EXCUSE ME, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
ONE NEW YORK SUMMER, 14 PERSPECTIVES
EXCUSE ME, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

One New York Summer,
Fourteen Perspectives
Sometimes it seems like it’s hard to say anything interesting about New York City. Old New Yorkers already know everything. New New Yorkers don’t know enough yet.

When we decided to make a book about the city, we took it as a challenge: Find new perspectives on a place that we all either know too well, or not at all. It helped, perhaps, that our contributors were themselves new to town, all of them graduate students at the School of Visual Arts. Each piece was produced in only a few summer weeks with little time to spare. These pages represent the best work of our students, each experimenting with a visual style or voice that was unfamiliar to them.

Ryan Weber’s interviews with MTA workers give us insight into a world of items lost and found — what we value, and what we leave behind. Craig Coss’s sensitive exploration of city trees makes us attentive to the things we pass by every day, reframing the definition of a “street drug.” Nadia DeLane and Jenny Goldstick began by asking where they could find kale in Crown Heights, and found that it had been there all along. Feifei Ruan asks us to view the familiar icons of the city through a new lens — destroying our symbols (and our bridges) while remaking them.

What started as a modest class project became a book. We will never look at bicycle baskets, bar billboards or bedbugs the same way again.

Many thanks to Joan McCabe and Nathan Fox for inviting us to teach this summer.

—Jennifer Daniel and Alicia DeSantis, editors
Iron your hand on your palm, back and forth. Let's do this smooth, like 'butlah.'

Similar to the sign for "NYC," except upside down. After all, you're underground.

—Melissa Malzkuhn
NO LITTERING ON THE BRIDGE

Keep our city clean. Be mindful of your hands and where you put them.

BRIDGE

Hold your arm as if it's a plank supporting a road.

Move your hand near your elbow — but not past it!

Your other hand shows the structure underneath.

Stop right past the elbow.

—Fin.—

TRASH

Hold your arm up as if you're holding a bag.

—Fin.—

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BE COOL, NOT AN APPLE

It's all in the moves.

COOL

Make the sign for the letter "X" by curling your finger.

Turn once. (That's cool.)

APPLE

Do this repeatedly and you're, well, an apple in the Big Apple.

BITCHIN' FOR BEER

Don’t call your bartender a bitch. Watch where you put your hands!

BEER

Give us a big "B"!

Repeat the "B" up and down. Yeah, it’s a bit like dribbling.

BITCH

The "B" sign again again.

The hand stops at your chin. Do it once. Add a frown for more emphasis.
Be kind to your neighbors. Teach them how to say where they live.

**QUEENS**

Make the sign for the letter "Q."

Now, move the "Q" like you're wearing a sash.

Twirl your hand down as if you have a curl, like a Hasidic Jew.

(Yes, seriously — that's where it comes from.)

**BROOKLYN**

Make the sign for the letter "B."

Quick ups and downs.

**CHELSEA**

Make the sign for the letter "C."

Now move the "C" up your nose, like you're picking it snobbishly.

**FLUSHING**

Flush like you're flushing the toilet.

**WILLIAMSBURG**

**NEW YORK CITY, BLEH**

The Statue of Liberty needs deodorant. Who ever said it's easy in the summer?

Grasp like you are holding a torch.

Now and smooth. Wipe your armpit using the "NYC" sign.

This sign is used by outsiders and tourists. Native New Yorkers aren't exactly amused.

Excuse Me, Ladies and Gentlemen | 13
What Lies Beneath
What can a bit of pavement tell us?
With every step, another story.
— JENNY GOLDSTICK

The Croton Aqueduct was used until 1959. Much of its architecture is still intact today. Currently, cobblestone costs about $18/foot, which is more expensive than concrete. Even historically, cobblestone was phased out and concrete brought in because concrete was cheaper. As of March of last year, about 15 miles of exposed cobblestone exist in New York City.

Paving a historic street is neither convenient nor cheap. While three or four blocks can be laid with asphalt in a day, only 250 square feet of cobblestones can be completed in that time.

Back before this area was settled and this street paved, the sun would have been shining upon swamps and rocks in this spot. Broadway, the historic street nearby, originally served as a trail for the Lenape tribe to navigate through the wild landscape. In 1626, Europeans living on Governor’s Island purchased Manhattan and began to settle it.

