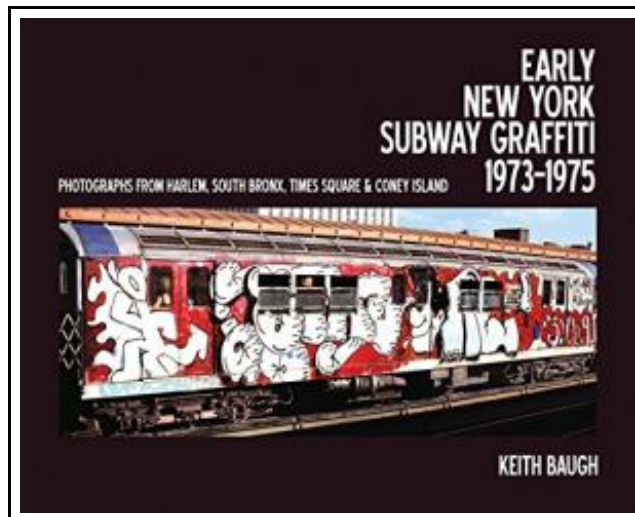


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EARLY NEW YORK SUBWAY GRAFFITI 1973-1975: PHOTOGRAPHS FROM HARLEM, SOUTH BRONX, TIMES SQUARE & CONEY ISLAND (2ND REVISED EDITION)



Tangent Books. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Early New York Subway Graffiti 1973-1975: Photographs from Harlem, South Bronx, Times Square & Coney Island (2nd Revised edition), Keith Baugh, New York 1973 I am standing on the elevated platform at 161st Street in the South Bronx taking photographs of the 'painted trains'. I look out over Grand Concourse and watch FDNY fire-fighters hose down the smouldering remains of a tenement building burndown, as another slum landlord decides to cash in his chips. Police sirens howl and whine a few blocks to the south and an open-top Buick Roadmaster cruises past on the street below. Two large cabinet speakers resting on the back seat of the convertible blast out a bass heavy 'Bewildered' by James Brown, all horn riffs and wah-wah guitar. Oddball characters saunter along the platform waiting for the downtown train and as they pass by I get various offers to enlighten me about Jesus, to purchase any kind of drug, to buy a 'nice Rolex watch' and suggestions as to where I should stick my Nikon. I graciously decline all offers and make a mental note to keep the camera out of sight. The rails shudder and vibrate as the Lexington Avenue Express, heading down through Manhattan to Atlantic Avenue pulls into the station. Exposed to strong sunlight, the colour of the graffiti writing is more vibrant than when seen underground and the letter- forms that spread along each and every carriage delivers an explosion of creativity, a haunting presence in its originality and power to shock. The sprayed paint is fresh and bright and recent attempts to clean the carriage windows with solvent gives off an acrid smell in the 90 degree heat. As the departing crowd surged to the exit I start to click the camera...



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