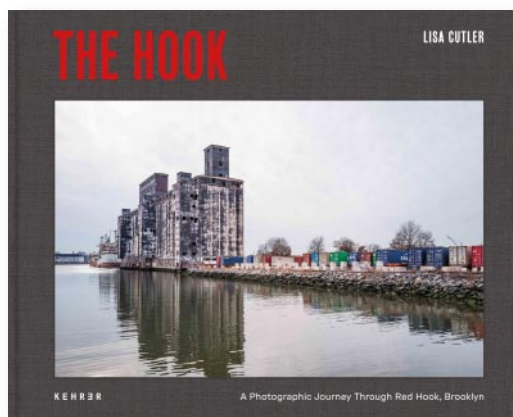


NEW RELEASE 2025



Lisa Cutler
The Hook
A Photographic Journey Through
Red Hook, Brooklyn

Texts by Simon Bainbridge, Lisa Cutler

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Red Hook: an urban, post-industrial landscape in flux

On the western edge of Brooklyn, New York, lies Red Hook: a neighborhood shaped by a long, layered history and constant transformation. Photographer Lisa Cutler discovered Red Hook by chance after taking a wrong turn out of a nearby subway station in 2017. Captivated by the area's collision of visual chaos and Victorian beauty, she returned over the next two years to document its former vitality and ongoing state of flux.

From the foreword *Beauty Thrives in Forgotten Places*
 by **Simon Bainbridge**:

To Cutler, it began as a place of artistic promise, a magic kingdom of color, shape, texture, and geometry. It seemed like a place where time had stood still, but in fact was ever changing. Its contrasts became a history lesson, teaching her to recognize the veiled forces and complexities of her city. »Red Hook made me stop and look. It made me stop and see things I had never seen before.«

Red Hook was claimed by Dutch settlers in 1636 under the name Roode Hoek and grew from a rural peninsula into one of the busiest industrial ports in the world. However, the district fell into steep decline in the mid-20th century as shipping routes shifted and industry collapsed, leaving behind a landscape marked by abandonment and disinvestment. It became known for crime, poverty, and increased isolation following the construction of the Gowanus Expressway.

In more recent years, Red Hook's postindustrial scenery has been transformed once again. Accelerating redevelopment and gentrification have introduced a complex tension between the area's industrial past, its resilient local community, and the forces re-

shaping its waterfront identity.

Inspired by the greats of American photography—Lewis Baltz, Robert Adams, and Walker Evans—Cutler's work is guided by geometric simplicity, contemplative stillness, and honest authenticity. Through her lens, Cutler captures the neighborhood with clarity, precision, and profound respect, using color, geometry, and light to evoke the enduring spirit of places long overlooked. Though void of people, the photographs convey a palpable presence of the neighborhood's inhabitants, with remnants offering subtle clues to the lives beyond the frame.

This publication offers a portrait of Red Hook at a pivotal moment, suspended between erasure and renewal. It is both an artistic reflection on what has been lost and a tribute to what endures.

Lisa Cutler is an award-winning photographer whose practice spans landscape, portraiture, and street photography. She turned to photography after a successful career as a TV Producer/Director. Cutler's Red Hook series was recognized by the *Prix de la Photographie Paris*, won the *Julia Margaret Cameron Award* for cityscapes, and has been exhibited in galleries around the world.

Simon Bainbridge is a London-based writer, editor, and consultant specializing in contemporary art and photography. He is a regular contributor to *The Art Newspaper*, and was the editorial director at *British Journal of Photography* from 2013 until 2020, before then serving as Head of Content at *Magnum Photos*, leaving in 2023.

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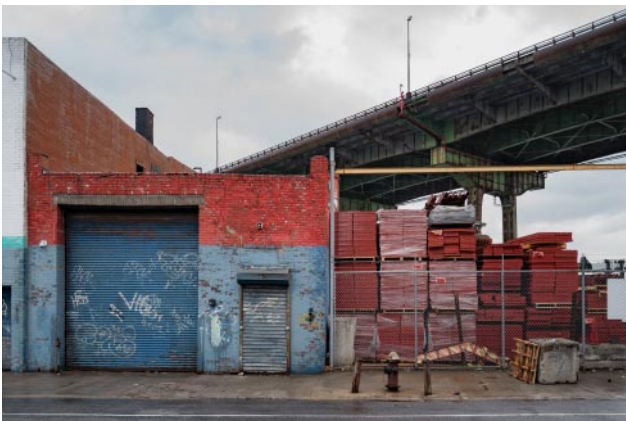
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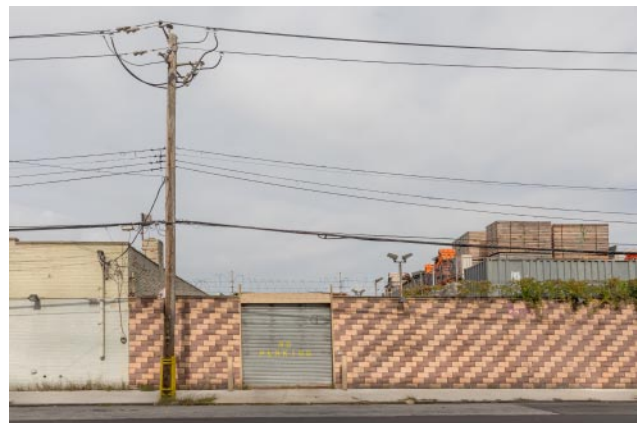
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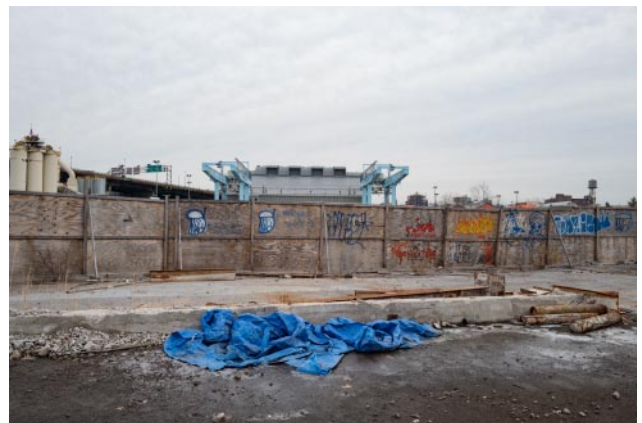
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