

MONACO

HIDDEN GEMS – UNDISCOVERED TREASURES

BY ANASTASIA SAMOYLOVA | FULVIO BUGANI | TORSTEN ANDREAS HOFFMANN

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Monaco through a photographer's lense

Monaco: a tiny Principality perched on a rock in the sparkling Mediterranean; a festival venue, replete with stars and glamour. Some go there to see the yachts, visit the casino, and watch Formula One. For others, it's home. Monaco has a thousand faces and photographers have long been drawn to take its portrait. Some of these images have become iconic, just as Leica has become the iconic camera brand.

From the images of Grace Kelly first meeting Prince Rainier III, taken with a Leica, photography has played an important role in shaping the image of Monaco. Hidden Gems – undiscovered treasures show the work of three distinctly different photographers, each of whom visited the principality in the Autumn of 2022: Anastasia Samoylova, an American with an observational style; Fulvio Bugani, an Italian with a journalistic approach; and Torsten A. Hoffmann, a German street and architectural photographer.

Three very different artists exploring the same place at the same time. What would they show us? The same motifs over and over again? In fact, the resulting pictures are strikingly different. Each artist had found their own unique world in the same two square kilometres.

We invite you to visit Monaco to explore for yourself. Take a fresh look and find a Monaco that's truly your own.

Guy Antognelli

Director of the
Monaco Government Tourist
and Convention Authority

Sandrine Camia

Deputy General Manager of the
Monaco Government Tourist
and Convention Authority

Fulvio Bugani is an independent photographer based in Bologna. His work mainly explores the social and cultural aspects and interactions between people and society. What fascinates him most is the everyday life of ordinary people who, if analyzed with attention, always reveals extraordinary stories. He actively collaborates with the NGOs *Doctors Without Borders* and *Amnesty International*, for which he has participated in several projects on human rights, illegal immigration, and law to the house, working mainly in Africa. His work has been published on international magazines and websites like *TIME LightBox*, *LFI - Leica Fotografie International*, *The Guardian*, *Marie Claire* and *Cubadebate*. Among other recognitions, in 2015 he was awarded at the World Press Photo, for his work about Indonesian Transgender. While in 2016 his reportage about Cuba was selected as one of the 12 finalists at the *Leica Oskar Barnack Award*. He has worked for important international brand and artists like *Juventus*, *Zuccheri Sugar Fornaciari*, *Universal Music*.

