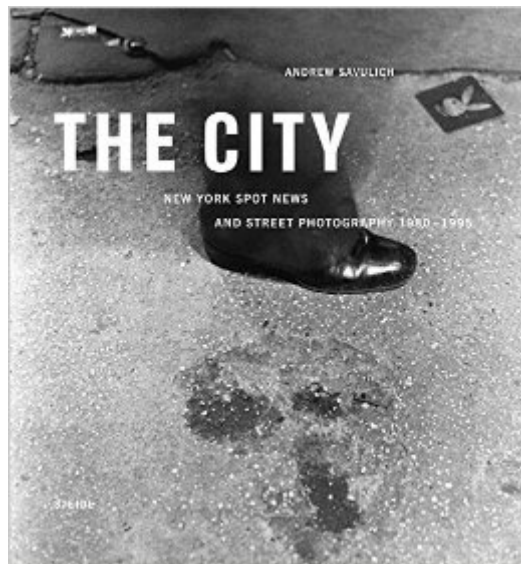


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Andrew Savulich: The City



Synopsis

Social and cultural transition is often hard to gauge. New York in the 1980s and the first half of the 90s was clearly a different place than it is now: the city was more violent, the streets stranger, and Times Square still wonderfully sleazy. Andrew Savulich's (born 1959) subject is this perpetually changing metropolis, and his images are a unique mix of spot news and street photography, capturing crime scenes as well as everyday life. The startling immediacy of the moment prevails in his black-and-white images on which he provides handwritten captions. What at first seems like objective commentary soon reveals a dry ironic tone, at times bordering on black humor.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A bike messenger bleeds from the mouth after being punched by a cab driver. In another photo, a building doorman tackles a pickpocket on the hood of a cab. A subway passenger sits on the floor of the car, tended to by transit police after being stabbed. The other riders pay no attention. Andrew Savulich photographed the city for the Daily News since the 1980s, mostly as a freelancer. Most of these photos from the time never got printed. The photos in this book display the sleazy, dangerous, and dirty side of New York life, most of which have never been seen before. One of the most controversial photos in this book from Steidl is of a woman, sitting in a crushed car, smiling. She looks like she's nuts, given the destruction all around her. Is she drunk? On drugs? Knocked silly from the impact? Whatever the reason for her out of place levity, it's the perfect example of the insanity of the city at the time. When I see these photos from the city's bad old

days, I can remember the combination of danger and excitement. It wasn't a place for the dainty. Savulich isn't much of a self-promoter, which is why I'd never heard of him until I saw this book. He was a Rutgers-trained architect, worked in Boston, then came to NYC to pursue a career in photography. He worked in construction while going to grad school for art, then began getting freelance assignments from tabloid papers. Nowadays the tabloids are on their way out thanks to the internet and the inability to shock people. As for Savulich's photos, a whole lot of them had to be kept off the press because they were considered too edgy. But thanks to Steidl, we can see them in all their (dirty) glory. Seeing these photos takes me back 30 years, to a time when New York City was dangerous, dark, and filthy.

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