

June 12 through August 7, 2022

Hondouran Island *Rural Life*

photographs by
Tom Leopold
of Zeandale, Kansas



Sam the Fisherman by Tom Leopold

Artist Statement

Since 2015, good friends of mine have let me stay at their vacation home on the island of Helene in Honduras. This island, like most places on this planet, is going through major changes. The only access to Helene is by boat, there are no vehicles to speak of, just walking paths.

Twenty-four-hour current came to the island in 2019 along with cable television and high-speed internet. Prior to technology reaching the island, there were just small fishing villages without access to the world. Previously, in order to make a phone call, it would be what the natives call a "down-island trip," which is a boat trip to another island. Today everyone has a cell phone, social media and a TV.

The old customs, fishing and diving, boats, church, birthdays, family and kids, loving your neighbor, fellowship, life and death still carry on as you can see in these photos.

There are probably 1000 or so folks living on the island. It didn't take long for them to know me and it took me a little longer to remember all of them. I am so lucky to be welcomed into their community.

Biography

Tom Leopold is a lifelong photographer. After 4 years in the US Submarine Navy, he studied photojournalism at Kent State University. In the mid 70's Leopold moved to Manhattan, Kansas, and found work as a photographer with *Flint Feature News Magazine*.

Constantly making photos, he has documented life wherever he is - among other places this includes Kansas, Austin, San Francisco, Mexico, and now the islands of Honduras.

For more about Leopold's adventures see his website www.tomleopold.com



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