



### Macau's transformation from a historical city to a phantasmagorical dreamscape

Over the last decade, Adam Lampton has photographed the former Portuguese colony of Macau (now a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China) and witnessed its transformation from a small enclave into an international gambling Mecca and leisure destination. As of 2007, Macau had surpassed Las Vegas in revenue to become the world's most valuable gambling market. The colonial legacy, the communist experiment in capitalism, and the Chinese traditions continually collide and remake Macau through the filter of each other's histories. This complexity is reflected in the large-format photos, which oscillate between past and present, expression and observation. In addition to exhibiting internationally, Lampton's work has been featured in Art in America, The Boston Globe, and Camera Austria.

From the text *A Fabulous Speck* by **Tim Simpson**:

*Macau is an eccentric city with a five-hundred-year history that encompasses its early role as a vibrant trading port of silks and spices to its twentieth-century status as a fugitive's haven positioned just beyond the reach of Interpol. Gold and diamonds may no longer disappear so mysteriously into the night, but billions of dollars change hands each year over the city's baccarat tables. Macau remains a "fabulous speck on the earth's surface," and a remarkable window into other times we should not soon forget.*

From the text *Through Windows Dreaming* by **Adam Lampton**:

*Layers of various-aged apartments throughout much of the city give the streets a labyrinthine quality often described as 'European.' Indeed, space there seems to be organized around something less rational than urban planning, more improvised than five-year plans, and less self-conscious than the corporate mod-*

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## Adam Lampton *Nothing Serious Can Happen Here* *Photographs from Macau*

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*ernism of contemporary tourist environments. It is formed more like a river forms a canyon, the flow of humanity eating away at the angular stone, exposing deposits of collective desire memorialized in concrete. In this way, Macau's logic unfolds only in relation to the people who move along its surface.*

**Adam Lampton** is an internationally exhibited, award-winning photographer whose work has been featured in Art in America, The Boston Globe, and Camera Austria. A recipient of the William J. Fulbright fellowship to Macau, SAR, China, and a finalist for the Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Grant, Lampton's photography approaches the landscape as a site of personal, social, and historical narratives. His commitment to uncovering the layers of meaning within these environments invites viewers to explore the deeper stories behind the images.

Discover his work on Instagram (@adamlampton) and on the website [www.adamlampton.com](http://www.adamlampton.com).

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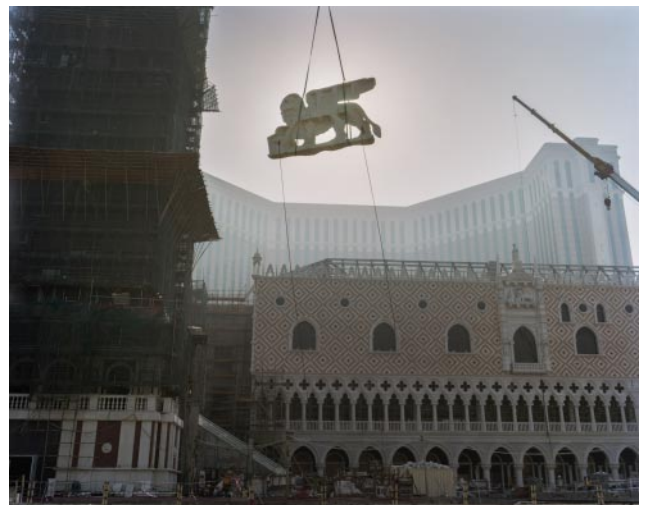
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