Salvador Armendariz
“A Night at Delicate Arch”
$375

**Image Description:** A magical spring night with the Milky Way behind Delicate Arch in Arches National Park, Utah. The pink color is a result of light painting using a red night light, and the yellow is from a portable LED light positioned behind the arch. This was about the third time I’d done the 1.5 mile hike up to Delicate Arch. As one of the most iconic natural landmarks in the world, it is visited by more than a million people per year. Seeing this 46-foot tall arch in person is an amazing experience. However, it can be difficult to photograph it with some many people around. That is why I decided to visit the arch at 3am on a chilly April night. I was a bit nervous to hike alone in the dark, especially given some of the tricky terrain and significant precipices where people have been seriously injured or died. To my surprise, there were about four other photographers already busy at work when I got to the arch at about 3:30am. I was relieved to not be completely alone up there and quickly connected with them. Witnessing the magic of seeing the Milky Way rising up right through the center of Delicate Arch on a perfectly clear and moonless sky brought us together. We were all ecstatic about the perfection of that moment. Instead of getting in each other’s way or having to jostle each other for the best spot (as some photographers are known to do in very popular spots), we worked as a team to light up the arch in different ways so we could all create some truly memorable images. That was a night I’ll never forget.

**Location of Image:** Arches National Park, Utah

**Type of Camera and Lens Used:** Nikon D750, Tokina 16-28mm F/2.8 ATX Pro FX Zoom Lens

**Camera Settings Used:** f/2.8, 30 sec., ISO 1000, 16mm

**Artist Statement:** My interest in photography started in 2009 during a trip to south India. Since then, I have enjoyed practicing different kinds of photography including natural and urban landscapes, travel photography, wildlife, as well as portraits and events. For better or worse, I have resisted the pressure often put on photographers to specialize in a single genre of photography. I really enjoy the process of learning to shoot different types of photography and using different techniques. The three photos I submitted for this exhibit represent a part of the variety of subjects I enjoy photographing: astrophotography, urban landscapes and architecture, and natural landscapes. The experiences of making each of these photographs were both special and unique. I love remembering what it felt like to be in that time and place taking that photo. I hope these images evoke a sense of appreciation for the variety of truly amazing things in this world, both natural as well as those made by humans.

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