



NEW RELEASE

## Tom Spach *High Garden Hong Kong*

Texts by Mireille Diestchy, Tom Spach  
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### Hong Kong – a city entangled between urbanity and nature

Tom Spach's first impression of Hong Kong was quite disconcerting – a dense city in the nature and a nature in the dense city: a vision far removed from the generally shared image of the city as an overly concentrated megalopolis. Spach started a photographic series on the subject, intrigued by this very close proximity between the city and its surrounding environment, when the urban meets the tropical forest.

*High Garden Hong Kong*, prefaced by Mireille Diestchy, examines this relationship and the interface between the urban and the nature, focusing on the extremities, the interstices, from the maze of tower blocks to the neighbouring forests. It questions how we coexist with nature in an urban environment and the place of nature in the city.

From the text by Mireille Diestchy:

*»Perhaps the most immediately striking aspect of Tom Spach's work is the sheer scale of the buildings in his photography. What place could humans, who are indeed barely visible in his images, possibly have in the midst of such enormity? As we venture further into his oeuvre, vegetation gradually tempers this scale. City and nature appear to coexist; the almost omnipresent natural world seems to invade façades and rooftops, metal structures and surfaces, in a remarkable play of the superimposition and colour harmonies of edifices and plant life.*

*The work echoes the longing felt by contemporary Western populations to allow nature more space in the urban environment, a time-honoured desire that, according to Thierry Paquot has often resurged since the dawn of industrialisation.«*

From the text by Tom Spach:

*»In this world city, where the natural environment and urban high-rise entwine, Hong Kong can even seem tranquil. Solitude is paradoxically easy to come by when straying from the main roads and it is commonplace, when turning a corner or stepping from behind a tower, to find a path winding into the forest or a stairway climbing into the mountains.«*

**Tom Spach** (b. 1987) is an urban planner and photographer based in Lyon, France. He has been working for several years on different photo projects which mainly explore territories and their interfaces. *High Garden Hong Kong* is his first book.  
[www.tomspach.com](http://www.tomspach.com)

**Mireille Diestchy** has a Ph.D. in sociology and is a teacher in architecture school and graduate degree in applied arts. Her research focuses on social mobilizations for environmental protection and participatory research.

#### Book Presentation

Paris Photo 2019, Grand Palais, Paris  
November 6 –10, 2019

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