

## October First Thursday Art Review

by *Jacob Carl Harksen*

October 8, 2010

Blue Sky Gallery and Nine Gallery (122 NW 8th Ave)—At Blue Sky Gallery this month is a great showing of Stella Johnson's photography series *Al Sol*, which stems from the artist's time spent living in small villages in Mexico, Cameroon, and Nicaragua. Johnson is a brilliant composer; her photographs are exceedingly well formed and miraculously well timed. She often seems occupied with light and shadow. Two of the most striking photographs on display involve the presence of a shadow that becomes more of a subject than the person making it—*Djohong, Cameroon, West Africa 2001*; and *San Bartolo Coyotepec, Oaxaca, Mexico 2002*. Johnson's photographs can also make extensive use of line, as with *Orinoco, Nicaragua 2003 D*, where a net covers almost the entire frame. Overall, Johnson's work is filled with a deep, satisfying humanity and punctuated by moments of simple joy.



Stella Johnson, "Djohong, Cameroon, West Africa 2001"