

*THIS MUST BE THE PLACE*

*SCENES OF LONG ISLAND CITY, 2013 - 2018*





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*I moved into Long Island City, New York in the fall of 2013. Situated in Queens just across the East River from Midtown, Manhattan, it's transformed in the last two decades from a district of public housing and disused industry to a prime-location, upper-middle class residential hub. This development began in the southwestern extreme of Queens on the peninsula of Hunters Point, and that's where the largest new buildings were mostly confined when I moved in to the northeast near Queensboro plaza – almost bucolic in comparison. It didn't take long, though, for high-rises to fan out in my direction. Today, a phalanx of residential towers crowds the plaza, and construction feels omnipresent. The recent announcement of the selection of Long Island City as the site for one of Amazon's new global headquarters perhaps represents the apotheosis of the climate of transformation in the neighborhood.*

*In its explosive change the area has become a case study in urban planning and an object of debate, but as elsewhere obvious answers to these questions are elusive and at worst specious. Likewise, my initial revulsion at the constant din of construction and the glass towers erupting skyward has given way to a more nuanced consideration. Change and progress are not innately good or bad, and neither are their side-effects: namely, the transitional, under-construction state surrounding me. For me, the conspicuous construction has created a living and breathing environment, a world in which the city, architecture and art swirl into a single force, and has exposed details that otherwise might be missed. In the process of change the motifs of the old and new are put into sharper relief. We see more clearly what is behind and what is ahead and learn to appreciate both. It's that double-world of old and new, and of course what's in between, that began to fascinate me, and which I have attempted to capture in photography.*

*These photographs may function as a serviceable aesthetic exercise but, considering their privileged perspective, I hope they prod at deeper considerations. Change may be inevitable, but how it happens does not have to be. We must activate the full capacity of our science, technology and data to better harness growth and its impacts; we must challenge ourselves to invest in planning and resist the slippery slope of unfettered capitalism. In success we will transcend science and politics and achieve a humanistic society that works for all.*

*December 2018*



*For Greg,  
who challenges & inspires*













































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