



Photography | The Sanchez brothers soak it all in

Darkness engulfs a drowning girl. An unattended kitchen sink overflows ominously. Holy water turns to blood on the forehead of a baby being baptized. The hypnotic photographs of white-hot artists **Carlos and Jason Sanchez** beg the question: what, exactly, is going on here? “We encourage people who look at our photographs to construct their own stories,” explains Carlos, 27, the elder of the two Laval, Que.-based brothers.

The siblings’ darkly cinematic narratives can take months to create, including building sets, working with actors, and overseeing teams of lighting and special effects crews from the film industry. “We worked on one production, *Easter Party*, for over

Carlos and Jason (www.thesanchezbrothers.com); one of their photos, *Descent* (below)



five months,” recalls Jason, 22. The brothers even sleep in the sets, as a pre-shoot ritual, although they won’t divulge exactly what goes on during those all-night “seances.”

The effort is paying off: the Musée nationale des beaux-arts du Québec acquired one of the six *Easter Party* prints soon after the photo was unveiled. Following recent shows in Berlin, Strasbourg, New York and Miami, the duo now have a solo exhibition running at Christopher Cutts Gallery in Toronto until May 29—accompanied by a monograph on their work. What, exactly, is going on here is that two young brothers are capturing the world’s imagination with their stunning photographs. ADAM LEITH GOLLNER