournalist at the *The Sun* in San Bernardino, Tom Kasser. His work opened my eyes. Once I had seen what he could do with a camera, it brought me to see, and not just look, at the world around me.

Kasser gave me a goal to strive for, to work at *The Sun* as a staff photographer. Through my undergraduate career I learned the mechanics of the craft. As a lifetime baseball player I already had the competitive gene so I redirected my passion for athletics toward photography.

I took a detour in my quest to be a photojournalist after graduating from ULV. A huge mistake cost me thirteen months of my professional life, and almost the use of my legs. I drove a dump truck backwards over a cliff, spent three months in a hospital and at home in a body cast recuperating from injuries. I spent another nine months in physical therapy learning to walk. Doctors told me that I might not regain the use of my legs or walk without assistance for least five years, if ever. Luckily, I had a great physical therapist. We worked hard every day and prayed to regain the use of my legs. Once I began to walk doctors cleared me to continue as a photographer and stay away from driving trucks. It took a month to land a job in Barstow, at the *Desert Dispatch*, working as a photographer and a writer. I knew I wanted to be photographer more than I wanted to be a writer. I left the high desert and writing to move to Indio, the other desert, with palm trees and more heat, for a staff photography position at the *Daily News*.

Once I began working as a photojournalist, I received the help from another friend and competitor, Michael Meister. Meister worked at the sister paper, the Palm Springs *Desert Sun*. Today Meister is the Director of Photography at the *Arizona Republic* in Phoenix. It was from him I learned the nuts and bolts of photojournalism. Meister also guided me to see the "direction of light" and how to use my backgrounds and lenses for better photographs and clips. He is the master of the art of "enterprise," driving or walking around to find the photo of day, and he helped me learn to shoot for a daily publication. I credit Meister as my mentor while working my way up the ladder.

After leaving the desert, I worked for Tom Tondee, at the Ontario *Daily Report*. Tondee pushed me to another level as a photojournalist. By his guidance and encouragement I was able to get my dream job as a staff photographer at *The Sun*, where, under the tutelage of Jim Edwards, I learned as one of a staff of five photojournalists; we could conquer the world with our cameras. For three years we pushed each other, until we each moved on. I was hired onto the *Los Angeles Times*, Orange County edition, where I worked for twenty years with the best craftsman in the world, under the best leadership. Readers responded well to our passion and the photography at the *Los Angeles Times* is second to none.

Today I work as a freelance photographer using all of what I have learned from the past 34 years. My approach is to keep it simple, watch my backgrounds and see where the light falls. The rest will take care of itself. The action of and reaction to daily life is a beauty to behold. My job is to show the world what happens here on this particular day, and for me it usually means sports photography.

I am grateful to the University of La Verne for this gallery opportunity and to Kevin Bowman, who printed all the images. I must also thank Keith Birmingham from the *San Gabriel Valley Tribune* and the *Pasadena Star-News* and Mark Boster from the *Los Angeles Times* for helping me edit 1,500 sports photographs of the last 21 years to 850 images, then down to 150 or so delivered to the Carlson Gallery for the final edit you see today.

Alexander (Alex) Gallardo
April 11, 2011

Alex Gallardo
Eyes on the Ball

Irene Carlson Gallery of Photography
April 11 through May 20, 2011

An exhibition of photographs

Miller Hall, University of La Verne

About Alex Gallardo

Mr. Gallardo attended the University of La Verne and was graduated with the Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications, Concentration in Photojournalism, in 1980. His first position as a general assignment photographer came in 1982 when he joined the Barstow Desert Dispatch, where his beat included all of north San Bernardino County. He left the Desert Dispatch in 1983 to join the Indio Daily News, where he worked until joining the Ontario Daily Report in 1985. From the Daily Report He went to the San Bernardino Sun in 1987, where he was working when he was awarded the National Press Photographers Association "Photographer of the Year" for Region 10 in 1989.

In 1989 Mr. Gallardo joined the Los Angeles Times, Orange County edition, where he worked first as a general assignment photographer. Later he moved to the metro edition where, in 2001 he began to devote half his time as one of two Sports Photo Editors. During his 20-year career at the Times he served on two Pulitzer Prize Spot News Teams. Twice he earned the Orange County "Photographer of the Year" and several awards in the National Press Photographer Association's annual "Pictures of the Year" competition, including the Angus McDougall team-editing award. He also earned awards in the Press Photographers Association of Greater Los Angeles.

