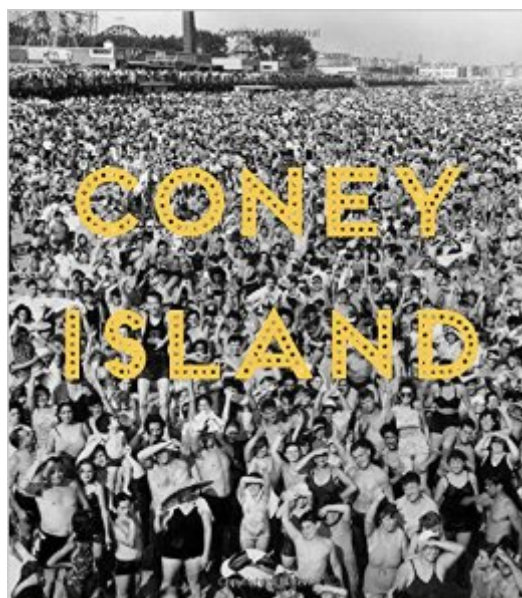


The book was found

Coney Island: Visions Of An American Dreamland, 1861–2008



Synopsis

A captivating look at Coney Island and its iconic place in the history of American art. Called "America's playground," Coney Island is a world-famous resort and national cultural symbol that has inspired music, literature, and films. This groundbreaking book is the first to look at the site's enduring status as inspiration for artists throughout the ages, from its inception as an elite seaside resort in the mid-19th century, to its evolution into an entertainment mecca for the masses, with the eventual closing of its iconic amusement park, Astroland, in 2008 after decades of urban decline. How artists chose to portray Coney Island between 1861 and 2008 "in tableaux of wonder and menace, hope and despair, dreams and nightmares" mirrored the aspirations and disappointments of the era. This dazzling catalogue highlights more than 200 images from Coney Island's history, including paintings, drawings, photographs, prints, posters, film stills, architectural artifacts, and carousel animals. An extraordinary array of artists is represented, from George Bellows, William Merritt Chase, Reginald Marsh, and Joseph Stella to Diane Arbus, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Robert Frank, Red Grooms, Weegee, and Swoon. Essays by prominent scholars analyze Coney Island through its imagery and ephemera as both a place and an idea "one that reflected the collective soul of the nation."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I own a few other books about Coney Island, but this one is by far the best. It has a huge selection of terrific old photos & artwork (including some great ephemera), and the written information is incredibly informative & interesting. Also, the details and clarity of the printing are really good. The

exhibit connected with this book will be shown at the following museums: The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford (through May 31) The San Diego Museum of Art (July 11-October 13) The Brooklyn Museum of Art (November 20 through March 13, 2016) The McNay Art Museum in San Antonio (May 11-September 11, 2016)

Fantastic history of one of my favorite places growing up. A beautiful book, filled with paintings and photos and an in-depth look at Coney Island from the mid 19th century to its current status as a location for expensive condos and a boardwalk being replaced by cement (all good things come to an end - happily, the original Nathan's is still there - along with the cyclone and the wonder wheel).

Saw this Exhibit in San Diego 4 times over the summer and it held my interest all the way through each time. There is a lot of different stuff, and it definitely captured a vibe--both the Exhibit and this book. I never went to Coney Island, but now I feel like I understand some of what it was about.

A lot more info than expected

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