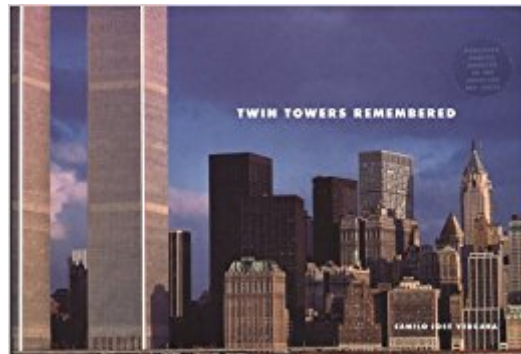


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Twin Towers Remembered



Synopsis

Since 1970, when the World Trade Center towers were still under construction, Camilo Jos Vergara photographed them from every possible angle. In this poignant photographic memoir their unmistakable outline rises above neighboring spires and bridges, anchoring the skyline over a wildlife preserve in Queens, a junkyard in Hoboken, an elevated train in the South Bronx, reminding us of how strong a presence they were, no matter where one stood. After the September 11th attack Vergara returned to many of the original photographic sites to record the effects of the towers absence on New York's skyline. What emerges is not only a tribute to a building, but a moving and personal documentation of a city and an entire region a portrait of both growth and loss. All profits from the sale of this book will be donated to the American Red Cross.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I flipped through the Magnum Photographers book on the WTC attack, and while the images are undeniably gripping, they also border on the macabre and exploitative (a bit like rubbernecking at a car crash scene). This modest little volume, on the other hand, really shows these buildings as they lived, not as they died: many of the views are from a distance, and remind me how they dominated the skyline. This is how most New Yorkers experienced these buildings---going to the top was usually only for special occasions like a field trip with kids or dinner with out-of-town visitors. Most telling here are the "before and after" shots, where the author shows the same view pre- and post-September 11th. Unlike the other morbid book(s) out there, this one has only one (distant) view of

the Towers on fire; the rest of the images are of the daily life of the buildings, long may their memory live. Poignant and powerful, bravo!

Many of the photo remembrances that have come out in the wake of the WTC's destruction have centered on fairly recent images. Vergara's book is one of the few to show the building from its construction to its demise. Having grown up across the Hudson in Jersey City, I was particularly moved by the wealth of photos from the west side of the river. I remember seeing the buildings go up and marking their progress by how high the yellow tarp around each tower was. A beautiful book.

Very oddly sized, this pocket sized tribute is almost in stark contrast to the grandness and stature of the actual Towers which they are commemorating. Photos are moving and information is interesting as we see stages of the development of the World Trade Center in the early seventies. The photographer was at the same spots then as he was after the attacks so we can see the terrible void in the New York City skyline where these magnificent structures stood. If you want to see full sized photos, however, this is NOT the book for you. It measures around the size of a 4x6 postcard.

In 1970, the World Trade Center towers and complex started construction. At the same time, Camilo Jose Vergara started taking pictures of the Towers. Ever since then, he's been taking pictures of the World Trade Center towers from multiple places and angles. From the neighborhoods close to the city to the dockyards and even the abandoned car lots and junkyards, the World Trade Center towers are gloriously featured. Not even 9/11 has stopped Camilo from taking pictures of the spot where they once stood. I recommend this book as it shows us an iconic monument that will never be forgotten and is a book on a piece of architecture that has stood the test of time and ultimately became beloved despite the initial resentment towards it as well as gives nostalgic feelings to all who know and remember the Towers themselves.

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