During his career Mr. Gallardo has produced freelance assignments for a wide variety of clients, including Upper Deck, the collectible sports card publisher.

Mr. Gallardo left the Los Angeles Times in 2009 to pursue a freelance career. Today his pictures are published throughout the world by the Associated Press, Reuters Group Limited, European Pressphoto Agency, and the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network, ESPN. He continues to cover Major League Baseball, National League Football, major college sports, National Hockey League and the National Basketball Association. His coverage has included several Super Bowls, NBA Finals, NCAA Playoffs, NHL Playoffs, World Series and Olympics.

Captions

East wall, north end, first panel

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James drives to the basket against the Lakers center Andrew Bynum, left and forward Ron Artest in the second quarter at Staples Center in Los Angeles, California, USA 25 December 2009.

Los Angeles Clippers center Jarron Collins, left, grabs a rebound and is fouled by Golden State Warriors center Andris Biedrins of Latvia during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011, in Los Angeles. Clippers won the game 105-91. (AP Photo/Alex Gallardo)

Concord De La Salle running back Lucas Dunne (27) runs for open ground as Servite dl Christian Caballero (58) dives to go for the tackle in the first half of the State Championship Open Division Finals prep football game, Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010, at the Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif. (Alex Gallardo/Special to ESPNLA.com)

Jake Brown of Oceanside flies in the air from the ramp on his way to the quarter pipe to win the Skateboard Big-Air finals competition Thursday, July 30, 2009 at Staples Center. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Chile's Mark Gonzalez gets to the ball on a tackle from behind on Mexico's Fernando Arce in an International soccer exhibition game Wednesday, February 18, 2004 at the Home Depot Center in Carson. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Los Alamitos' Kristi Bissonnette gets up high to get to a header Tuesday using her arm to get a little extra off of Edison High School's Kristina Furniss as Edison's Heidi Prestegard defends on the first half play. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Lakers Kobe Bryant gets corralled by the Portland Trail Blazers Steve Blake to prevent an easy break away basket in the first quarter Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008 at the Staples Center.

Cleveland Indians left fielder Trevor Crowe (L) leaps in the air to meet with center fielder Michael Brantley to celebrate beating the Los Angeles Angels 3-2 during their MLB American League baseball game in Anaheim, California September 6, 2010. REUTERS/Alex Gallardo

Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Jered Weaver rears back to pitch against the Colorado Rockies in the first inning of their MLB interleague baseball game in Anaheim, California June 25, 2010. REUTERS/Alex Gallardo

East wall, second panel

Conejo Valley Little League team from Thousand Oaks pound on Daniel Leon, second from right with helmet, at home plate for hitting his second homerun of the game against Green Valley of Nevada to win the Western Regional Championship 8-5 at San Bernardino and advance to the Little League World Series. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

New York Yankees' Derek Jeter laughs with Los Angeles Angels' Torii Hunter during introductions for the Major League Baseball's All-Star Game in Anaheim, California July 13, 2010. REUTERS/Alex Gallardo

Dodgers Manny Ramirez (99) gets doused by Ronald Belisaro from the right and Ronnie Belliard left in celebrations in beating the St. Louis Cardinals in game three to win the MLB National League Baseball Divisional Series Oct. 10, 2009 at Busch Stadium in St. Louis. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

All of the University of Southern California Trojans football team gather at the endzone seeking inspiration prior to a game against the Arizona Wildcats Saturday Oct. 8, 2005 at the Coliseum. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

The Western Division Champion Dodgers celebrate after playing the San Diego Padres Thursday September 25, 2008 at Dodger Stadium. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Angels Mike Napoli writes in the dirt in front of the mural of Nick Adenhardt prior to playing the Cleveland Indians in a MLB baseball game Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at Angel Stadium. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

American record holder Natalie Coughlin competes in heat 18 of the Women's 100m Backstroke event at the U.S. National Swimming Championships in Irvine, California August 4, 2010. Coughlin finished with the fastest time over all heats in a time of 1:00.21 in this event. REUTERS/Alex Gallardo

