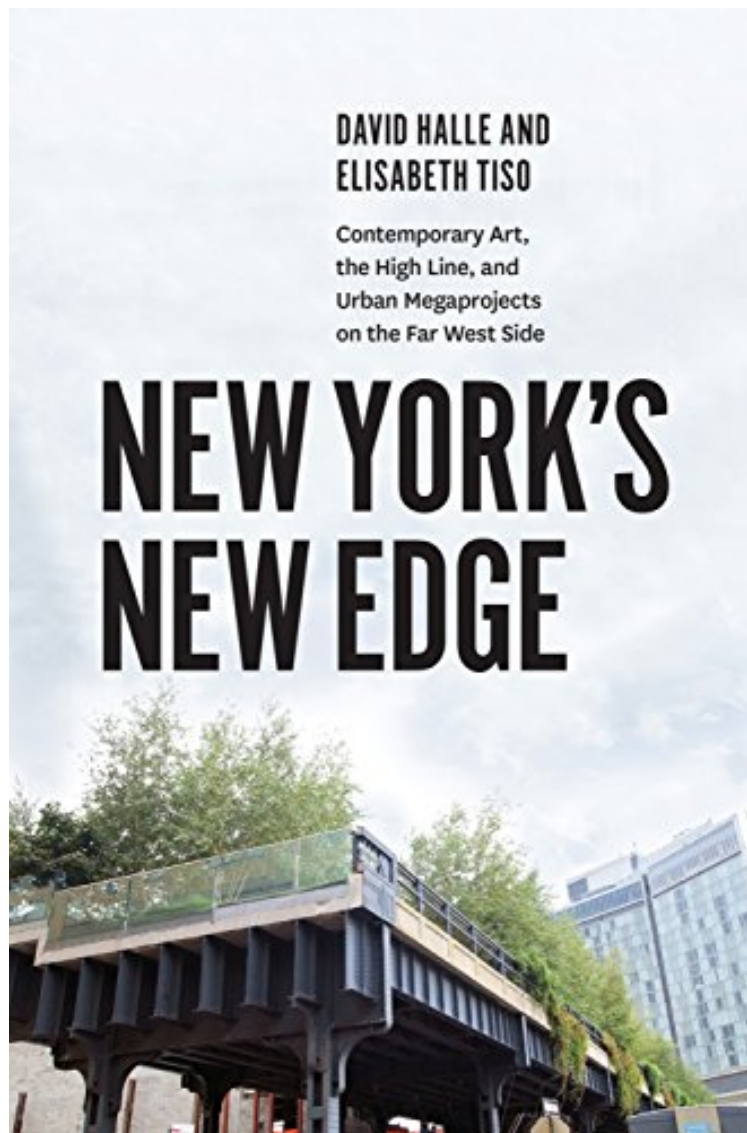


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## New York's New Edge: Contemporary Art, the High Line, and Urban Megaprojects on the Far West Side

*David Halle, Elisabeth Tiso*  
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**David Halle, Elisabeth Tiso : New York's New Edge: Contemporary Art, the High Line, and Urban Megaprojects on the Far West Side** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised New York's New Edge: Contemporary Art, the High Line, and Urban Megaprojects on the Far West Side:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerGreat book. Beautiful subject.0 of 0 people

found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy megumi matsudagreat job1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. somewhat interestingBy Michael LewynThis book is a set of essays that all relate in some way to development in New York's Far West Side. The first 40 percent of the book is about the art gallery industry, and is not of much interest to people outside that business. Other chapters discuss large-scale rezonings and projects: some successful, some not. A chapter on the High Line reveals that nearby property owners opposed the High Line at first and were "bought off" with rezoning of nearby blocks for lucrative condos. On the other hand, the city had to buy off anti-housing NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) activists by limiting residential development in other nearby blocks. In the city's meatpacking area a few blocks to the south, the city kept out housing, in response to NIMBYs desire to preserve meatpacking. But meatpackers left the neighborhood anyhow, and were replaced by noisy clubs (which the zoning code allows in manufacturing districts). On the other hand, the city was able to get the Hudson Yards area rezoned for new housing, because nearby NIMBYs were focused on fighting a proposed stadium and were willing to make concessions in order to seem reasonable- but even in Hudson Yards, the city reduced the amount of housing units to appease neighborhood opposition. So this book gave me a better sense of why New York is so expensive: NIMBYs are more likely to oppose new housing than any other use, so the existence of a housing shortage is no coincidence. Other chapters discuss public sector megaprojects such as failed attempts to renovate a train station and to build a football stadium. Here, neighborhood opposition is less of a problem than squabbling between state and federal agencies. In New York, projects on government-owned land must be approved by a state board, and one vote is enough to stop a project. So this board is a fertile source of gridlock. Similarly, Penn Station has not been reformed because doing so would require cooperation from the Postal Service (which owns nearby land which might be the location of a new station) and Madison Square Garden (the station's neighbor).

The story of New York's west side no longer stars the Sharks and the Jets. Instead it's a story of urban transformation, cultural shifts, and an expanding contemporary art scene. The Chelsea Gallery District has become New York's most dominant neighborhood for contemporary art, and the streets of the west side are filled with gallery owners, art collectors, and tourists. Developments like the High Line, historical preservation projects like the Gansevoort Market, the Chelsea galleries, and plans for megaprojects like the Hudson Yards Development have redefined what is now being called the "Far West Side" of Manhattan. David Halle and Elisabeth Tiso offer a deep analysis of the transforming district in New York's New Edge, and the result is a new understanding of how we perceive and interpret culture and the city in New York's gallery district. From individual interviews with gallery owners to the behind-the-scenes politics of preservation initiatives and megaprojects, the book provides an in-depth account of the developments, obstacles, successes, and failures of the area and the factors that have contributed to them.

"New York's New Edge offers a retrospective on three case studies in urban and cultural development begun under the administration of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg with lessons for Mayor Bill de Blasio."