



New York Stilled Life

Portrait of a City in Lockdown

Gregory Peterson

Foreword by Barry Bergdoll

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| ISBN | 9781954081260 |
| Publisher | ORO Editions |
| Binding | Hardback |
| Territory | World excluding USA, Canada, Australasia & Asia (except Japan; China non-exclusive) |
| Size | 280 mm x 229 mm |
| Pages | 200 Pages |
| Price | £37.00 |

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Mid-March 2020: native New Yorker Gregory Peterson is on an early evening walk through the city, suddenly shut down by the coronavirus pandemic. Manhattan's grand public spaces are bare. The monumental Lincoln Center Plaza is empty. The sounds of skates on ice and bustle of tourists and workers at Rockefeller Center are absent. Not a soul on Easter Sunday at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine. Starkly silent, the city is stilled, as no one had ever seen it before.

Travelling on foot and by bike to avoid public transportation, Peterson took more than 400 photographs of over 200 locations in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens through the spring and summer of 2020. Using his iPhone 11, he captured myriad surreal landmarks – the United Nations Secretariat with no traffic, people, or flags, Grand Central Terminal without a person or even a car in sight, as well as gelled neighbourhood streets, churches, shops, and other tourist destinations.

Without people, these photos reveal the city's primeval soul. They unveil a serene beauty most often obscured by the frenzy of our fast-paced lives. We see New York with new eyes.

Gregory Peterson is a corporate lawyer and noted art collector. A native, life-long New Yorker, he is a graduate of the High School of Music and Art (now the LaGuardia High of Music and the Performing Arts), where he studied oil painting and other media, and is an alumnus of Columbia College and Columbia Law School. Prior to becoming a lawyer he was a filmmaker and television producer.

Barry Bergdoll is Meyer Schapiro Professor of Art History at Columbia University and the former Chief Curator in the Department of Architecture and Design at the Museum of Modern Art, New York. A specialist in the history of modern architecture, he curated numerous exhibitions at MoMA, the Canadian Centre for Architecture, the Musée d'Orsay, and other venues, including *Mies In Berlin* (2001), *Bauhaus 1919–1933: Workshops for Modernity* (2009-2010), *Latin America in Construction : Architecture 1955-1980* (2015) and *Frank Lloyd Wright at 150 : Unpacking the Archive* (2017).

He is the author most recently of *Marcel Breuer: Building Global Institutions* (2017), and many other publications including *Mastering McKim's Plan : Columbia's First Century on Morningside Heights* (1997).