



THE WORLD PARK

THOMAS SAUVIN, 2019

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Institut pour la Photographie, Lille, France

October - December 2019

*Travel around the world, what a wonderful idea! But for many reasons,
few people can afford it, and this trip remains an unfulfilled dream for many.
Times are changing! You are invited to Beijing World Park!
Here, where you can go around the world in just one day, that dream is now coming true!*

It is with this promising text that the catalogue for the «Beijing World Park», which was opened with great pomp and ceremony on 25 November 1993 by Prime Minister Li Peng, begins. Built in 18 months by the Institute of Civil Engineering and Architecture of the City of Beijing with a public investment of 15 million euros, the World Park is a testament to the craze for foreign countries at a time when China was opening up to globalisation. With its 100 miniature reproductions of the world's great monuments, this theme park offers visitors a unique tourist experience, a fictional journey where the pyramids of Giza and Notre-Dame de Paris meet in the reassuring bosom of a national space.

Within six months, more than three million Chinese people visited the park, often with their new film cameras. This incredible photographic playground gave rise to millions of photographs of another world where the world's architectural symbols are reduced to unlikely sizes. A few years later, with the rise of Chinese tourism abroad, this playground was expanded to the whole world and extended beyond the limits of the amusement park. In this new series from his Beijing Silvermine archive, Thomas Sauvin offers to take us on a journey where the photographic exploration of Beijing World Park joins that of the entire planet, a visual universe in which the fictional and the real are intertwined.

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Faire le tour du monde, quelle merveilleuse idée ! Mais pour de nombreuses raisons, peu de gens peuvent se l'offrir, et ce voyage demeure un rêve inaccompli pour beaucoup. Les temps changent ! Vous êtes invité au Beijing World Park ! Ici, vous pourrez faire le tour du monde en un jour seulement, le rêve devient maintenant réalité !

FR C'est sur ce texte prometteur que s'ouvre le catalogue du Beijing World Park inauguré en grande pompe le 25 novembre 1993 par le premier ministre chinois Li Peng. Construit en l'espace de dix-huit mois par l'Institut d'ingénierie civile et d'architecture de la ville de Pékin à hauteur d'un investissement public de quinze millions d'euros, le World Park témoigne d'un engagement pour l'échange, à l'heure où la Chine s'ouvrait à la mondialisation. Avec ses cent reproductions miniatures des grands monuments, ce parc à thème offre aux visiteurs une expérience inédite du tourisme, un voyage fictif où les pyramides de Gizeh et la cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris se côtoient dans le giron rassurant d'un espace national. En l'espace de six mois, plus de trois millions de Chinois visitaient le parc, bien souvent munis de leur nouvel appareil photo argentique. Cet incroyable terrain de jeu photographique donne ainsi naissance à des millions de clichés d'un ailleurs où les symboles mondiaux d'architecture sont réduits à des échelles dérisoires. Quelques années plus tard, avec l'essor du tourisme chinois à l'international, ce terrain de jeu va s'élargir au monde entier et dépasser les limites du parc d'attraction. Dans cette nouvelle série issue de son archive *Beijing Silvermine*, Thomas Sauvin nous propose à son tour un voyage où l'exploration photographique du *Beijing World Park* rejoint celle de la planète entière, un univers visuel dans lequel s'entrelacent réalité et fiction.

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EN It is with this promising text that the catalogue for the "Beijing World Park", which was opened with great pomp and ceremony on 25 November 1993 by Prime Minister Li Peng, begins. Built in 18 months by the Institute of Civil Engineering and Architecture of the City of Beijing with a public investment of 15 million euros, the World Park is a testament to the dream for foreign countries at a time when China was opening up to globalisation. With its 100 miniature reproductions of the world's great monuments, this theme park offers visitors a unique tourist experience, a fictional journey where the pyramids of Giza and Notre-Dame de Paris meet in the reassuring bosom of a national space. Within six months, more than three million Chinese people visited the park, often with their new film cameras. This incredible photographic playground gave rise to millions of photographs of another world where the world's architectural symbols are reduced to unlikely sizes. A few years later, with the rise of Chinese tourism abroad, this playground was expanded to the whole world and extended beyond the limits of the amusement park. In this new series from his *Beijing Silvermine* archive, Thomas Sauvin offers to take us on a journey where the photographic exploration of *Beijing World Park* joins that of the entire planet, a visual universe in which the fictional and the real are intertwined.

Een reis om de wereld, wat een geweldige idee! Om verschillende redenen kunnen maar weinig mensen zich een reis om de wereld veroorloven en blijft het voor velen iets waar ze alleen maar van dromen. Maar de tijden veranderen! We nodigen je uit naar het Beijing World Park! Hier kan je in één dag de wereld rond reizen en wordt je droom werkelijkheid!

