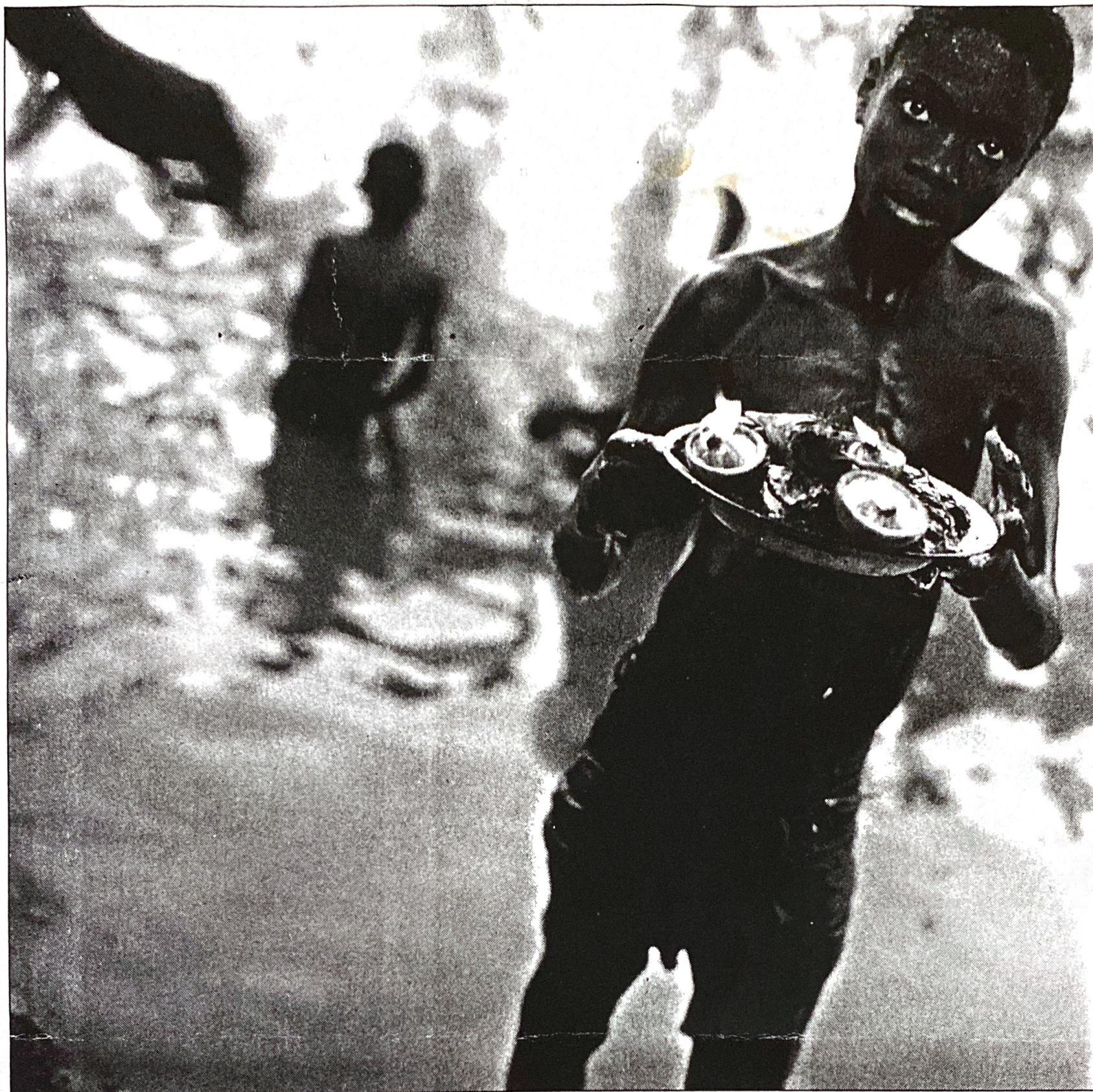


"Serving the Spirits: Vodou Ritual In Haiti"



THE IMAGINATIVE POWER OF VODOU – Paying homage to Ogoun. Plaine-du-Nord Haiti, July 1998

Artist's Statement: Introducing the work of Edwine Seymour

Since childhood I have been fascinated with photography and its ability to capture life. Recording the candid moment, at once visually intimated, personal, and able to capture the honesty of lived reality. Traveling between Haiti and New York, I have the ability to capture the cultural and political transitions that are occurring within the Haitian Diaspora, while documenting my own personal life. As a photog-

rapher and a Haitian, presenting the personal and intimate relationship with the subject is crucial to my work, an element that is often lacking in the media. I work at breaking down stereotypes and shedding light on Voodoo from the perspective of a Haitian. My recent awards from the New York Foundation for the Arts and Marty Forscher Fellowship allowed me to travel back to Haiti in order to continue an on going documentary project. In my photographic journey I try to bring forth the integrity, depths of spirituality, the mystic elements, and

cultural nuances of a religion that has been part of our cultural heritage for thousands of years and that has direct relevance to larger population groups and events outside of Haiti, part of larger transnational media and social links that resist static forms of representation. While not claiming an essential link, I find the insiders point of view a necessary step in the process of a people telling their story.

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