Surfing.Tudor.AG 8/3/96 -- HANGING TEN -- Joel Tudor hangs ten off the front of his long surfboard Saturday August 3, 1996 to win in the final of the Airtouch Pro longboard competition. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Irvine NOVA Aquatics Amanda Beard strokes her way to a win in the 200 Breaststroke finals Sunday May 25, 1997 in a time of 2:35.4 minutes at the Heritage Aquatic Complex in Irvine. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

The British conductor Bramwell Tovey begins his first season as LA Philharmonic principal guest conductor at the Hollywood Bowl Tuesday, July 8, 2008 on the opening night of the summer classical season playing "Urban Runway and "Don Juan." (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Michael Phelps competes in the breast stroke during his heat in the Men's 200m individual medley event at the U.S. National Swimming Championships in Irvine, California August 6, 2010. REUTERS/Alex Gallardo

Mike Owens of Seal Beach bellows for a breath after making the curl return on a wave Saturday in the Senior Division of the Surfline Seal Beach Surfing Championships, the first of such competition in Seal Beach for 30 years. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

East wall, third panel

Lakers Kobe Bryant goes for the reverse layup as the Portland TrailBlazers LaMarcus Aldridge goes for the block in the second quarter Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008 at the Staples Center. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Lakers Kobe Bryant retrieves the ball as he blocks the Houston Rockets Shane Battier in the first quarter in the NBA season opener Tuesday, October 30, 2007 at the Staples Center. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Toronto Raptors Vince Carter tries to shoot over the Lakers Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal, the shot was rejected by O'Neal in the fourth quarter Wednesday at the Staples Center. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Dallas Mavericks Jerry Stackhouse drapes over to foul the Lakers Luke Walton in the third quarter Sunday April 17, 2005 at the Staples Center. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Lakers Shannon Brown (12) pulls up to shoot over the Detroit Pistons Kwame Brown (38) and Jason Maxiell (54) in the second quarter in a NBA basketball game Nov. 17, 2009 at Staples Center. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Fountain Valley's Natalie King grimaces while making a pitch against Marina High School Thursday striking out 14 as the Barons posted a 1-0 win. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Stanford forward Kayla Pedersen battles for a rebound against California forward/center DeNesha Stallworth, left and guard Lauren Greif in the second half of an NCAA college basketball game in the Pac-10 women's tournament in Los Angeles Saturday, March 13, 2010. Stanford won 64-44. (AP Photo/Alex Gallardo)

LOS ANGELES, CA - OCT. 16, 2009: Dodgers Russell Martin (55) ducks away from a high and tight pitch by the Philadelphia Phillies in the eighth inning game two of the MLB National League Championship Series Oct. 16, 2009 at Dodger Stadium. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

San Francisco 49er Jerry Rice hauls in a 39-yard touch down pass from QB Steve Young with Ram Wymon Henderson at right. This was during the 2nd quarter. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

East wall, fourth panel

Ten-year-old Williams Dodds of South Pasadena drives a ball batted at The All Star Baseball School batting cages located in the Arroyo Seco area of South Pasadena Wednesday, Mar. 26, 2008. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Dodgers' first baseman Nomar Garciaparra can't squeeze the throw from third baseman Willy Aybar as New York Mets Paul Lo Duca is credited with a hit in the first inning at Dodger Stadium, Tuesday, June 6, 2006. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

West wall, south end, first panel

SAN DIEGO, CA - JANUARY 3, 2009. Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning tries to rally his troops on the sideline in the third quarter against the San Diego Chargers in a NFL wild card playoff game Saturday, Jan. 3, 2009 at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

LOS ANGELES, CA - FEBRUARY 10, 2009. Olivia Sibert enjoys hitting a strike at the Lucky Strike bowling lounge Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2008 at L.A. Live. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

West wall, second panel

Honduras' Johnny Palacios defends against a shot by Conor Casey of the U.S. in the second half during their international friendly soccer match in Carson, California Jan. 23, 2010. REUTERS/Alex Gallardo

Detroit Pistons' Lindsey Hunter hugs the trophy after the Pistons won in the deciding game 5 NBA Championship game over the Lakers 100-87 Tuesday at the Palace Arena in Detroit. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

University of Southern California Trojan Reggie Bush gets tripped up by the Arizona Wildcats, so he reaches as far as he can, only to get stopped on the one-half yard line in the third quarter Saturday Oct. 8, 2005 at the Coliseum. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

