

# Canal

By

# Jobo

Photography by Jason Reblando

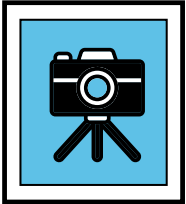
## *Learning Guide*

GVSU  
**ART**  
GALLERY  
EXPLORE. DISCOVER. SHARE.



# About this Guide

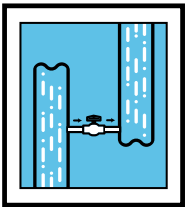
The information below can be used as a launch pad into learning about the themes of the exhibition. The questions and prompts can be used to start a deep-dive discussion about the artwork on view.



## DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY

At the intersection of art and journalism, the power of documentary photography is different than its fine art fellows. In the words of renowned documentary photographer Sebastião Salgado, the function of a documentary photograph is “to create a discussion about what is happening around the world and to provoke some debate.” Examine these photographs by Jason Reblando of the natural/built environments and people that comprise Valencia’s irrigation community, carrying on a one-thousand-year tradition of collective water resource governance. Through the lens of a documentarian, ask;

- **What’s going on here?**
- **What can I learn from looking at the people, places, and activities in these photographs?**



## NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

This series of photographs document the use of irrigation water used by a collective of farmers in Valencia, Spain. In political economics the term ‘commons’ is used to refer to natural or cultural resources that are accessible to all members of a society. This group of Valencian farmers was first studied by economist Elinor Ostrom who noted the effectiveness of their shared governance. Ostrom was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize for her analysis of economic governance, especially the commons. Jason Reblando traveled to Valencia with Dr. Erik Nordman, natural resources management professor at GVSU to research this community, for Nordman’s book, *The Uncommon Knowledge of Elinor Ostrom* (Island Press, 2021). Consider how natural resource management in your area impacts your daily life;

- **What are some of the most commonly used natural resources?**
- **How does our government manage those resources?**

For additional learning resources visit [www.gvsu.edu/artgallery/canal](http://www.gvsu.edu/artgallery/canal) or contact:

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(front cover) Jason Reblando, Oranges (detail), 2019, archival pigment print, courtesy of artist