



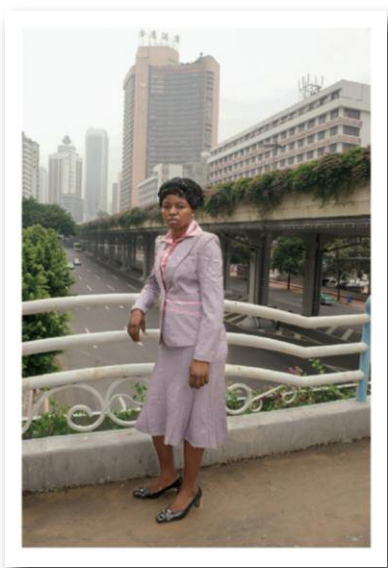
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NEW RELEASE

**Daniel Traub**

**LITTLE ROAD NORTH. Africa in China**

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**Photographic exploration of the people and activities found on a pedestrian bridge in an ethnically diverse quarter of Guangzhou, China**

Little North Road is a photographic collaboration that looks at a pedestrian bridge in the middle of Guangzhou. The bridge serves as a symbolic gateway into China from Africa. At the heart of this book is a selection of images collected from two Chinese itinerant portrait photographers, Wu Yong Fu and Zeng Xian Fang. Equipped with digital cameras, they have made a living making portraits for Africans who wanted a memento of their time in China. Daniel Traub's photographs explore the broader dynamics of the area and provide a context through which to look at the work of Wu and Zeng.

As China's power and reach have grown, it has become a new center of gravity pulling people from remote lands. Guangzhou has become a magnet for Africans and other groups who have come in search of opportunity and to trade in the goods produced in the Pearl River Delta. Recent developments, however, call into question whether this cosmopolitanism is an inevitable part of China's future or a moment that has already passed.

**Daniel Traub** (b. 1971) is a Brooklyn-based photographer and filmmaker, originally from Philadelphia. His photographs have been exhibited internationally, including solo exhibitions at the Catherine Edelman Gallery in Chicago and the Print Center in Philadelphia, and are in public and private collections, such as the Margulies Collection at the Warehouse and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

*Wu Yong Fu, originally from Jiangxi Province, is part of the vast migrant labor force that is a fundamental part of China's economy and yet exists at the margins of the society. Together with his wife, he had been making a living for several years by producing portraits at tourist sites throughout the city. In addition to Chinese travelers, he was commissioned by Africans eager to have a memento of their time in China. While Wu photographed in other neighborhoods of Guangzhou he learned of the growing African population in the Xiaobeilu area and decided to begin working there exclusively. His business soon flourished.*

*Scrolling through the images on the back of his camera, I became increasingly fascinated with what I saw. The photographer, without intending to, had been documenting the stream of people from the various parts of Africa who had arrived in Guangzhou to trade and conduct other business. And, despite encountering a certain degree of prejudice and discrimination, they often remained for extended stays. While Wu's images were mostly formal and direct, some were personal, unguarded and poignant. The gestures, clothing and sense of presence of Wu's subjects reminded me of images by well-known African studio photographers, but instead of a studio backdrop, the architectural pastiche of contemporary downtown Guangzhou served as background.*

(Daniel Traub)

Project website: [littlenorthroad.org](http://littlenorthroad.org)

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Press Images



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2\_ DANIEL TRAUB, The pedestrian bridge, July 30, 2009  
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3\_ DANIEL TRAUB, Zeng Xian Fang photographing three men, November 23, 2011 (video still) © DANIEL TRAUB



4\_ DANIEL TRAUB, DANIEL TRAUB, Zeng Xian Fang looking at images with customers, May 5, 2012 (video still) © DANIEL TRAUB



5\_ DANIEL TRAUB, Wu Yong Fu holding placard of portraits, May 8, 2011 (video still) © DANIEL TRAUB



6\_ DANIEL TRAUB, Zeng Xian Fang waiting for customers, August 10, 2013 (video still) © DANIEL TRAUB



7\_ZENG XIAN FANG, FIVE MEN, AUGUST 11, 2012  
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8\_ZENG XIAN FANG, WOMAN AND MAN, NOVEMBER 11, 2012  
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