Many of the original tunnels are still used.

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Sources: The New York Times, History.com, NYC.gov
MTA Lost and Found

Thirty-two thousand objects have been turned in to the MTA’s Lost and Found System this year. They sit in the middle of the tracks at Penn Station, until someone comes to claim them. After three to six months, they are disposed of — forgotten by the system and the city. I asked subway agents about some of the most memorable items, now gone, one way or another. —RAF WEBER

23rd Street and 6th Ave.
INDEX NUMBER 10371
ITEM DESCRIPTION Event tickets

23rd Street and 6th Ave.
INDEX NUMBER 1558
ITEM DESCRIPTION Money clip containing $8,000
“One time down by Bleecker Street we found a money clip with eight grand in it. There were no cards or anything in it, but there was eight grand inside, which is pretty sad. You can’t make that stuff up.”

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34th Street and 8th Ave.
INDEX NUMBER 1987
ITEM DESCRIPTION Medium-sized travel suitcase containing a large assortment of adult sex toys

34th Street and 8th Ave.
INDEX NUMBER 2056
ITEM DESCRIPTION Collection of personal mail

34th Street and 8th Ave.
INDEX NUMBER 1032
ITEM DESCRIPTION Event tickets

34th Street and 8th Ave.
INDEX NUMBER 10273
ITEM DESCRIPTION Purse
“This one time a woman lost her purse, right? And like four hours later she came back looking for it. When I gave it to her she just cried. She couldn’t believe that everything was still in it.”
23rd Street and 6th Ave.
INDEX NUMBER 3001
ITEM DESCRIPTION Single diamond earring
“We find stuff all the time. The sad things are always the things without their pairs. Shoes, gloves, a single diamond earring.”

34th Street, Herald Square
INDEX NUMBER 3203
ITEM DESCRIPTION Engagement ring

34th Street, Penn Station
INDEX NUMBER 3630
ITEM DESCRIPTION Dog in a bag
“Yeah, they leave anything they could possibly have with them. You name it, it’s been left. Had someone bring in a dog in a carrying bag once. I think they got it back to the owner though.”

34th Street, Penn Station
INDEX NUMBER 5001
ITEM DESCRIPTION Medication
“Yeah, people leave behind their medications. That’s kind of sad. It makes me worry about them. You don’t know if it’s something they really need or whatever.”

Port Jefferson
INDEX NUMBER 6667
ITEM DESCRIPTION Jesus bust

Port Jefferson
INDEX NUMBER 5362
ITEM DESCRIPTION 8 1/4” Polystone zebra statue

“Yeah, they leave anything they could possibly have with them. You name it, it’s been left. Had someone bring in a dog in a carrying bag once. I think they got it back to the owner though.”
After losing something on the subway, a woman approached the counter. When she got close to the window, she told the MTA worker behind the glass that she had lost her citizenship papers. She lost the legal form in late January or early March, but she couldn’t call because she didn’t have a cell phone. The MTA worker took a little time to go into the back and search the catalogues. Shortly after, he came back and stated that there was nothing in the computer. The woman left empty-handed.

“Don’t want to brag or anything, but one woman lost her wallet and passport with over seven hundred dollars in it. She was on the way to the airport and came to my booth saying that she lost it and that she wouldn’t make her flight. I actually gave her money from my own pocket, had the police escort her to a cab, so she could try to make her flight home. She told me she would never forget me.”

“People wouldn’t believe it, but I get dentures turned in way too often.”

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Tai Chi for the Subway

Public transportation is a battlefield, become a triumphant warrior! — IVORY NIGÉZ MEDAWO

The bird opens its wings
Very useful when arriving at the station, right when the conductor is asking to “stand clear...”

The snake charmer
Works perfectly when ignoring panhandlers. Keep a book or gadget at eye-level.

The windshield wiper
A powerful move that repels strangers who are getting too close.

The shield
No longer be crushed by oversized man-made objects.

The machette
Get people out of your way, especially when you need to catch the express train across the platform.

The offering
Giving away your seat helps boost your mood even if you are getting off at the next stop.

The mule’s kick
Stop fast and harmful moving obstacles.

