

# NY Through The Lens



## Synopsis

Based on the popular New York photography blog by the same name with over 2.5 million loyal fans, this coffee table photo book takes you on a dream-infused nostalgic journey through New York City featuring an exquisite collection of photographs and prose. Street photographers will never tire of New York as a subject. It is the perfect setting for the genre, the world's most evocative cityscape, against which candid, memorable moments play themselves out every day. Nearly a decade ago, Vivienne Gucwa began walking the streets of the city with the only camera she could afford a sub-\$100 point-and-shoot and started taking pictures. Choosing a direction and going as far as her feet would take her, she noticed lines, forms and structures that had previously gone unnoticed but which resonated, embodying a sense of home. Having limited equipment forced her to learn about light, composition and colour, and her burgeoning talent won her blog millions of readers and wide recognition in the photographic community. "NY Through the Lens" is a timeless photo book which showcases the stunning results of Vivienne's ongoing quest. Filled with spectacular photographs and illuminated by Vivienne's poetic commentary, NY Through the Lens is a quintessential New York book as well as a beautiful travel guide to the city; it will be a must-read for her many fans and for any lover of New York photography.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A large part of what makes Gucwa's atmospheric photography so enthralling is her mastery at capturing light. Through natural light she is able to convey seasons, moods, nostalgia, and introspectiveness in the midst of the bustle of New York." - Print Magazine  
Vivienne Gucwa captures the moments that make our New York minutes -- a snowy Times Square, the Manhattan

Bridge lit up at night, a quiet walk through the West Village. A book tailor-made for any Gotham aficionado. - New York Post"While Gucwa captures the everyday moments of the city, her photos also capture a dreamy element of the city." - The Weather Channel Online  
"They're not just shots of a city at night or in the snow, they're photos of The City somehow, something timeless and invoking a feeling of fantasy. I love her narrative, too; it adds so much depth to the photos, and a very personal sense of the experience. However you describe her work, whether you're a lover of New York, The City or just great photos in general, Vivienne's book is well worth the price!" - Imaging Resource  
"If you want an authentic account of what all the different boroughs and neighborhoods of New York City feels like, not looks like, then do yourselves a favor and pick up a copy of this book for yourself." - Photofocus  
"...this 192-page book is filled with beautiful images that capture the color, vibrancy, artistry and uniqueness of New York City. In short - it never looked so good." - Yahoo News

There is a series of decisions you go through while conceptualizing and shooting street photography. Some decisions are conscious and others are subconscious, fueled by influences and flights of imagination.

As a NYC native, resident, and as a photographer, I really couldn't be more pleased with this book. The images contained throughout have a markedly classic feel to them. The scenes possess an intimate sense of wonder as opposed to an impersonal and caricatured feeling that is all too abundant when it comes to NYC photography. Whether it's a lone figure in the snow, or an empty street, there is an overwhelming sense of humanity on each page--something that may come as a shock to those who (incorrectly) perceive NYC as a cold, thoughtless place. Each visual vignette is immersive. Whether it's an alleyway in Chinatown or a wide open street in Times Square, there's a sense of scale that magnifies both the size and the congestion of the city. The overall palette looks modern, but feels nostalgic. All the lovely imagery on its own makes for a good experience, but Gucwa complements her photos with personal, but relatable statements about her connection to her home, as well as her craft. The content switches between reminiscent stories, tales of wonder, and poetic passages; they come together as a sort of diary, its pages steeped in love and adoration for a city with many suitors. The images pull you in, but the text holds your hand as a personal guide. If you're a photographer (or an aspiring one), flipping through the pages should give you some additional satisfaction, as the camera model and settings have been included alongside each photo. The cameras vary in ability and technical strength, but it's clear that the images-- and their

creator--do not. New York is often romanticized, so it's hard to do so in a way that feels unique and genuine. *NY Through the Lens* manages to accomplish this feat without feeling hokey or contrived. It's a really fantastic collection of photography and a strong collection of writing. Pick it up.

i bought my copy on the cheap. i have been watching this very talented young woman for many years. i captured the same scenes of New York City when i was in my 20's and 30's. my captures were created using black and white 35mm negative film using a Canon F-1 camera. she has become an artistic friend on FAA artists web site. my favorite image she has created was taken in Chinatown in the early morning. secondly i am moved by her Central Park images captured following snow storms. she is one amazing New York based photographer you must keep your eye on over the next forty years. she will continue too create some of the most important New York images ever created.

*NY Through the Lens* is a good book for New York City residents, those who once were and those who hope to be. It's an across-the-board compilation of excellent photos from both ground and bird's-eye level. (A little too much of the latter for me -- the roofs of most NYC buildings look much alike.) Ms. Gucwa nabs all the usual suspects -- Empire State Building, Chrysler Building, Brooklyn Bridge, etc. -- but also features not-yet-gentrified neighborhoods (at least not obviously in the hands of the 1%); snowy streets, many at night (my favorite chapter); and street scenes reminiscent of a Scorsese film. She has a very good eye, and obviously spends a lot of time outside with her camera. Being a former harbor worker, I'd like to see more shots from the water, folks on the Staten Island Ferry, and so forth -- maybe she'll include them in her next book. Unlike many photo books, this one has coherent text, too, written in an almost confessional style that tells me more about Ms. Gucwa, a NYC native but from the far side of the East River (Queens). She is a good writer, adding just enough text to make the book more interesting, not so much you read half and move on. Her captions are mostly good, but many are repetitive if the pictures are similar -- in the vein of "Rooftops looking north from Empire State Building," "Rooftops looking south from Empire State Building," etc. But essentially it's a good read as well as a good look. Photographers take note: This isn't a photo how-to book, other than teaching by example. Ms. Gucwa includes info on camera, ISO and lens settings, but doesn't say what lens she used. In some cases it's not an issue -- she took many of the photos on her iPhone -- but when she used a pro level DSLR, I would have like to know what glass she shot through. Not that buying the same lens would make me as good a photographer....Despite its few minor slips, *NY Through the Lens* is a great book for folks who love

the Big Apple. I'm glad I bought it, and I think you will be, too.

I am a born-and-bred Brooklynite with a tremendous sense of pride for my home. I also haven't lived in NYC since 2002. While I visit home about twice a year, I strongly identify with the big city in a lot of ways. It defines who I am and how I act, even if I currently live in the laid back area of Portland, OR. I love reminiscing over my time back home and do often feel that tinge of regret about leaving. And then Vivienne Gucwa released her wonderful book, *NY Through the Lens*. The reason why this book is so special is not so much about what it is but rather about what it is not. I have a number of photography books dedicated to New York and the one thing that I noticed about them is their homogeneity. The pictures within these books seemed to blend together without conveying a sense of place or time. That's where Vivienne's book shines so brightly. The book is filled with purposeful photos that showcase a clear sense of place. They also exude with personal emotion, as illustrated by her wonderful writing and poetry that accompanies her imagery. I flip through this book not because I want to see what my home looks like but because I want to remember what it feels like. So thank you, Vivienne. You've done this New Yorker proud. Disclaimer: I am lucky to consider Vivienne a personal friend. Despite this, I preordered this book and paid in full just like so many of you. I am writing this review solely because I want to do my part in promoting it, as it deserves to be seen far and wide. I was not compensated in any way for it.

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