NL Deze beëloofde tekst is de inleiding van de catalogus van het "Beijing World Park" dat op 25 november 1993 met veel pracht en praal door premier Li Peng werd geopend. Het World Park werd in slechts 18 maanden door het Instituut voor Civiele Bouwkunde en Architectuur van de stad Peking met een publieke investering van 15 miljoen euro gebouwd. Het taal een passie voor het buitenland zien in een tijd waarin China zich opent voor de wereld. Met de 100 miniatures van beroemde monumenten biedt dit themapark bezoekers een unieke toeristische ervaring, een denkbeeldige reis waar de piramides van Gizeh naast de Notre-Dame van Parijs staan in een geruststellende afscherming per nationale ruimte. Binnen een half jaar bezochten meer dan drie miljoen Chinezen het park, vaak uitgerust met hun nieuwe analoge fototoestellen. Deze ongelooflijke speelplaats voor fotografie vormt in de loop van zes maanden foto's van een ander plek waar de architectonische symbolen uit de hele wereld tot een ooraarschillende schaal zijn gereduceerd. Met de opkomst van het Chinese toerisme op het internationale toneel breidde deze speeltuin zich enkele jaren later uit over de hele wereld tot over de grenzen van het pretpark. In zijn nieuwe serie uit het *Beijing Silvermine*-archief neemt Thomas Sauvin ons mee op reis naar een plek waar de fotografische werking van het *Beijing World Park* overgaat in een herkenning van de hele planeet: een visueel universum waarin fictie en realiteit met elkaar verweven zijn.





世界公園



護照

PASSPORT

世界公園旅遊紀念

THE WORLD PARK
Thomas G. Smith, 2018

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Thomas G. Smith, 2018
The World Park is a theme park located in the New York City borough of Queens. It is the only theme park in the United States to feature replicas of the Eiffel Tower and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The park was opened in 1964 and has since become a popular destination for tourists and locals alike. The park's name is a play on the word 'world' and 'park', reflecting its unique theme of recreating famous international landmarks. The park's design was inspired by the 1964 New York World's Fair, which celebrated the city's centennial. The park's architecture and landscaping are a blend of modern and traditional styles, creating a unique and memorable experience for visitors. The park's success has led to the development of other theme parks around the world, including the World Park in London and the World Park in Dubai. The park's history is a testament to the power of imagination and the desire to experience the world from the comfort of home.



世界公園

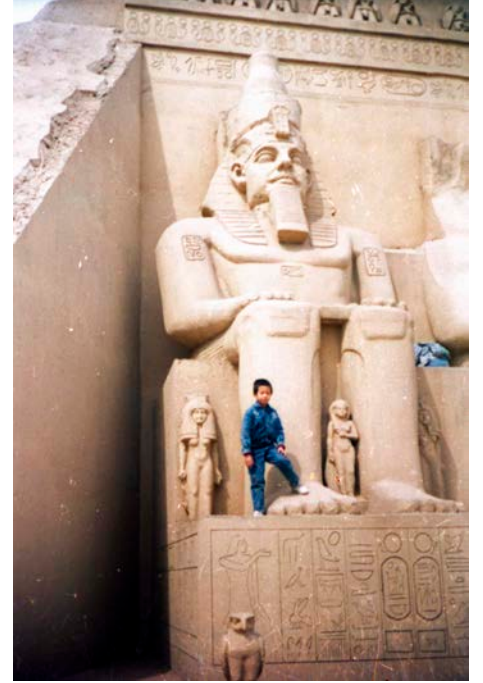


護照
PASSPORT

世界公園旅遊紀念














84 prints
Glossy photographic paper
2mm Dibond aluminium base
90 x 60 cm (1)
60 x 40 cm (25)
40 x 27,5 cm (16)
27,5 x 18 cm (42)



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	身份证号码 Identity card No.	
签发日期 Date of issue	年 月 日	
签发地点 Place of issue		
签名: Signature		

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World Park passport (80 x 800cm)

The exhibition space is divided by a gigantic reproduction of the original passport distributed in the park in the late 90's. On one side, one can see the stamped visas, on the other side are short introductions to what was considered the twelve most important countries.



美国

面积: 9371890平方公里

人口: 248239000

首都: 华盛顿

语言: 英语

说起美国:航天飞机、摇滚乐、迪斯尼、好莱坞、电脑网络、高速路、NBA、拉斯维加斯,一片灯红酒绿,以至于不相信,它是全世界最大的小麦输出国,生产的玉米占全世界的一半。美国只有几百年的历史,欧洲移民从印第安人手中夺得了土地。今天,美国人以其创造力、勇气使美国成为世界上最强盛的国家。



United States

Area : 9,371,890 km²

Population : 248,239,000

Capital : Washington

Language: English

When one speaks of the United States: Space Shuttle, Rock and Roll, Disney, Hollywood, Computer Network, Highway, NBA, Las Vegas etc. come to mind, and so it is hard to imagine that this country is the world's largest wheat exporter, producing half of the world's corn production. The United States is only a few hundred years old. European immigrants took the land from the Indians. Today, through their creativity and courage, the Americans have made the United States the most powerful country in the world.





Negative room
A pile of 5 kg of 35 mm negatives for visitors to interact with,
facing a slideshow of 160 inverted images.



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Beijing Silvermine is a photographic archive of over half a million negatives salvaged over the past ten years from a recycling area on the outskirts of Beijing. Since 2009, Thomas Sauvin, the creator of this project, has been buying these negatives by the kilo and saving them from the acid tank in which they would otherwise be dissolved to extract the precious silver nitrate they contain. With *Beijing Silvermine*, he salvages, edits and revives the memory of a China that unfolds in the film. From the first films that appeared in the mid-1980s to the rise of digital photography in the 2000s, these images paint an authentic portrait of China, since the country opened up to the world.

Thomas Sauvin
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