

THOU SHALT OFFER SALT
PHOTOGRAPHING A CHANGING SALTON SEA

Stuart Palley
Professor David Rees, Project Chair

ABSTRACT

Thou Shalt Offer Salt is a photographic documentary of the Salton Sea in 2013 picturing the sea as it starts to shrink. Photography shows environmental concerns facing the Southern California man-made lake, including dropping water levels and pollution and resultant changes in population. Images shot in past years are displayed with current photography to show dropping water levels. This work establishes a benchmark for future photographic work as the Salton Sea continues to shrink. A photo book based on this work shares images with the photojournalism community and the general public.

SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL ANALYSIS

Two photographers who have photographed the Salton Sea were interviewed using semi-structured interviews. Gerd Ludwig is a photographer for *National Geographic Magazine*, and Jeff Frost is an art photographer and experimental artist. Using their interviews as a discussion, their photographic work in the region is compared and analyzed.