The rise of the middle one
Channel all of your anger directly into the longest finger. Give the conductor an empathetic lesson in how it feels to be left behind.
"Let me through, I have cancer."
"Shit shit shit!
This is taking too long!"

"Do you know what you're ordering?"

"Well… I can't see the menu yet. So… no. No, I don't."

"Those bitches were just waiting there behind that tree like fucking vultures!"

"So… there are four of us — we'll get the food. One of you look for a table on the left. The other over here, if you see something open up, run."

"Well… I can't see the menu yet. So… no. No, I don't."

"Hey, you're the one who wanted to come here."

"We should have just gone to Chipotle."

"What a fuckin' nightmare."

"I'll wait here as long as I have to."

"He doesn't care — he'll never say anything about me being late. I'm not new."

"Why I brought a snack — you brought a sandwich?"

"Well, the girl at Best Buy said it was worth the wait."

"Don't keep her waiting."

"This is taking too long!"

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The Super Combo
Discontinued by the big fast food chains, the Family Combo concept has found a home in the Hispanic food restaurants. In Inwood, you can feed locals and newcomers with less than twenty-five dollars.

—YORY MUNIZ MEYERHO
This summer’s World Cup taught us many things: Biting is bad, Germany is good, and Americans can’t draw soccer balls. Here, a few of the drawings that appeared on sidewalk chalkboards around the city. — ALISON PAUL
Kale is the New Kale

Only a few short months ago, kale was hard to come by in Crown Heights. But on a recent June weekend we visited all the supermarkets, grocers and bodegas between Washington Avenue and Utica Avenue. Many of them stocked kale. Where did it come from? How did it arrive? Or has it been there all along?

—NADEGE DELANE and JENNY GOLDSWORTH

2014
Kale salad, served at Mayfield restaurant, on Franklin Avenue

Since October 2013, Mayfield has sold over 13,600 kale salads at $11 dollars each.

2015
Traditional homemade fish dish using kale

Whole baked porgy with onion and a side of kale, rice, and beans (recipe from Crystal’s father).

“This whole kale fascination has really come down like within the last three years sort of under the raw food umbrella. Honestly, I think a bunch of celebrities started eating kale so it became very trendy. Some guy even wrote a haiku about our kale salad online.”

–GREG, three-year Crown Heights resident and the sous chef at Mayfield.

“This kale is hearty, that’s why people are eating it. It lasts longer.”

–TOMMY, new resident of Crown Heights, shopping at a store near Mayfield.

“Sure, I eat kale at home, but it’s better here. I like to order the kale with a side of oysters. I’m not a student, I can afford oysters.”

–MARCY, eight-year Crown Heights resident, regular at Mayfield.

“Kale is like croissants. I wanted croissants up the street in 2004 and couldn’t find them. Now they have them. So you see it’s not just about the neighborhood, it’s about the people in the enclaves of the neighborhood.”

–ATIM, Crown Heights resident for over 25 years.

“If you really know your kale, you know it’s too rich to eat on its own. And you can’t eat it everyday. Kale is like ramen noodles: you need it when you’re going to school, when you get a divorce, when you’re living in an apartment you can’t afford. Now, all of a sudden it’s like ‘Oh we can eat kale now. We don’t have to starve.’”

–KASSANDRA, Crown Heights resident for over 25 years.

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Excuse Me, Ladies and Gentlemen

Egogenus Americanus is a high-maintenance species. Reared in luxury from a very young age, the Egogenus Americanus is constantly told that it is unique and special. In the mature species, this belief lies at the core of its psychology.

A typical drink order from an Egogenus Americanus will have a long list of special requests. Rather than ordering a simple Grande chai tea latte, 3 pumps, skim milk, like it extra hot, they give their drink a sense of power and control. This control is something they feel entitled to and may feel is lacking elsewhere.

Egogenus Americanus is easily spotted at any Starbucks location, or other chain coffee houses that caters to its whims.

Parcus Familiaris is one of the easiest coffee drinkers to spot. Creatures of this species often arrive at the park early, shortly after the sun comes up, and stay until the sun goes down. Though they roam the park freely, they will generally have a preferred bench.

Caution! These coffee drinkers are extremely territorial. If you must approach Parcus Familiaris, do so with care. Although they are generally harmless, they are prone to excitable outbursts and eccentric or even surly behavior. The coffee cup they use is unmarked, styrofoam or paper. The source of the coffee is generally unknown.

