

# The eyes of the world on the award-winning work of a Tec professor



By revealing the story of a woman through photography, Professor **Henry Moncrieff Zabaleta** from the Tec's Mexico City campus has won the international [\*\*Rachel Tanur Memorial Prize for Visual Sociology\*\*](#).

The work presented by Moncrieff Zabaleta portrays **the beauty of Estrella**, a **60-year-old indigenous Venezuelan woman** who worked collecting copper and aluminum in a garbage dump in Ciudad Guayana.

*"I was also able to reinterpret my photographic eye with a more mature sociological vision. That's how I explored Chávez's demand to construct a national sovereignty, and used the notes in my notebook to reconstruct the backstage of **Estrella's** portrait for the Rachel Tanur Memorial Prize.*

*"Professionally, this international award encourages me to continue as an ethnographer linked to visual sociology. Today I consider myself a producer of '**photographic data**' on the ground," he explained.*

*"I try to **communicate this experience** to my Tec students: that not all data is oral, but that it can also be visual," he added.*



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**Henry Moncrieff** was born in **Venezuela**, where he met Estrella. Just like the participants of ‘*Miss Universe*’ which the South American country is noted for producing, this woman of Warao descent also has a **beauty that should be recognized**.

*“I am a Venezuelan who has been living in Mexico for a few years and I currently work as a **sociologist** in this country that has received me.*

*“I had training as an **anthropologist/photographer** in Venezuela and France, but I always worked within the framework of empirical sociology, an experience that resulted in photographic essays of field work in inhospitable places,” he added.*

The professor’s plans include **documenting Mexico City** and its young people through his images.

*“My doctoral dissertation will be on the belongings of young people residing in the **marginalized periphery of Mexico City**. For this ongoing research I have decided upon a “visual mode” in dialog with a “textual mode” (observations and interview transcripts).*

*“I have been doing an exploration of the sensations of **living in poverty-stricken areas of Mexico** , trying to capture these experiences in images and translate them in terms of visual sociology,” he said.*

**The Rachel Tanur Memorial Prize for Visual Sociology** is intended to encourage students to study social phenomena.

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