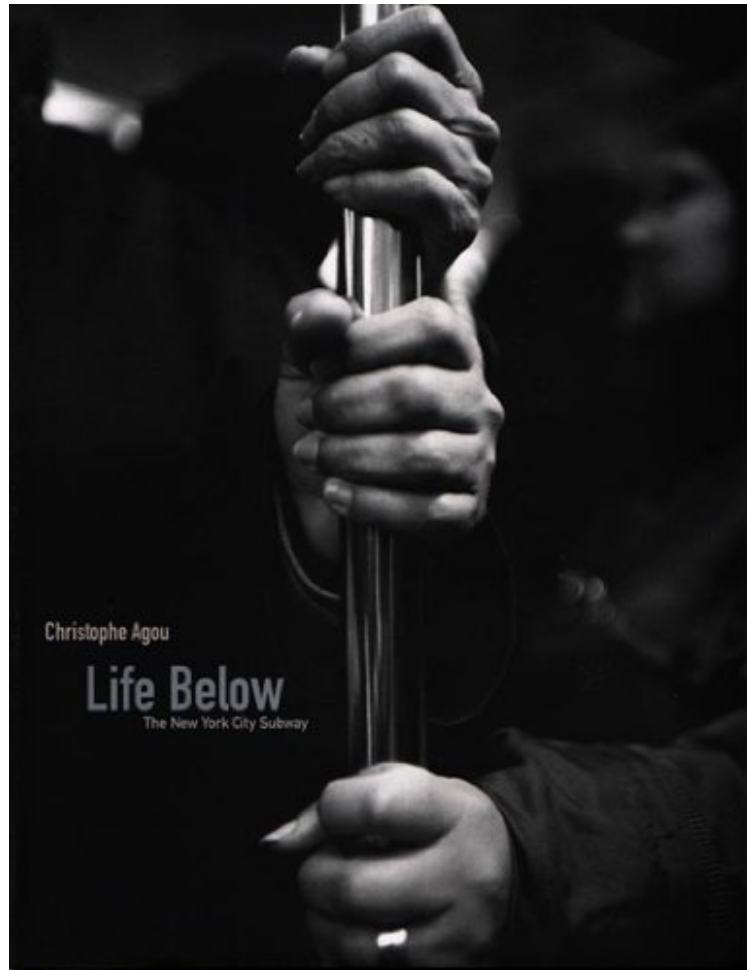


[Free] Life Below: The New York City Subway

Life Below: The New York City Subway

Christophe Agou

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Christophe Agou : Life Below: The New York City Subway before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Life Below: The New York City Subway:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Buy this now By Mike Avina This is one of my top three reads in street and documentary photography -- deeply psychological portraits and candid shots combine to channel the emotional tenor of the subway. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. THERE'S GUM ON MY SHOE By ludido 1. A GREAT BOOK THAT BRINGS A NEW VISION TO THIS WELL DOCUMENTED PLACE 2. A POET AT WORK ,WHO JOINS ROBERT FRANK , WALKER EVANS, GENE SMITH, IN THE CHURCH OF WHAT IS HAPPENING BABY! 3. A BOOK COLLECTORS ADVICE: BUY A BUNCH OF THESE ,OH WHAT A HOSTESS GIFT! 4. THANKS FOR A BEAUTIFUL BOOK ,MY GUESS IS THEY ARE ALSO BEAUTIFUL PRINTS IN ORIGINAL ,WELL THE PUBLISHER DID THE PHOTOGRAPHER PROUD. 5. PONCE!!!! 2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Kind of bored me to be honest :(By NYCatHeart I really wanted to love this book like

previous reviewers seemed to, but I can't. I've spent A LOT of time on NYC's subway trains headed to all different places at all hours of the day/night, but this somewhat small book of black white photos just does NOT bring to life the average experience. I get that this is supposed to be artistic and ethereal, however--no offense to the photographer--to me it just looks like page after page of "dash-n-run" photos done by an amateur. I mean there's one photo that spans two pages and it's nothing but streaks of light a complete BLUR. It's honestly a blur...you have no idea what the photo is OF/what you're looking at. I relied solely on reviews before ordering this book, but simply can't agree with the others. There are endless books on NYC subway photography. Most any of them have to be better than this one. Especially those that are in COLOR!

Since the early 1990s, Christophe Agou, a French photographer, has been taking pictures of New York. He has developed a love for the city and an uncanny feel for the look of the ordinary. The New York subway has captured the imaginations of photographers from Walter Evans to Bruce Davidson. But never has it been so powerfully and lyrically portrayed as in Agou's carefully orchestrated sequences where the searing images haunt and intrigue us at the same time. Bridging the worlds of documentary and art photography, *Life Below* is a series of frozen moments, revealing fear, love, affection, stress and solitude. These are compellingly intimate photographs of people from all walks of life, in a meditative state before they put on a mask.

From Publishers Weekly Shot between 1997 and 2000, French photojournalist Agou's subway portraits stick to the gritty bw protocol set by generations before him and deliver satisfying set pieces. An exhausted Latino worker sprawled out on the steps in the heat, waiting interminably for the train; a sensitive looking Clark Kent type in madras shorts staring blankly out the window of a passing train; an emaciated nun dozing but alert; trash blowing above grates; the bulging stomach of a mid-level employee in outdated shirt and tie; a tangle of wires leading to an antiquated P.A. speaker it's all here, including what looks like a pool of blood on a concrete concourse. The printing of these 64 duotones is sharp, with a maximum of one photo per page and some spreads. As the publicity note states, New York City is considering banning "unauthorized" photography in the subway, so Agou's subject and style, which are commonplace now, may become rarer. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Christophe Agou's work has been published in major magazines, exhibited in Europe and the US and represented in numerous public collections, notably The Smithsonian Institution and Les Galeries Photo Fnac.