Laborus Variabilis is a migratory species. New York City is very crowded, so finding space to rent an office is expensive and difficult, and competition is high. For this reason, members of this species do their work in laptop-friendly coffee shops, or as they are sometimes called, “Coworkers.”

The Laborus Variabilis can be easily identified by their hip manner of dress and tattooed markings. They will exhibit docile and solitary behavior, often keeping to themselves to focus on their work. However, since they are very busy, it can be dangerous to approach them. If you must interact with them, it is advisable that you start the conversation carefully with a creative or trendy topic to make them feel at ease.

Habitat: The Concrete Jungle
A Safari Guide to the Coffee Drinkers of New York City

New York City is home to a vast diversity of wildlife. Though the coffee-drinker is seemingly as ubiquitous as the pigeon, an alert observer will notice a wide variety of species within the broader genus, each with its own unique characteristics, temperament and diet.

—Anna Everglade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Egogenus Americanus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DRINK OF CHOICE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grande chai tea latte, 3 pumps, skim milk, like it extra hot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHEN ACTIVE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10am to 3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IDENTIFIABLE FEATURES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trendy and expensive clothing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parcus Familiaris</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DRINK OF CHOICE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black with five sugars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHEN ACTIVE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7am to 10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IDENTIFIABLE FEATURES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He reminds you of your dad, but with terrible grooming habits</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laborus Variabilis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DRINK OF CHOICE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The largest iced coffee you’ve got</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHEN ACTIVE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store opening to store closing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IDENTIFIABLE FEATURES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needing to recyclin a mini office in public spaces</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Diet

- Iced Coffee Drink
- To-Go Coffee Drink
- To-Stay Coffee Drink

Consumption

- Sips
- guzzles
- Not Actually Consumed

Environment

- Parks and Green Outdoor Spaces
- Coffeeshops
- On the Street
- Office Spaces and Work Places

Habitat: The Concrete Jungle
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As a vocal species, they will be more than happy to announce their knowledge to anyone within earshot. Oftentimes straddling the line between sophistication and pretension, this species is opinionated about the ways to properly roast, other non-drip brewing methods. Patrons.

In a fragile state, so one must be careful not to disrupt their habitat. While other, less dedicated species generally leave the office between 5pm and 7pm, Officinallis Hyperergic will stay late into the night. They may or may not actually enjoy coffee, but they drink it for the caffeine content in order to sustain their rapid workflow. It may be difficult to encounter the Officinallis Hyperergic in the wild, but you can sometimes spot them falling asleep on the subway.

A unique species, Officinallis Minimus does not typically drink coffee. Rather, Officinallis Minimus simply collects coffees for the dominant species at their workplace. Officinallis Minimus is in the juvenile stage in the life cycle of the office worker subclass. They may become one of several other types of coffee drinkers as they mature, such as the Officinallis Hyperergic or the Laborus Variabilis. Something like a worker bee, Officinallis Minimus is often seen on the streets between its office habitat and a nearby coffee shop to collect nourishment to sustain its hive. Juggling many tasks at once, it is best not to approach the Officinallis Minimus as they are under high levels of stress and may burst into tears at the slightest provocation.

Criticus Elegans is well-versed in the nuances of coffee. As a vocal species, they will be more than happy to announce their knowledge to anyone within earshot. Often shoddy with this line between sophistication and pretension, this species is opinionated about the ways to properly roast, brew, and consume coffee.

Criticus Elegans can be found in upscale coffee shops. Look for the kinds of places that serve pour-over coffee or other non-drip brewing methods. You will either find Criticus Elegans chatting with the barista about their coffee philosophies as a kind of mating call or sitting alone and enjoying their drink while scoffing at other patrons.
Is Your Barista Judging You? —Anna Eveslage

Yes
And you deserve it.

Yes
Had you been standing in line before you got to the counter?

Yes
Did you use "Starbucks logo" anywhere other than Starbucks?

Yes
They are judging you so hard.

Yes
Not bad so far. Okay, so what did you order?

Yes
Did you order a latte?

Yes
Are you confused about where to pick up your drink order?

Yes
Did you tip?

