

Wallid Soukaki

Art Critique MFA

Professor Kim

PART 1:

- 6 workers sitting down at a diner
- Chairs are chained to the floor
- All look very uncomfortable
- Grayscale
- Only shades of white, black, and grey
- “Comedor and LMN”
- Clothes worn look very worn out
- All look very tired
- Look very hardworking
- Sitting near barlike table
- In some sort of garage
- Looks very cheap and old
- May be a family owned business
- Seem as if they are ready to leave
- Seem as if their heads are decapitated
- Shoeshine boxes
- Paint splattered pants

## PART 2: author, audience, genre, cultural and historical context, message

- Author is Manuel Alvarez Bravo
- Title: “The Crouched Ones” or “Los Agachados” in 1934
- Genre: Photograph and Gelatin Silver Print
- Cultural/Historical Context - Working class in the 1930’s taking a break from manual labor
- Message: The hard work many of these people had to go through in order to provide for a proper life. The discomfort at their rest shows the intensity of their labor and their work.

## PART 3:

Throughout the photograph many aspects of life are portrayed. Bravo uses gelatin silver print to depict the working class in the 1930’s taking a break from the intensive work they have to accomplish. The title of the photograph is “The Crouched Ones” which describes the physical attributes of the 6 laborers. Additionally, there is a metaphor to the way of life to many of the workers in their lives. Many are crouched down due to the hard work and the lack of resources that were provided and given to them. The 6 workers seem to sit uncomfortably in their chained up chairs during their break, insinuating very trying and physical work. Their physical appearance shows tattered up clothes as well as ripped and paint splattered pants. In doing so, Bravo is depicting the day in the life of these workers. The audience seems to be the Mexican populous as it depicts the hard laborious work many of the average people had to go through in order to provide for their families. The message portrayed also allows for the general population

to feel as if there are others going through similar times. In doing so a pathos appeal is in effect as the sense of community and camaraderie exists. The Mexican public understands the struggles one must make to survive, and it is properly signified through this image. The setting of the photo is in a private owned "Comedor" which is a diner. This diner seems to be a makeshift garage with a bar and a countertop to allow serving food. This is a family owned which also shows a different aspect of life in 20th century Mexico. Additionally, the struggles of all people are shared as they all help each other complete certain tasks and accomplish certain goals.