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Joel Sternfeld: Walking The High Line

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Synopsis

Since March 2000, photographer Joel Sternfeld has been documenting the abandoned elevated railway, the High Line, which runs down the West Side of Manhattan. Sometimes a river of grass, sometimes more like wheat fields of Canada, this unique ruin permits contemplation of nature, and of cityscape. Walking the path of this true time landscape, experiencing the seasons as they unfold in a ribbon within the vertical architectural landscape of New York City, Sternfeld has created a suite of images marked by quiet grace and formal rigor. In Walking the High Line, as in all of his work, landscape is read as a social and cultural indicator.A major exponent of color photography in America, Joel Sternfeld was born in New York City in 1944. He has received numerous awards including two Guggenheim fellowships, a Prix de Rome and the Citibank Photography Award. Sternfeld's books include On This Site (1997), Hart Island (1998), Stranger Passing (2001), Sweet Earth (2006), When It Changed(2007), Oxbow Archive (2008) and First Pictures (2011).

Book Information

Hardcover: 72 pages

Publisher: Steidl; 3 edition (September 20, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 3865219829

ISBN-13: 978-3865219824

Product Dimensions: 10.6 x 0.5 x 8.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

Before the High Line became world famous well loved park, it was an abandoned railroad viaduct on the West Side of Manhattan. Joel Sternfeld's book captured what 20+ years of neglect will do to a rail line, showing how nature takes over. This book was shown to fundraisers to display what a magical place the High Line was. Without this book, the High Line we know and love might not have existed. A great snapshot of history.

Excellent look at what started the vision of the high line project. Wonderful photography of what was there and you can see what influence these pictures had on the eventual landscape design of the wild urban strip.

These are astounding photographs of "The High Line" back when two men were first thinking of saving it as a park. Sternfeld is a master of landscape photography, and this is an amazing landscape - an abandoned elevated rail line on the west side of Manhattan. Over the years since it was abandoned, native plants began to grow by seeding themselves in amongst the rail lines. It is such a beautiful landscape, seen in the four seasons.

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