



# Once Upon a Time in Almeria



Exhibition of photographs by Mark Parascandola documenting a forgotten legacy of movie making in the desert landscapes of Almería, Spain.

During the 1960s and 1970s, the region of Almería was host to dozens of filmmakers who constructed elaborate movie sets, invoking locations from the American Southwest to Bedouin Arabia. Films shot here include *Cleopatra*, *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Patton*, and Sergio Leone's spaghetti westerns starring Clint Eastwood. Film directors sought to manipulate the otherwise uninhabitable landscape in order to create a world more imaginary than real. Four decades later remnants of the old movie sets remain in the desert, providing seemingly tangible evidence of human settlements that never really existed.

This series of photographs focuses on the architecture and locations used in classic films over the years. Some of the buildings shown were constructed solely as temporary sets, while others are pre-existing structures with their own history, discovered and reused by foreign movie directors. The prints on display are limited-edition digital prints made using archival pigment inks.

**Mark Parascandola** is a photographer based in Washington, D.C. A Ph.D. epidemiologist by training, he uses photography to explore patterns of movement in human populations, focusing on architecture as evidence of often-invisible social, environmental, and economic processes. Mark has family roots in the desert landscape of Almería, Spain, and he is currently documenting the remains of old movie sets constructed in the region during the 1960s and 1970s. His work has been featured at galleries in Washington, D.C. and in Spain and appears in the DC Art Bank and numerous individual collections. He is an active member of the Washington Project for the Arts and the Mid City Artists. Last year Mark was selected as a finalist for the 2011 Sondheim Prize and was exhibited at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

**VISUAL ARTS**  
**MIAMI**

Fri, April 26–  
Mon, June 03, 2013

## Venue

Miami-Dade Public Library, 101 West  
Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130

[View map](#)

Phone: 305-375-2665

## More information

[Venue's website](#)

## Credits

Organized by Miami-Dade Public Library  
System.



This exhibition is part of a series of events for commemorating 500 Years of the discovery of the State of Florida. *Once Upon a Time in Almeria* was discovered thanks to SPAINRED: The Spanish Cultural Network. [View Mark Parascandola's full project](#) on SPAINRED.