Yes
Did you mean to order a latte?

Yes
Are you visibly pregnant?

Yes
Anything else

Cappuccino

Latte

Macchiato

Espresso

Coffee

Decaf

Latte

Not bad so far. Okay, so what did you order?

Yes
Did you order it right?

Yes
Are you friends or are they flirting with you?

Yes
Will you put milk or sugar in it?

Yes
Did you hesitate at all in deciding what you want?

Yes
Did you order it iced?

Yes
Did you tip?

Yes
Are you on your phone at the counter?

Yes
Did you do it yourself?

Yes
Did you order pour over?

Yes
Are you confused about where to pick up your drink order?

Yes
Did you ask for flavored syrup?

Yes
Really? Are you sure?

Yes
Did you put milk or sugar in it?

Yes
Did you order pour over?

Yes
Do they offer pour over?

Yes
Did you order pour over?

Yes
Did you mean to order a latte?

Yes
Did you put milk or sugar in it?

Yes
Did you order pour over?

Yes
Are you visibly pregnant?

Yes
Did you tip?

Yes
Did you hesitate at all in deciding what you want?

Yes
Did you use "Starbucks logo" anywhere other than Starbucks?

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Yes
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**Ginkgo**

~GINKGO BILoba~

**NATIVE TO CHINA**

Ginkgo leaf extracts are used to improve short-term memory and increase blood circulation, and also aid cell wall function.

In Europe, Ginkgo extracts are used to treat some effects of senility, and in treatments for the eye, memory decline, and eye ringing.

**Ginkgo Note:**

The shelled seeds of the Ginkgo are served as a delicacy in China as an aphrodisiac.

**Shelled Nut Large doses of Ginkgo Note can have negative side effects.**

Some people are allergic to the Ginkgo tree, and may get a rash from handling it without gloves.

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**Oaks**

~QUERCUS KUERGA~

Bark of the Northern Red Oak has been used in an antiseptic, to induce vomiting, and also as a tonic to reduce fever and reduce thirst.

**Northern Red Oak Leaf**

Acorns have been eaten as a staple by美洲原住民for millennia, but acorns must be leached of their tannins in running water (or several changes of water) until no stranger bitter.

Acorns may then be dried, ground into powder, and used as flour mixed with cereals.

**Pin Oak**

**QUERCUS ELIOPODIATRIS**

Harvest acorns when they barely separate from their case, discard any that do not sink in water, those that float have been eaten by insects.

**Ripe Pin Oak Acorn**

Red Oak & Pin Oak Pungency acorns every two years, while white Oak acorns take only one year to mature.

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Sources: Penn State Hershey Medical Center; University of Maryland Medical Center; National Agricultural Library; Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society; San Francisco Chronicle; Steven Foster Group, Inc.; Mother Earth News; Sean B. Dunham, Michigan State University; Traveling Scriptorium, Yale University Library.

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Excuse Me, Ladies and Gentlemen | 48

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Excuse Me, Ladies and Gentlemen | 49
Overheard In Brooklyn

—STEVEN LITTLE

I CAN’T BELIEVE HE’S OUR KID...

I WILL BEAT YOUR BUTT! LET’S GO!

I ALMOST FORGOT YOU WERE HERE

The sound of sirens, blaze, steadily blazing, the city’s finest

POLICEMEN PARKED IN A DISABLED SPOT, A TREE

PLANTED IN CONCRETE.
THE EMPIRE

Move aside bagels! Dollar pizzas have taken over NYC as the cheap snack to satisfy any late-night cravings. While bright dollar signs promise easy slices of life, there’s more to it. Residents on the lower east side have started a petition against dollar pizza joints, citing lack of food diversity. Says a petitioner, “Every time a restaurant shuttered, a shitty pizza place is born. I’m sick of it.” However, while the petition rages on in an expensive city, dollar pizzas continue to feed the hungry, poor & drunk. Rahman from Bangladesh works 10 to 12 hours every day, selling around 1,500 slices. That’s a lot of dough, sauce, and cheese for the masses.

— MELISSA MALZKUHN

OF DOLLAR PIZZAS

In order to turn a profit, dollar pizza places have to sell more than 200 pies a day, as compared to 50 for regular pizzerias.

