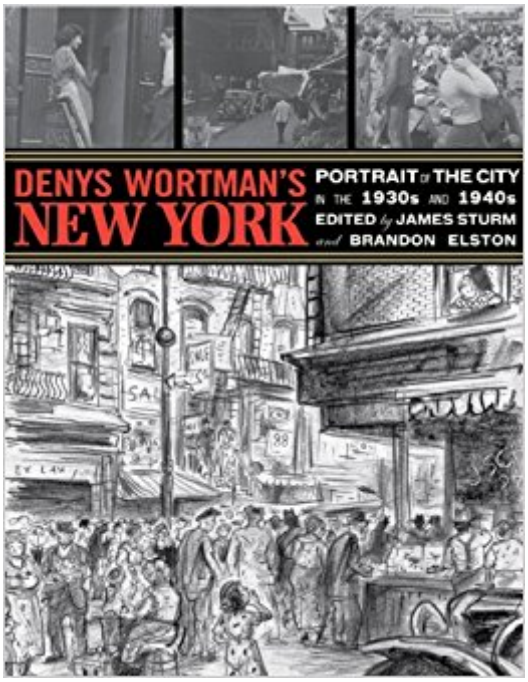
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Denys Wortman's New York: Portrait Of The City In The 30s And 40s



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Synopsis

A rescued archive of vintage New York City from a forgotten ash can artistAfter cartoonist, educator, and editor James Sturm discovered the vintage book Mopey Dick and the Duke, he set off to find out more about the author, the deceased and unknown cartoonist Denys Wortman. Sturm immediately took note of the masterful drawingsÃ¢â ¬â ¢casual, confident, and brimming with personalityÃ¢â ¬â ¢and wondered how this cartoonist escaped his radar. After some online sleuthing, Sturm connected with Wortman's son, who relayed that an archive of more than five thousand illustrations was literally sitting in his shed in dire need of rescuing. For more than thirty-five years, the illustrations had been fighting such elements as hungry rodents, rusty paper clips, and even a blizzard. Wortman's son also had drawers full of his father's correspondence, including letters and holiday cards from William Steig and Walt Disney. Original artwork by artists and personal friendsÃ¢â ¬â ¢including Peggy Bacon, Milt Gross, Isabel Bishop, and Reginald MarshÃ¢â ¬â ¢were also saved. The fact that Wortman's luminary peers held him in the highest regard, coupled with his artistic prowess, makes his absence from both fine art and comics history puzzling. So Sturm and Brandon Elston set out to create a beautiful tribute to the forgotten master. Denys Wortman's New York is not only a tribute to Wortman; it is a tribute to New York, the city that sparked Wortman's voracious creative output. From coal cellars to rooftops, from opera houses to boardinghouses, Wortman recorded the sailors, dishwashers, con artists, entertainers, pushcart peddlers, construction workers, musicians, hoboes, society matrons, young mothers, secretaries, and students who collectively made the city what it was and is today.

Book Information

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Satire

Customer Reviews

Denys Wortman (1887Ã¢â ¬â œ1954) was born in Saugerties, New York. He studied at the New York School of Fine and Applied Art, where his classmates included George Bellows, Rockwell Kent, and Edward Hopper. In 1924, he took over the comic feature Metropolitan Movies in the pages of the New York World and found his true passion as a cartoonist.

Going through the drawings in this book is like time traveling back into the 30s and 40s New York. You get that sense of nostalgia if you've been to New York, or that element of surprise if you have not - just like a tourist.There are over 200 pencil drawings selected from the 5000 drawn by Denys Wortman, a cartoonist, born in 1887.Each drawing is a beautiful snapshot of the life back them, captured in time. You can really feel how the New York city was like. You can see the roads jammed with classic Henry Ford cars, beach goers at Coney Island, roses were 2 cents then, workers at their old offices filled with papers and forms, Grand Central Station and how it has not changed, rainy day with running pedestrians on the streets, the ceiling fan on the subway train, Radio City wasn't finished yet, and so many more. There are so many interesting people to see.The drawings filled with details waiting to be discovered. There are also captions with each but they are hand written and difficult to read (at least to me). The pictures speak for themselves anyway.This book is a gem, highly recommended, especially to sketchbook lovers.(There are more pictures of the book on my blog. Just visit my profile for the link.)

The editors & family of Denys Wortman deserve ultimate praise for sharing this artist in a delightful, overwhelmingly full of art, book.It is amazingly current in thought and circumstance...perfect timing for its release.The cartoonist's ability to exhibit character & perspective was brilliant. NYC office life with surprisingly contemporary situations.Though over half a century has passed, not at all too late to become a tremendous fan of this author.His illustrations are unbelievably detailed. Unreal how prolific Wortman was. These works had been hidden in storage- a treasure trove uncovered.It is a superb gift selection & suggestion which is ageless in enabling identification with author's humor or opinion.An opportunity to share with a new generation or awaken past lives in those who have lived it.Not necessarily the humor as much as an on target perspective of New Yorkers through Wortman's eyes. Resilience of the city-now & forever!

You often wonder how great books about insignificant people hit the market. At the recent opening of the presentation of this book (Denys Wortmans' New York) at the Museum of the city of New York,Denys Worthman (the son) said that for years no one was interested in the 5000 or so original cartoons he had in storage,until the editor of the book heard of them and realised the treasure to be uncovered. If you would like to see what NYC looked like and sounded like 60 - 70 years ago, buy the book or go to the Museum and see a fraction of the originals that are displayed in the book.

Denys Wortman's single panel newspaper feature depicted 1930s and 40s New York street and domestic life with great humor and affection. His drawings all have the ring of truth about them, rich with wonderful graphic detail. The full page drawings in this excellent collection are reproduced from original art, so things lost in newspaper printing are all restored here. Another great "lost" cartoonist brought back from the brink!

Great sketches and a glimpse into a difficult time in American history

Recommended.

amusing cartoons, not great. was looking for more photographic material. kind of like New Yorker cartoons. very accomplished artists though.

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