FULVIO BUGANI







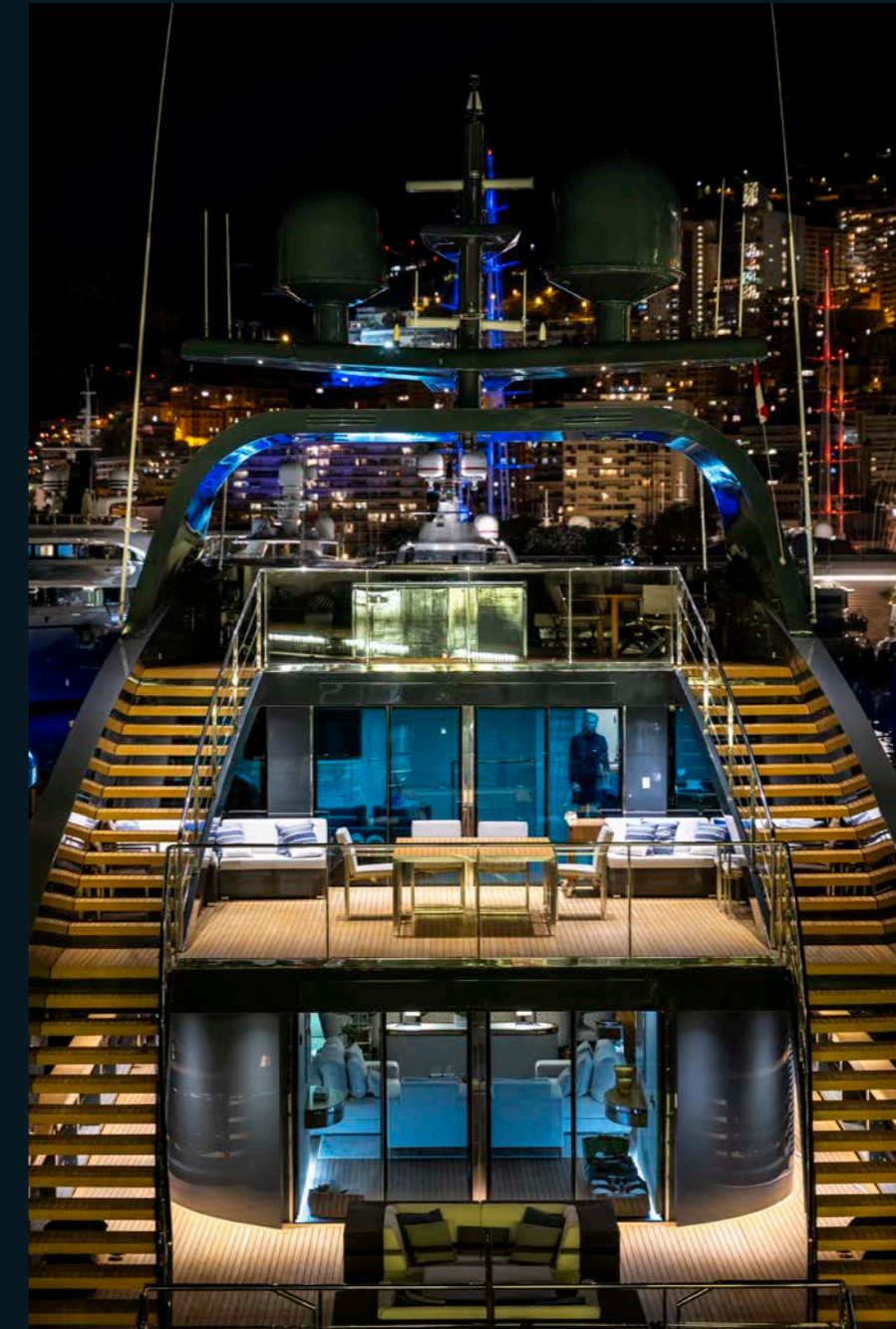


12 Sky Mirror, by Anish KAPOOR on Casino Square



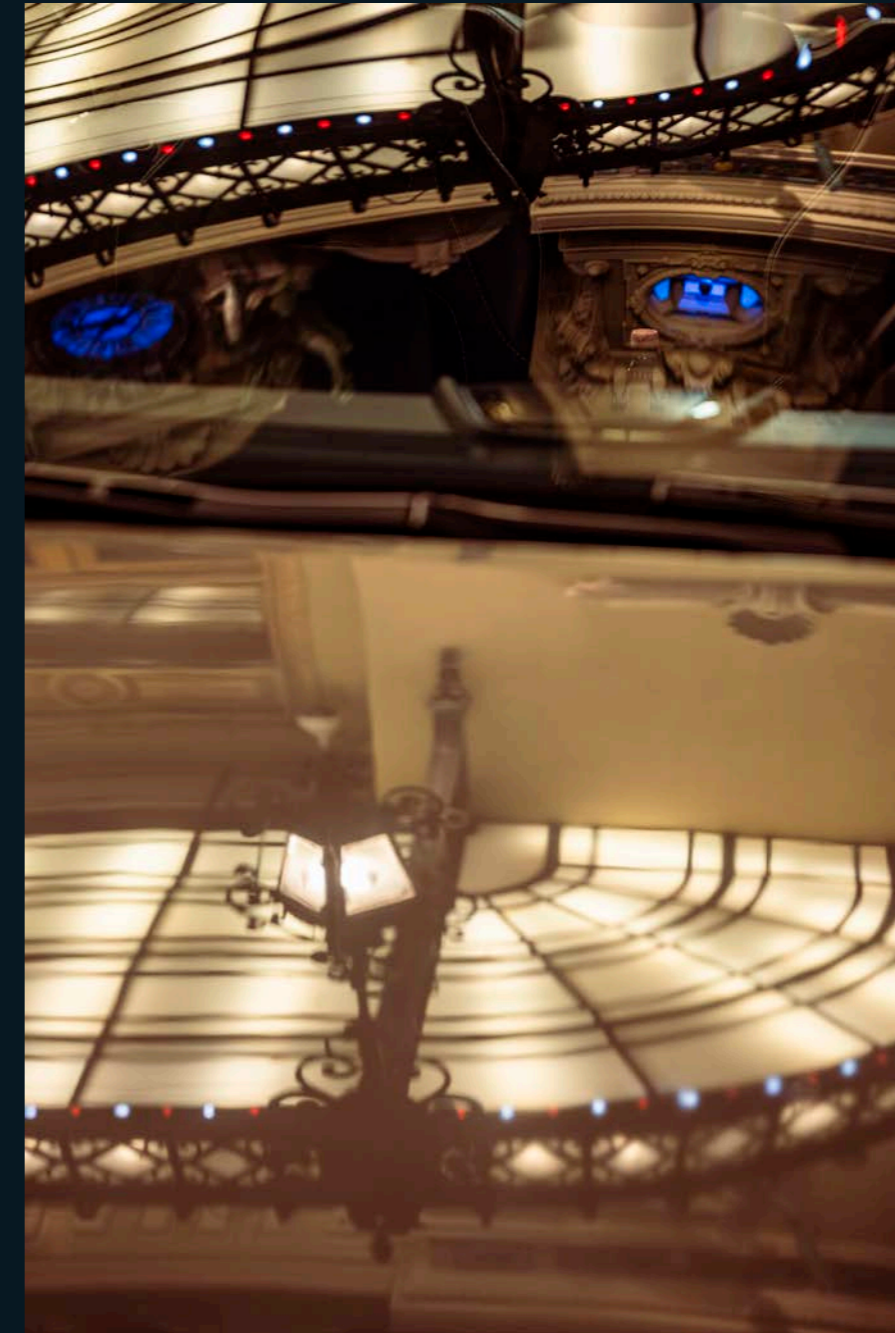
G&M Design Gallery, Avenue Princesse Grace 13













Light of the South

I was immediately fascinated by an elegant and luxurious, sparkling way of life.

At first glance, Monaco seems to be made up of appearances and fiction, but going under the surface in an instant you meet real, passionate and helpful people who are both actors and witnesses of a unique city in the world. The wonderful landscapes of mountains and blue sea, which also inspired Claude Monet, are a continuous attraction for tourists from all over the world, but there are many hidden gems and intimate places that reveal all the magic and culture of Monaco.

This mythic place, between the Alpes and the Mediterranean Sea offers dreams and reality.

The warm and bright southern light and its effect on colors makes this area magic.

Monaco, the smallest independent state in the world after the Vatican, lives vertically. Entirely urbanized, most of its buildings, or rather skyscrapers, are residential and makes a great contrast to some notable mansions and cozy cafes and quaint shops, historic works and food markets.

The atmosphere is so surreal and fascinating, and I had a lot of joy walking around and discovering real life mixed with unbridled luxury.