Mr. Mohammad, who runs dollar pizza places around the city says he helps feed the homeless.

“I think it’s great for the people that aren’t interested in high-quality product,” said a manager at Di Fara’s, in Brooklyn, commenting on dollar pizza ingredients.

At Percy’s (140 Bleecker St. in Greenwich Village), it costs $4 to make an eight-slice pizza. So, don’t ask for Parmesan. It costs the budget. Settle for chili flakes or oregano.

The New York Times ran articles on two dollar pizza stores that lowered their prices to 75 cents a slice, hoping to win customers.

The owners had to reach an agreement to raise their prices back or they’d be out of business.

Sources: The New York Times; The New York Post; Gothamist; Change.org.
Reading the Wires

One cyclist uses shoelaces to tie a shopping basket to the bars. One has hand-carved a milk crate, another has added a plush toy hood ornament. Who is the cyclist who still rides a bike with handlebars so distorted? The bash patterns tell stories of collisions and crashes — baskets and bars that continue to survive, held together with duct tape or string.

–CRAG COSS

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Temporary ID

Employees' IDs collected over 212 days of freelance work in New York City. —JENNY GOLDSTOCK
“What object would you regret selling the most?”

Every Saturday, stoop sales surround the Brooklyn Flea Market in Fort Greene. —ANN CODDOU and RENI RUAN

Leather jacket

“This is Washington Ave, the site of Mary Louis Griffin-Lewis, where she did her visual art starting back in the 1930’s. I’m an installationist. The leather jacket I sold yesterday was my jacket to show that I’m involved in this expressive bit of expression and I sold it to a young guy. It was originally at least $200 and I gave it to him for 20, 40 bucks total, ’cause he was the first customer. It was a Crocodile Dundee jacket with leather straps coming out of it.”

Bike seat

“My bike was stolen and that is the only thing left of it. My step-dad gave me the bike. He put it together himself. He made the frame and then I brought it to Brooklyn and somebody stole the whole thing except for, I had taken the bike seat off, and that’s what’s left of it.”

No regrets

“I don’t care about this stuff. I sell it to pass the time. It’s all from my house. I don’t need it anymore.”

Eddie Murphy record

“See that record? We use it to draw people in. Everyone sees Eddie Murphy’s face and they laugh about it. They call their friends over to look at him and then they notice my records. Isn’t it a funny album cover? We are charging a lot for it so people don’t buy it.”
Shannon

“Majority of the time my hair is pulled back in a bun. It’s fast and convenient to slick it back. New Yorkers are constantly on the go. Feeling like I’m always in a rush makes me more inclined to pull it in a bun.”

Naomi

“I keep it wrapped up. Lots of women want braids in the summer. For braids we have books and posters. Beyoncé combs her afro hair with afro pickers done in two hours. Fast.”

Amanda

“I’ve always kept my hair short. Then I grew it out trying to be traditional for my wedding. Then I got pregnant. I couldn’t take that long hair anymore once I got pregnant so I went back to short.”

Ashley

“I’ve been natural my whole life, but I’ve been shaving my head for three years. Hair care is too expensive here. It’s forty dollars at Duane Reade for hair clippers. That’s my only expense.”

Dottie

“The impulse of this city — it’s like you can have anything you want at any time. I saw this pic of this bob. I had to have it. I woke up one day and went to salon after salon saying, ‘I want my hair cut right now!’ I did it then. ‘We don’t have to wait.’

Alyse

“Umm... No. I don’t think my hairstyle makes me a better New Yorker or not. It’s like a personal comfort level with my own grooming. I never thought about it within a larger context of New York.”

Amanda

“I’ve always kept my hair short. Then I grew it out trying to be traditional for my wedding. Then I got pregnant. I couldn’t take that long hair anymore once I got pregnant so I went back to short.”

Angie

“I gotta gel it and go. I had long hair and I cut it for three years now. My hair is healthier so I cut it every three months. I’m gonna shave the sides. My stylist makes suggestions and I trust her. I’m daring like that. No fear.”

Meja

“My epistemology on hair is that you shouldn’t control it. Just cut it so that it falls the way it falls. Women think they have to do so much to be beautiful. I’m so tired of the objectification of women. If a man doesn’t like it, so what!”

