



SITE LINES

LOST NEW YORK
1954–2022

JILL GILL

with essays by
John Freeman Gill
Marc Hacker



Site Lines

Lost New York, 1954–2022

Jill Gill

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- Five decades of changing New York City streetscapes as documented by artist Jill Gill in more than 100 spirited watercolours and perceptive captions
- A love letter to “the city that was” that subtly (or not so subtly) makes the case for preserving the historic building fabric of New York City
- John Freeman Gill, Streetscapes columnist for the *New York Times* (and son of Jill Gill), has written one of the introductory texts

Born and bred New Yorker Jill Gill is equal parts artist and author, commentator and collector, a true innamorata of the ever-changing city. Since the mid-1950s, she has captured the buildings and streetscapes of the city (especially those about to be lost to urban renewal) in a series of more than 100 watercolour and ink paintings. The New York she portrays is one of classic movies, vintage postcards, and hand-painted wall advertisements.

The scenes in **Site Lines: Lost New York, 1954–2022** extend from Midtown South, home of the artist from the mid-1940s to the mid-1960s, to the Upper East Side, where she and her family lived in a historic Rhinelander townhouse. Along the way she passes through Midtown, including storied Fifth Avenue and the Theater District, and the Upper West Side.

Her work includes buildings both important and unimportant that would otherwise have been lost to memory: the glorious Helen Hayes Theater, the Art Deco Horn & Hardart Automat on 57th Street, and blocks upon blocks of ordinary yet distinctive retail and commercial structures. In addition, Gill includes buildings that have themselves been quietly observing the changing city, often changing along with it: St. Bart’s, the Villard Houses, and MoMA before it “ate” 53rd Street. Each scene is accompanied by text that blends in-depth research with first-hand observation.

Life-long New Yorker **Jill Gill** has been creating watercolour and ink paintings of “lost New York” streetscapes for more than 60 years. Her body of artwork also includes woodcuts, silk screen prints, and collages. Gill’s body of work includes commissioned townhouse paintings. She is also the author/illustrator of the children’s book *Tiger & Leopard*.