



The Eyes of the City

By Richard Sandler

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The Eyes of the City By Richard Sandler

Timing, skill, and talent all play an important role in creating a great photograph, but the most primary element, the photographer's eye, is perhaps the most crucial. In *The Eyes of the City*, Richard Sandler showcases decades' worth of work, proving his eye for street life rivals any of his generation.

From 1977 to just weeks before September 11, 2001, Richard regularly walked through the streets of Boston and New York, making incisive and humorous pictures that read the pulse of that time. After serendipitously being gifted a Leica camera in 1977, Sandler shot in Boston for three productive years and then moved back home to photograph in an edgy, dangerous, colicky New York City.

In the 1980s crime and crack were on the rise and their effects were socially devastating. Times Square, Harlem, and the East Village were seeded with hard drugs, while in Midtown Manhattan, and on Wall Street, the rich flaunted their furs in unprecedented numbers, and "greed was good."

In the 1990s the city underwent drastic changes to lure in tourists and corporations, the result of which was rapid gentrification. Rents were raised and neighborhoods were sanitized, clearing them of both crime and character. Throughout these turbulent and creative years Sandler paced the streets with his native New Yorker's eye for compassion, irony, and unvarnished fact.

The results are presented in *The Eyes of the City*, many for the first time in print. Overtly, they capture a complex time when beauty mixed with decay, yet below the picture surface, they hint at unrecognized ghosts in the American psyche.

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Editorial Review

Review

"From the anonymous masses in Grand Central Terminal to Orthodox Jews on the subway, *The Eyes of the City* is a tribute to the unrecognized ghosts of New York's past." –**i-D**

"From the pages of his new book, you can almost hear the rattle of the subway cars, the tap of high heels on concrete and the commotion of midtown rush hour. But if the city is the theatre, it's the people who take center stage." –**TIME Lightbox**

"In the book, Sandler takes us on a wild and wandering journey through a New York (and briefly Boston as well) that hardly exists anymore, staring, prying and eavesdropping along the way. We wander through the concrete and steel canyons with him, noting the characters that punctuate the masses teeming by on sidewalks; we descend underground to the subway and meet more characters playing out the drama of living in one of the world's most famous, gritty and raw cities." –**Washington Post**

"It's a dramatic appraisal of street photography, yet Sandler's images are so frequently more so. A picture is worth a thousand words, and all that. Sandler's street life chronicles — from the day he was given his Leica, to just weeks before 9/11 — are brought together; drama rarely far, New York's strange souls laid bare." –**WeHeart**

AS SEEN IN: AI-AP, British Journal of Photography, Business Insider, The Atlantic / City Lab, Creative Boom, Feature Shoot, Graphics.com, Huck Magazine, Hyperallergic, Juxtapoz, LensCulture, VICE, Wallpaper*, and Yahoo! News.

About the Author

Richard Sandler is a street photographer and documentary filmmaker. He has directed and shot eight non-fiction films, including *The Gods of Times Square*, *Brave New York* and *Radioactive City*. Sandler's still photographs are in the permanent collections of the New York Public Library, the Brooklyn Museum, the New York Historical Society, and the Houston Museum of Fine Art. He was awarded a New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship for photography, a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation fellowship for Filmmaking, and a New York State Council on the Arts fellowship also for Filmmaking.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Beverly McKeever:

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Christine Curnutt:

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Thomas Carroll:

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