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# The New York Pop-Up Book: New York City 100: Historic New York, Celebrating The Century



## Synopsis

This extraordinary book offers a complete New York experience, from Broadway to Central Park, from skyscrapers to below the streets. Created by New York City 100, the nonprofit group founded during New York City's centennial year to celebrate the city's rich heritage, this commemorative book brings together miniature facsimiles, historic resources, artistic inspiration, and literary insight to depict the world's greatest metropolis. The book bursts with an array of surprises. Paper engineers have fashioned the city's great monuments into 19 pop-up masterpieces, including: the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Temple of Dendur\* Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim Museum\* a removable Statue of Liberty\* the Brooklyn Bridge-- cables and all\* the newly restored Grand Central Terminal and the subways and underground world beneath it\* Christmas at Rockefeller Center\* New Year's eve in Times Square\* the world's tallest pop-up of the world's most famous skyscraper, the Empire State Building. Renowned New York artists have worked with the paper engineers to create unique pop-ups of their original artwork: Al Hirschfeld offers his rendition of *Guys & Dolls*\* Red Grooms presents a spontaneous encounter on a park bench in Greenwich Village\* Alex Katz lets us into his SoHo loft\* Jules Feiffer presents us an inimitable view of Central Park. The New York Pop-Up Book also includes a postcard collection of curators' choices from their own museums and miniature front pages of *The New York Times* and the *Daily News* drawn from the city's top news stories through the century. This book is a tribute to New York City, with contributions by some of its most illustrious citizens, in order of appearance: E. L. Doctorow, Tom Wolfe, Wendy Wasserstein, Ric Burns, Herbert Muschamp, Nora Ephron, Carol Willis, David Levering Lewis, Red Grooms, Calvin Trillin, Alex Katz, Betty Comden, Adolph Green, Sam Roberts, Vartan Gregorian, Frank Rich, Al Hirschfeld, Alan Alda, Arthur Sulzberger Jr., Rob Gibson, Wynton Marsalis, Peter Martins, Grace Glueck, Ken Burns, Philippe de Montebello, Bill Cunningham, Jules Feiffer, Oscar Hijuelos, Edward Sorel

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Marie Salerno began her career at New York magazine shortly after it was founded and for 30 years has produced events for New York's cultural, literary, and educational institutions, including The New York Public Library where she was Vice President of Public Affairs. She is president of New York City 100, founded to celebrate the city's centennial. Arthur Gelb served as a Drama Critic, Chief Cultural Correspondent, Cultural Editor, Metropolitan Editor, and Managing Editor during a 45-year career in The New York Times newsroom. He last served as the President of The New York Times Company Foundation. He and his wife, Barbara, are the authors of O'Neill, the biography of the playwright. The first book of their new 3-volume biography on O'Neill will be published in April. They are also working on a documentary on O'Neill for public television. In addition, Mr. Gelb is at work for Penguin Putnam on his memoir about The Times.

I should start by saying that I do not consider myself a "reader". I own maybe 20 books (which, thanks to books like this, only recently hit double digits. Don't judge me). I am not a huge history buff or collector of coffee table books. I don't enjoy reading, per say, and the fact that this is an advanced picture book for adults that ANYONE would appreciate, is a huge plus to me. I seriously cant think of any type of person, no matter their passions or prejudices, that would not enjoy (at the very least) skimming through this book... but I bet they cant do it without stopping to look at every page a little longer than they expected. I love architecture, and Other than appreciating great shopping, live theatre & the overall nostalgia of NYC, I have no real ties to the city... however, this book is one of my favorite possessions. It shows all of the great places & aspects of the city in pop-up, but what I love the most are the little "artifacts/ treasures" that are not part of the pop up page, but are secured in various places for you to take out and hold... for example, a small newspaper with important headlines, a Broadway play bill, pamphlets about the ballet, etc. It is 100% worth \$50 to get a mint condition version... just a few thoughts: 1. If you are going to make sure you have the mint condition book, so that you have all the supplemental materials that are loose that are tucked inside the book in different ways... make sure that you do NOT let little kids play go through the book without you carefully watching them. The little materials are way too

tempting to not take back to their doll houses or tree forts or to draw a little person (you know, the ones with just a head, legs & arms... hahaha) on the cover of the booklet. I have a 5 & 8 year old, and I love them dearly... but I have no intentions of even telling them about this book for at least another 6 months. It is a coffee table book, for sure... unless you have kids... and then I would put it on the display shelf that's at eye level for company. Not kidding.<sup>2</sup> There are so many little loose items with this book, I don't even know how many there are in total. I would guess 10-15? With that being said, just make sure you know what you are getting if you plan to pay more. If you can get a used version that has pages maybe a little bent, but has ALL loose items, and pop ups can be glued or taped to be like they originally were... then I would totally be on board with saving the money and getting the best deal possible. The book is so awesome, it won't matter that pages are a little worn... might actually make it even more authentic and add more character... if that's possible. This way, you have money left over to get another book I recommend!!<sup>3</sup> This book is not at all politically driven or really even highlight the twin towers. It's a perfect, overall immersion in to the entire city. I would give it to someone that went to school in NYC, or ever lived there, or loves the arts or American history... or unique coffee table books (it's pretty big in size, though). I would randomly give it as a gift to a college graduate, regardless of their school location or tie to NYC. I would give it as a wedding gift, if the couple had any tie to NYC or the arts. I would give it as a Christmas gift to friends or family, especially my mom or stepmom or an uncle (I am in my mid-30s). I own a copy, and already bought another copy just to have... whenever I find the right person to give it to. :)<sup>4</sup> Your kids will probably fight over who gets to keep this book, when it gets passed down. It isn't a quick read, since there is so much to see... more the less, read... so you could even do a page a night with the kids at bedtime and it would take upwards of 2 weeks to get through it. Font is kinda small at times... so bring your glasses. Hope I am not ruining this by setting your expectations too high... but honestly... I think the book will meet any expectation you have in your head, within reason of course... !!Enjoy!! I'll try to remember to take some pictures of my book so you can see some of the loose items, etc.\*\* I have done reviews for the other books that I consider even better than this one

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The first thing that happened when I opened this book is that the Statue of Liberty fell out into my lap. Then I discovered that the Empire State Building doesn't actually pop up; you have to pry it up, and hope that you're not wrecking something in the process. This is true of most of the "pop-ups" in the book. Also, lift-up tabs get in the way of some of the pop-ups (or vice-versa). I'd say it's a lot of clever ideas badly executed. Probably the makers were trying to do too much. But in spite of all this,

I still like it, and if you collect pop-up books, you probably will too. Just be ready to re-construct and re-glue a lot of the stuff.

Arrived with damage.

A couple of the pop ups were broken. I didn't expect that. I'm still glad that I have it though and will try to repair it.

Wasn't exactly what i thought it would be, but I'm happy with it. It arrived quickly.

Disappointing in content and complexity.

I loved the pop up book of New York, It has a lot of information I can use for the 2011 VBS.

As a history of New York, this book is a wonder of facts and opinions from some of the city's greatest writers and observers. However, as a pop-up book, this pales in comparison to The Architecture Pack (whose design this book clearly is copying) or the work of pop-up genius Robert Sabuda. The most complex model in the book is The Empire State building which telescopes out of the book in three sections - unfortunately in my copy, the center section is permanently stuck (and won't extend) so the effect is completely lost. And the model of Grand Central requires serious "help" to pop-up, which, to me, defeats the object. A disappointment

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