

NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG

## *Same Dream Another Time*

Jay Wolke

Photographs by Jay Wolke

Essay by James McManus

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### **Imagination and reality of the three classic gambling centers in the USA: Las Vegas, Reno, and Atlantic City**

When Jay Wolke made these photographs in the late 1980s and early 1990s, there were three major centers for gambling in the United States: Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada, and Atlantic City, New Jersey. He was fascinated with the accentuated layers and intersections of people, artifice, architecture and landscape. Wolke was searching for circumstances charged with expectation and aspiration; stirred by fantasy, so that, through the photographs, he might then strip away those expectations, exposing the symbols of desire alongside the realities of uncertainty and deception.

The project has now become both a time capsule and an index of the contemporary, addressing larger themes that are every bit as meaningful today as they were 30 years ago.

*Given the three cities Wolke was shooting in, we may be surprised to discover not a whiff of the salacious in any of these photographs. He is more interested in the chintzy seductions, unlikely architectural pairings, and—most of all—the ordinary people working in and around the casinos: construction workers, limo drivers, bartenders, prostitutes, croupiers, cops, blackjack dealers. An accelerating influx of gamblers, together with the hundreds of thousands of workers needed to build and staff all the new hotels and casinos, had made Las Vegas the fastest growing city in America. On the other side of the continent, Atlantic City was trying to follow suit, trading its quaint seaside image, familiar from postcards and Monopoly boards, for modern gaming and convention complexes, displacing thousands of working-class residents in the process. The Boardwalk had fallen under the influence*

*of hucksters like Donald Trump, whose garish taste, bad faith, worse credit, and unapologetic racism produced some of the ugliest buildings and business plans suffered by any American city.*  
— from the essay by James MacManus

**Jay Wolke** is an artist and educator living in Chicago, Illinois. His photographic monographs include *All Around the House: Photographs of American-Jewish Communal Life*, 1998; *Along the Divide: Photographs of the Dan Ryan Expressway*, 2004; and *Architecture of Resignation: Photographs from the Mezzogiorno*, 2011. His works have been exhibited internationally and are in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the New York MoMA, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the San Francisco MoMA, among others. His photographs have appeared in numerous publications including *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Financial Times Magazine*, *Geo France*, *Exposure*, *Newsweek*, *Fortune*, and *The Village Voice*. In the 1990s he was coordinator of graduate documentary photography at the IIT Institute of Design, and served as head of art and graduate studies at Studio Art Centers International, Florence, Italy. He is currently professor of photography at Columbia College Chicago.

**James MacManus** is the author of *Positively Fifth Street*, *Cowboys Full*, *Going to the Sun*, and eight other books of poetry, fiction, and fact. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, *Poetry*, *Harper's*, and *Paris Review*. He teaches at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

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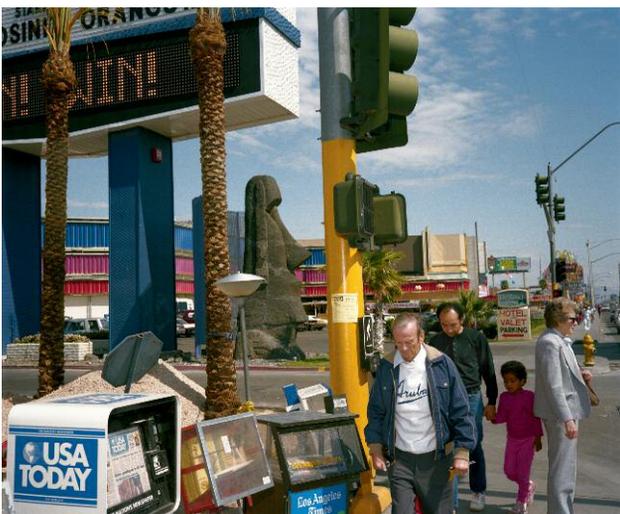
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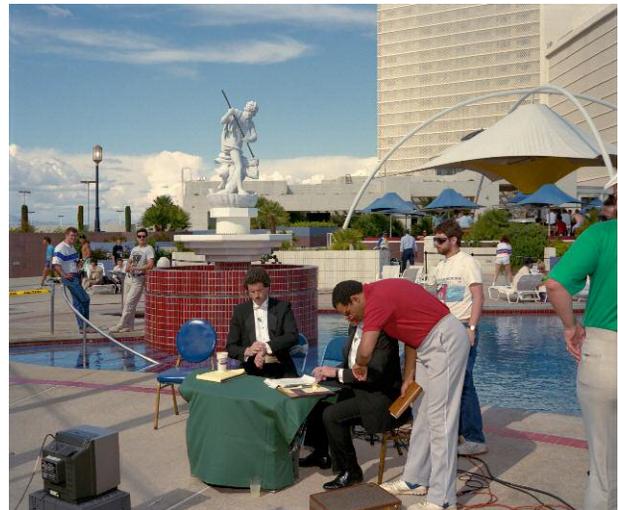
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