Anastasia Samoylova is an American artist who moves between observational photography and studio practice. Her work explores notions of environmentalism, consumerism and the picturesque. Recent exhibitions include the *Eastman Museum*; *Chrysler Museum of Art*; *The Photographer's Gallery*, London; *Kunst Haus Wien*; and *Museum of Fine Arts*, Le Locle. In 2022 Samoylova was shortlisted for the *Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize*. Her work is in the collections at the *Perez Art Museum*, Miami; *High Museum of Art*, Atlanta; and *Museum of Contemporary Photography*, Chicago. Published monographs include *Floridas* (Steidl, 2022) and *FloodZone* (Steidl, 2019). *Floridas* will be presented as a solo exhibition at *C/O Berlin* in 2023. In 2023 her project *Image Cities* will be exhibited by *Fundación MAPFRE* and co-published by *Hatje Cantz*.

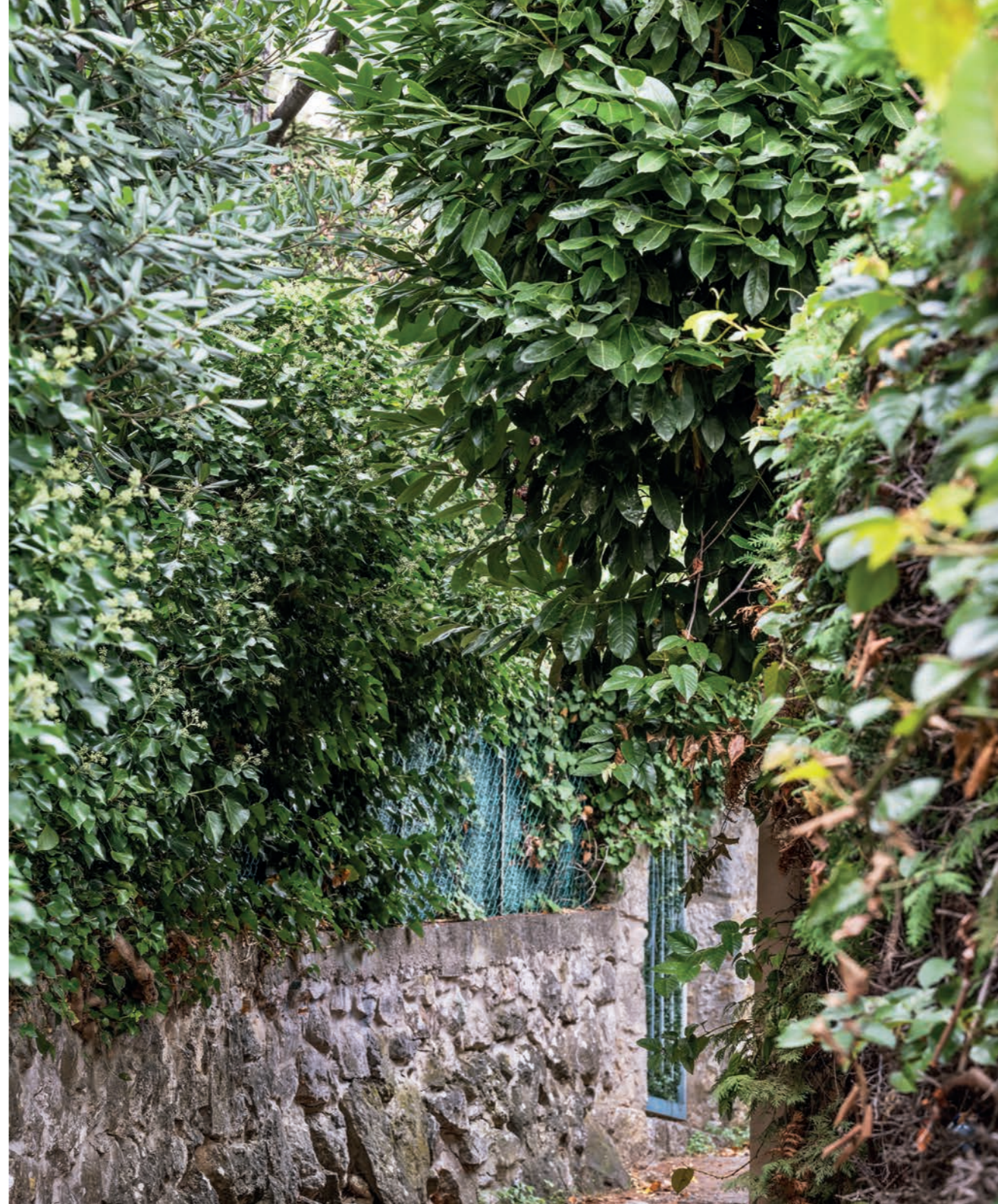
ANASTASIA SAMOYLOVA

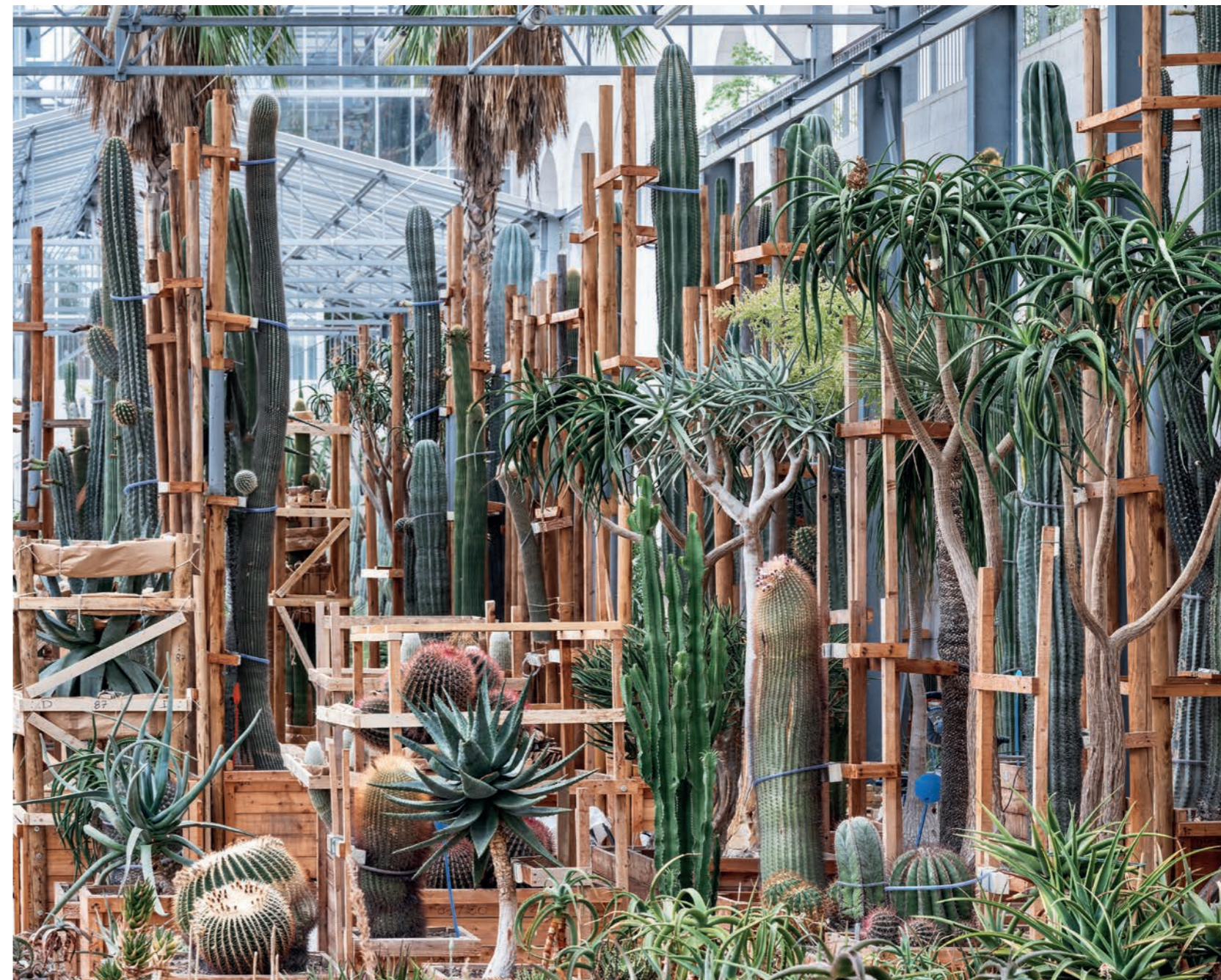














A visit to Monaco was an unusual trip for me. While I am accustomed to a coastal landscape, having lived in Florida for the past few years, the mountainous terrain and the drier air presented new challenges and required a different visual approach. Like my hometown, Miami, Monaco appears to be undergoing rapid development, which is a frequent subject in my photographic work. However, in this project, I wanted to focus on the historic sites and locations that are preserved in time, to show the layers of history and the unique geography. Instead of telling a full story, the images hint at the everyday type of magic that is visible when you slow down and allow yourself to really contemplate what you are looking at. Reflections, close-up details, and silhouettes comprise the majority of my poetic visual observations, often abstracting the composition and shifting the purpose of my photographs from literal depictions to imaginative interpretations.









