

NEW RELEASE 2024

Michael Rababy *Casinoland – Tired of Winning*

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A satirical look at the US American casino culture

Casinoland – Tired of Winning is the result of a thirty year long photography project in which Michael Rababy documents US American gambling culture. Rows of shrill slot machines, glowing billboards, and gaudy splendor appear alongside exhausted faces, tired looks, and lost games. Rababy's realistic camera view scrutinizes the glamorous appearance of the gleaming gambling halls and exposes their mendacious promises of wealth. The series focuses more on the casino as a capitalist institution as a whole than on the individual gamblers.

» *Casinoland – Tired of Winning* is landmark documentary photography on a subject of great significance to understanding America in our time. «—**Sam Abell**, photographer and educator, National Geographic

From the text *Infinite Light and Gathering Shadows: Michael Rababy's "Casinoland – Tired of Winning"* by **Simon Glickman**:
Michael Rababy's "*Casinoland – Tired of Winning*" affords a powerful glimpse into a world at once brightly lit and shrouded in darkness. Mostly captured surreptitiously during Rababy's pilgrimages through the starkly lit gambling temples of Vegas, Reno and elsewhere, "*Casinoland*" echoes the dystopian spectacle of Fritz Lang's "*Metropolis*," only the dead-eyed workers at the giant subterranean machines are now glazed-over gamers, pitching countless coins down the insatiable throats of one-eyed bandits. (...) But Rababy's images aren't misery porn. On the contrary, he finds beauty in the most abject moments, capturing the hyperreal color

palettes and gathering shadows with equal verve and drawing epiphanies from nearly every thoughtful composition—all the more remarkable given that a great many of these pictures were not only taken covertly but on the fly with a mobile device. Most importantly, with "Casinoland – Tired of Winning," Michael Rababy looks the lie squarely in the face—and tells the truth.

From the Artist Statement by **Michael Rababy**:

I enjoy going to Vegas as an adult—but not for the gambling (I don't gamble); I go for the people-watching. Everywhere, I see the saturated colors and flashing lights, the luring signs assuring non-stop fun, the percussive sounds of chaos demanding attention, the poetry of losing, the art of walking away and the great irony that many don't seem to be feeling the joy they were promised.

Michael Rababy is a Lebanese-American documentary and street photographer, who deals frequently with US American culture and society in his work. He works as a freelance photographer and has photographed for numerous media companies. *Casinoland – Tired of Winning* is his fourth book project.

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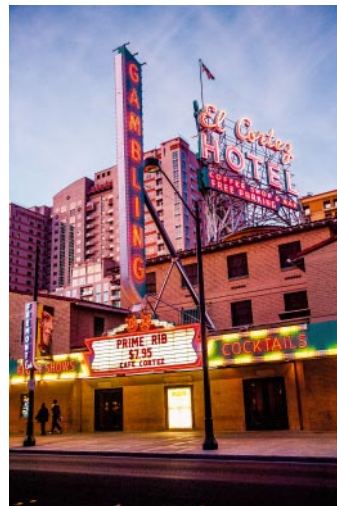
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