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In The Desert Of Desire: Las Vegas And The Culture Of Spectacle.

By Fox, William L.

University of Nevada Press, Reno, 2007. Softcover. Book Condition: New. 208 pages. Softcover. New book. NEVADA. William Fox, is a pay-as-you-play paradise that succeeds in satisfying our fantasies of wealth and the excesses of pleasure and consumption that go with it. In this context, Fox examines how Las Vegas's culture of spectacle has obscured the boundaries between high art and entertainment extravaganza, nature and fantasy, for-profit and nonprofit enterprises. His purview ranges from casino art galleries—including Steve Wynn's private collection and a branch of the famed Guggenheim Museum—to the underfunded Las Vegas Art Museum; from spectacular casino animal collections like those of magicians Siegfried and Roy and Mandalay Bay's Shark Reef exhibit to the city's lack of support for a viable public zoo; from the environmental and psychological impact of lavish water displays in the arid desert to the artistic ambiguities intrinsic to Las Vegas's floating world of showgirls, lapdancers, and ballet divas. That Las Vegas represents one of the world's most opulent displays of private material wealth in all its forms, while providing miserly funding for local public amenities like museums and zoos, is no accident, Fox maintains. Nor is it unintentional that the city's most important collections of...



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