

NEW RELEASE 2024

David Graham *Locations From a Movie I Never Made*

Texts by David Graham, Leah Modigliani
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Scenes from untold cinematic stories, culled from location scouting assignments and travel across five continents.

American photographer and location scout David Graham has visualized ideas, locations, and style for more than two decades. Directors and photographers he has worked with include Patrick Demarchelier, Paul Greengrass, Steven Klein, Ang Lee, Peter Lindbergh, Michael Mann, Gus Van Sant, Todd Haynes, and Steven Spielberg to name a few. In his own work, Graham has developed a distinctive style that combines the formal eye of a location scout with the connective facility of a street photographer. A traveler at heart, Graham intuits the visual appeal of both local and foreign landscapes, enriching his vision along the way. Graham's project *The Last Car*, focusing on modern day gay life in Mexico City, and mentored by Alex Webb and Rebecca Norris Webb, was published by Kehrer Verlag 2017.

From the text *Orientations in the Directorial Mode: David Graham's Locations from a Movie I never Made* by **Leah Modigliani**: *Locations from a Movie I Never Made*.

These seven words suggest both the endless flow of world pictures and the boundless human desire to stop time and find oneself therein. David Graham's photographs are, on one hand, byproducts of his professional work as a location scout for film and advertising, and on the other hand, documentations of the mirage of social lives dominated by technology and media. The Metaverse, social media, and all the AI conjured up with effortless prompts allow each of us the gratification to perform on a stage of our own making. Only the very young, very old, or the determined anti-tech ascetic can avoid this logic.

(...)

Graham thus offers the most dramatic scenarios within which we can all imagine performing the simulations of our lives, hyperreal backdrops "set up to rejuvenate in reverse the fiction of the real."

The car wash customer, the queer guy on the beach, the partygoer, the dog walker, the diner, the wrestler, the middle-class Catholic, the motel patron, the hunter, the biker, the business traveler, the vacationer, the Jersey-shore mom, the rancher and so on—these populate our lived experience as simultaneously real and unreal, and Graham, less a voyeur and more of a globe-trotting flâneur, shows us their carefully constructed imagehabitats. In these pictures, reality shortchanges self-aggrandizement and so facilitates a reconciliation between what we want to be and what we are. The woman in the yellow dress in the hotel bar, otherwise well put together, has frazzled highlighted hair and looks exhausted; vacationers sit crowded next to each other in an impossibly small beach resort on cheerful towels; young women in the prime of life stand together looking uncomfortable with their position in the world. Doubt crowds the pictures. Things are not quite what they seem, or maybe they seem like they should be more than they are.

Explore **David Graham's** work on Instagram (@davidmarvin_instagram) and the website davidgrahamlocations.com.

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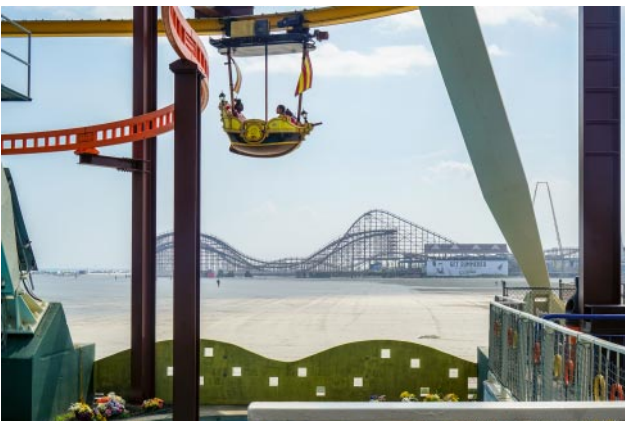
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02_ Isle of Skye, Scotland © David Graham



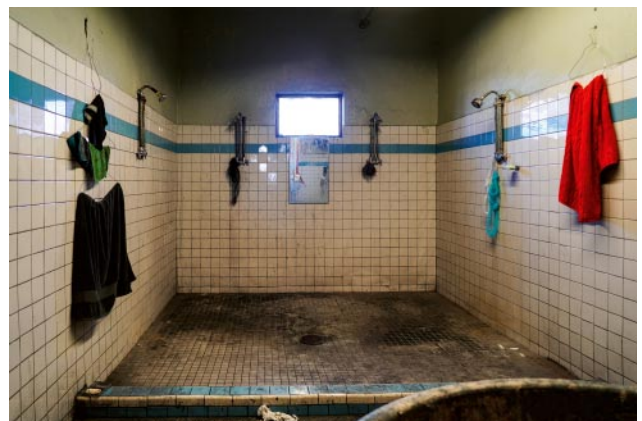
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