Panoramic View



Torsten Andreas Hoffmann is a photographer, author and director of photo workshops. He studied art education with a focus on photography at the *College of Fine Arts* in Braunschweig. If he has devoted himself to black and white photography for years, he now also devotes himself to conceptual photography. Photo trips led him to India, Indonesia, Nepal, the USA, the Sahara, and the United Arab Emirates. His work has received many awards like the second prize of *European Architectural Photography Award* in 2021, is present in different German collections and has been shown in numerous exhibitions by renowned galleries (including *Leica Gallery Frankfurt*, *Leica Gallery Salzburg*, *imago-fotokunst* in Berlin, *Jehangir Art Gallery* in Mumbai) and publications. Magazines such as *Geo*, *Merian*, *Chrismon*, *photography*, *mare*, etc. have published his work. Since 2003, he has been writing regular picture-making series in well-known photographic journals and internationally successful didactic books such as his classics published in six languages *The Art of Black & White Photography*, *Photography as Meditation*, or his latest book *The Abstract View*.

TORSTEN A. HOFFMANN























Monaco is certainly associated with a very nice location on the Côte d'Azur, a beautiful view of a large harbor with many yachts, the big casino in Monte Carlo with luxury shops around it, not to forget the Rallye Monte Carlo or the Prince's Palace. But Monaco has other things to discover: for example, there is a university with extraordinary modern architecture, the nice old town with a beautiful cathedral, gardens, even a Japanese garden and a lot of modern sculptures along the whole city.

Many people think that Monaco is just a place for the rich, which is only partly true, because around 30% of the inhabitants are millionaires. But Monaco also has a sponsorship program to settle middle-class people. Monaco is only 2 km² in size and, after the Vatican, the smallest state in Europe. With 38000 inhabitants it is one of the most densely populated places on earth. So it's no surprise that there are numerous skyscrapers and real estate prices are exorbitant.

In my series I liked to capture the daily life of Monaco. I prefer black and white photography because it is more graphic and artistic. My favorite spot was the Boulevard des Moulins. There I had the feeling of being in the real Monaco, away from all the tourist places with nice bars, cafes and restaurants.

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Printed in 2023

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MONACO

**Monaco Government Tourist and Convention Authority,
part of the Ministry of Finance and Economy**
2, rue de la Lùjèrneta, Athos Palace, MC 98000 Monaco

Director of publication:
Mr Guy Antonelli

Supported by

 **GALERIE**
Frankfurt
Leica Galerie Frankfurt

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Braun & Sohn Druckerei
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Limited and signed fine art prints can be purchased at the Leica Gallery in Frankfurt.
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