

NEW RELEASE

Thomas Holton
THE LAMS OF LUDLOW STREET


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Exploration into the life of one Chinese family living in New York City's Chinatown neighborhood.

The Lams of Ludlow Street is an in-depth look at a family living in New York City's Chinatown neighborhood. Born to a Chinese mother and an American father, Thomas Holton had close relatives living in Chinatown, but always felt disconnected and perceived as a visitor there. In an attempt to better understand his own Chinese heritage, Holton began photographing the streets and the daily rituals of the neighborhood. However, what began as a more traditional documentary project in the »street photography« genre developed into a much more intimate exploration of a single family's life spanning a decade.

When Holton began to photograph the Lams, he »started to understand the Chinatown family I never had.« The early work explores their daily lives and surroundings. The project evolved from an emphasis on the family's physical surroundings to a more nuanced look into their family dynamics and interior lives. In the later works, the unified family Holton had photographed before was broken up physically and emotionally, and the new photographs reflect the changing situation.

What distinguishes *The Lams of Ludlow Street* is its focus on the Asian-American immigrant experience in New York City as well as the exploration of a family's turbulent history, which everyone can relate to regardless of race or religion.

»My need to see the Lams regularly moved beyond the desire to make new photographs and became akin to visiting family members that I cherish. I return out of love and the knowledge that ti-

me is fleeting. I just happen to always bring a camera..«
 – Thomas Holton

Thomas Holton received his MFA from The School of Visual Arts in New York City in 2005. His work has been exhibited widely, in venues such as the New York Public Library, The Museum of the City of New York, the Griffin Museum of Photography, Winchester, MA; and at the Lishui Museum of Photography in China. In 2005 he was one of the twenty four photographers chosen by the Art + Commerce Festival for Emerging Photographers, and in 2006, American Photo magazine named him one of the country's ten best Young Photographers in the United States. *The Lams of Ludlow Street*, was featured twice by The New York Times, as well as Aperture Magazine. Since 2002 he repeatedly teaches photography besides his career as a professional photographer.

Currently **Charles Traub** is chair of the MFA Photography, Video, and Related Media Department at the School of Visual Arts in New York.

Bonnie Yochelson was curator of prints and photographs at the Museum of the City of New York and teaches in the MFA Photography, Video, and Related Media Department at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan. She is the author, among others, of *Alfred Stieglitz New York*.

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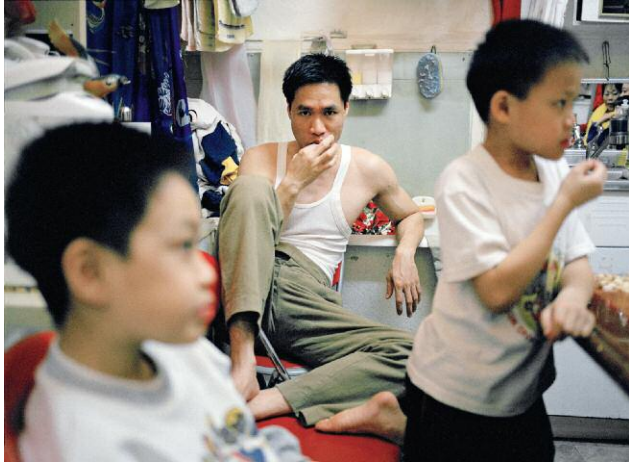
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