

# CAMERA *Arts*<sup>TM</sup>

## Small Town New Mexico Rodeo

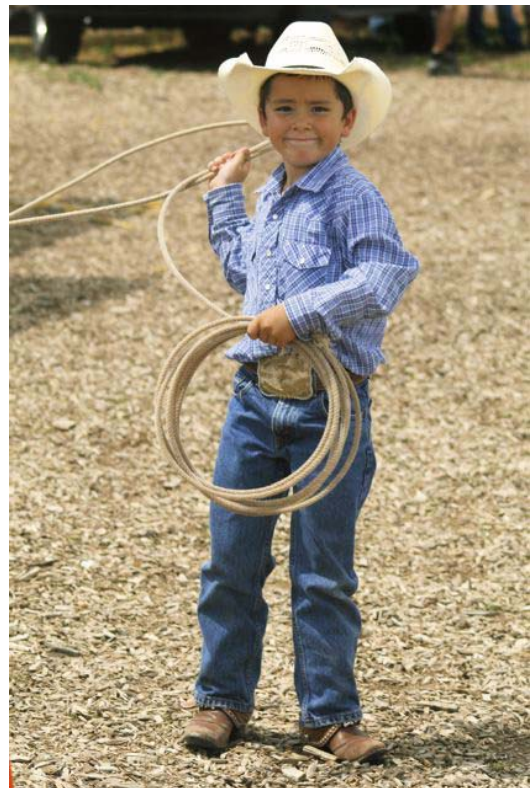
Photographs and Text by Julien McRoberts





I once heard a saying that all little boys wanted to grow up to be a cowboy or at least play a cowboy .... how this somehow ended up applying to a little Tom Girl growing up in the center of San Francisco is perplexing to me but I have always had a fascination with the cowboy lifestyle.

Funny how you come full circle when you least expect it. Although I am relatively new to photography I discovered early on what I loved to





shoot... Cowboys and the local rodeos here in New Mexico. I prefer to shoot the small rodeos because they have an authentic and genuine feel of the old west and because they are one of the last places where a man can use the talents from the days of the million-acre ranges that took an army of talented cowboys to keep in order. Being a rodeo cowboy is a dangerous occupation where only the strongest and smartest take home the victory even though the prize money pays very little on the small circuits.



To me the rodeos embody the old frontier spirit in a world that has become rapidly urbanized. We have gone from a country that was mostly an agrarian society at the turn of the last century where cowboys were an integral part of our culture but the cowboy lifestyle has nearly vanished these days and

I am drawn to capture what I can of it before it no longer exists.

Images are from the Galisteo Rodeo in New Mexico which has been in existence for the past 37 years. Photos were taken with a Cannon 400D, Cannon 17 - 70 lens and 70 - 300 lens.

Julien McRoberts  
[www.julienmroberts.com](http://www.julienmroberts.com)