University of Washington Huskies quarterback Isaiah Stanback slips away from University of Southern California Trojans Keith Rivers for a sack in the fourth quarter in Pac-10 NCAA football game at the Coliseum. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Gustavo Dudamel conducting the LA Philharmonic with violinist Leila Josefowicz playing Bartok's Violin Concerto No. 2 Thursday, April 3, 2008 at Disney Hall. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Alex Solis aboard Pleasantly Perfect realizes he just won the \$4,000,000 Breeder's Cup Classic thoroughbred race Saturday at Santa Anita racetrack in Arcadia. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez (6) looks back at his fans after defeating the San Diego Chargers in their NFL Divisional playoff football game in San Diego, California January 17, 2010. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson with his Lowe's/Kobalt Tools Chevrolet celebrates in the victory circle winning the Auto Club 500 at the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, Calif., Sunday, Feb. 21, 2010. (AP Photo/Alex Gallardo)

Los Angeles Angels designated hitter Hideki Matsui of Japan (L) is congratulated by teammate Erick Aybar of the Dominican Republic (C) and Mike Napoli after Matsui hits the game-winning hit in the ninth inning against the Oakland Athletics in their American League baseball game in Anaheim, California, April 10, 2010. Angels won the game 4-3. REUTERS/Alex Gallardo

Arizona Wildcats Channing Frye battles Washington Huskies' Nate Robinson for a loose ball as Huskies' Mike Jensen and Bobby Jones squeeze Mustafa Shakir for space in the key in the finals of the Pac-10 Basketball Tournament Saturday, Mar. 12, 2005 at Staples Center. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

West wall, third panel

Dodger third baseman Adrian Beltre makes a running snap throw to first to get the bunting Montreal Expos Jose Vidro in the fourth inning Wednesday night at Dodger Stadium. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

The veteran tenor Luciano Pavarotti takes in the sold-out audience during his performance at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Real Madrid midfielder Mahamadou Diarra of Mali, left, defends to kick LA Galaxy midfielder Juninho of Brazil inside the penalty box to cause a foul and a penalty kick in the first half during their international friendly soccer match, Saturday, Aug. 7, 2010, in Pasadena, Calif. (AP Photo/Alex Gallardo)

West wall, fourth panel

Dodgers' Steve Finley releases his bat after hitting a ninth inning walk off grand slam homerun against the San Francisco Giants to clinch the NL West Division Saturday October 2, 2004 at Dodger Stadium. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Dodgers' Robin Ventura greets Steve Finley on his way to home plate after hitting a ninth inning walk off grand slam homerun against the San Francisco Giants to win the NL West Division Saturday October 2, 2004 at Dodger Stadium. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

West wall, fifth panel

Narbonne quarterback Jonathan Navarro (10) gets a first down on a quarterback sneak against Serra High School defensive back Kemoni Rich and the rest of the defense in the second half of a CIF prep football game, Friday, Oct. 1, 2010, in Gardena, Calif. (Alex Gallardo/Special to ESPNLosAngeles.com)

Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol (16), of Spain pulls down a rebound as the Sacramento Kings forward Ime Udoka (3), of Slovenia, is late in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Friday, Jan. 1, 2010, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Alex Gallardo)

Soccer.Saddleback.AG 2/11/98 -- Santa Ana's Horacio Velazquez, right, prepares for the header as Saddleback High School's Alex Serrano, left and Alex Licea line up February 11, 1998 in a game won by Saddleback 2-0 at Santa Ana High School. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)

Servite running back Malik Felton splits between Mission Viejo defensive back Michael Connell (17) and Mission Viejo linebacker Tre Madden (3) in the first quarter of the Southern Section Finals prep football game, Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010, in Anaheim, Calif. (Alex Gallardo/Special to ESPNLA.com)

New York Yankees' Mark Teixeira collides into Los Angeles Angels catcher Bobby Wilson to score on a base hit by Yankees' Robinson Cano in the third inning during their MLB American League baseball game in Anaheim, California, April 23, 2010. REUTERS/Alex Gallardo

SAN DIEGO, CA - NOVEMBER 9, 2008. San Diego Chargers wide receiver Vincent Jackson reels in the football to haul in a 31-yard pass against the Kansas City Chiefs Maurice Leggett in the first quarter in a NFL football game Sunday, November 9, 2008 at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego. (Alex Gallardo/Los Angeles Times)