

POSTCARD FROM ZIMBABWE: SANTIAGO MOSTYN



By **Jessie Wender** June 27, 2011

I've been following [Santiago Mostyn's](#) photography since last year, when I was researching images for a fiction piece about a river journey and fell in love with his project "[Excerpt: Almost Heaven](#)." He made his most recent body of work on a return trip to his childhood home in Zimbabwe.

"I've had it in mind for so long that I would go to Zimbabwe to describe with images the space between my childhood memories of the country, and what one can actually see of a place with a camera," Mostyn told me. "I hoped to make images that would stand against the sensationalism of how this part of the world is portrayed. Instead, I wanted to know what soft, ordinary, personal moments feel like in a place like this, and found them everywhere in my walks and conversations."

"I was drawn to so many of the surfaces in Zimbabwe, and especially at Mupfure, the collectivized farm-college where my mother taught in the nineteen-eighties," he said. "I realize that it has to do with how we remember things as children. Colour, textures, light, dirt: all of these form the fundament of our early memories, and have now found their way into some of the images that I made on my return."

Here's a selection of the photographs Santiago sent me upon his return.

