

Art of the Brooklyn Bridge: A Visual History

The Brooklyn Bridge has been a source of inspiration for artists for over a century. This article explores the visual history of the bridge, from its early days as a symbol of industrial progress to its current status as a beloved icon of New York City.



Art of the Brooklyn Bridge: A Visual History by Richard Haw

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Early Depictions of the Brooklyn Bridge

The Brooklyn Bridge was completed in 1883, and it quickly became a popular subject for artists. Early depictions of the bridge often focused on its engineering marvel. Artists such as Thomas Moran and Winslow Homer painted the bridge from various angles, capturing its towering height and intricate structure.





The Brooklyn Bridge by Winslow Homer, 1886

The Brooklyn Bridge as a Symbol of New York City

As the years passed, the Brooklyn Bridge became increasingly associated with New York City. Artists began to depict the bridge in more human terms, as a place where people lived, worked, and played. Photographers such as Alfred Stieglitz and Paul Strand captured the bridge's everyday life, while painters such as John Marin and Edward Hopper used it as a backdrop for their urban scenes.





Brooklyn Bridge by Paul Strand, 1915





Nighthawks by Edward Hopper, 1942

The Brooklyn Bridge in Contemporary Art

The Brooklyn Bridge continues to be a source of inspiration for contemporary artists. Artists such as Jeff Koons, Cindy Sherman, and Cai Guo-Qiang have all created works of art that engage with the bridge's history and symbolism.





Untitled Film Still #21 by Cindy Sherman, 1977-80



The Brooklyn Bridge is a beloved icon of New York City and a source of inspiration for artists for over a century. This article has explored the visual history of the bridge, from its early days as a symbol of industrial progress to its current status as a beloved icon of New York City.

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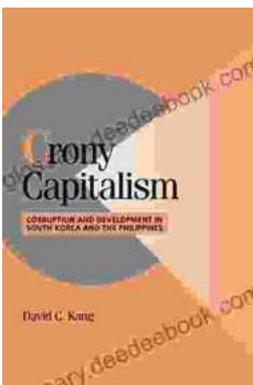


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