Ellen

“I wasted too much time every morning trying to make myself look a certain way. I was a dancer with straight hair. That made no sense. I had to wash it, dry it, flat-iron it after every single practice every single day.”

Marcy

“My epistemology on hair is that you shouldn’t control it. Just cut it so that it falls the way it falls. Women think they have to do so much to be beautiful. I’m so tired of the objectification of women. If a man doesn’t like it, so what!”

Sylvia

“I have two weddings this month and two next month. I get a roll set from Diaz Lopez right there. That’s what I do. I was just over here last week. When I showed up to work on Monday they all said, ‘Really? You got your hair done Friday?’ I was like, ‘Yeah! It’s the humidity.’

Ashley

“I’ve been natural my whole life, but I’ve been shaving my head for three years. Hair care is too expensive here. It’s forty dollars at Duane Reade for hair clippers. That’s my only expense.”

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You Talking to Me?

Covering your body completely from head to toe in formless clothes may deter some of those creeps, but most see it as a challenge. Lots of clothes leave a lot to the imagination. And keeping this up in the New York heat will leave you sweaty and tired.

Saying you’re taken in a giant ring signals I’m married. But this only works if a creeper notices your ring — and even then, he might be into that kind of thing. How about an affair?

Layers

10% EFFECTIVE
Covers your body completely from head to toe in formless clothes, may deter some of those creeps. But most see it as a challenge. Lots of clothes leave a lot to the imagination. And keeping this up in the New York heat will leave you sweaty and tired.

20% EFFECTIVE
Placing a band on your ring finger is a good way to say you’re taken without saying anything. But this only works if a creeper notices your ring — and even then, he might be into that kind of thing. How about an affair?

50% EFFECTIVE
Having a hot friend by your side is a great way to scare those creepy creeps off of you. Unfortunately, it may make you look even more accessible than before.

Thanks! You too!

70% EFFECTIVE
Telling a creeper, “Thanks,” is anything but what they expected. Adding, “You too,” throws another curveball. Either he will think you didn’t hear him, or that you like him back. Either way, this statement will confuse him long enough for you to get away.

80% EFFECTIVE
Making an ugly face is a pretty good deterrent for most creeps, except some of the creepiest creeps out there. Heck, some guys will go for anything.

95% EFFECTIVE
Headphones are your best bet. With music to drown out your unwanted fans, you are free to walk down the street in ignorant bliss.

Sweet Beats

100% EFFECTIVE
Chances are the creeps will not pursue you if you can’t hear them. Headphones are your best bet. With music to drown out your unwanted fans, you are free to walk down the street in ignorant bliss.
“I thought all gay men wore button-downs and brightly-colored bowties.”

“Did you just call him a twinkie?”

Gay Pride 2014 may be over, but questions clearly linger. Here, a survival guide for future Prides — or for any given day in New York City.

— ZACHARY ARNES

The Uniform

Cute high tops or gym sneakers. Socks are accepted only out of utmost necessity.

Tight shorts. Either cuffed twice, or tiny cut-offs.

Tank tops show off your geometric sleeve-tattoos.

Buzzed sides (Number 2, fade to Number 1), with a perfect coif of longer hair at the top.

Neon baseball caps. A “pop of color” never hurts.

Cell phone with all of the latest gay “dating” apps. Why approach a guy at a club without seeing photos of his abs on Grindr?
The Tribes

Bears
One of the more well-known gay identities, “Bears” are gentlemen over the age of 35, quite hirsute, and the embodiment of masculinity.

Other Bears
Wolf—A bear with a slimmer build.
Otter—A bear under age 35.

There are also ethnic variations:
Black Bear and
Panda Bear
The qualifiers are self-explanatory.

Twinks
“Twinks” are the opposite of “Bears”; typically under 35, lithe, with little body hair. The term “twink” is borrowed from the snack cake “Twinkies.” Ponder this on your own.

Other Twinks
Chicken—LOK, for “twink”.
Tawnk—A bear who has more muscle-mass.

Trade, a.k.a. Banjee
The term “Trade” comes from the notion that many hustlers try to portray a caricature of hyper-masculinity by offering their “goods” in exchange for money. Unlike the “Bears” and “Twinks,” the “Trade” group does not have a distinctive physique. With roots in the Black and Latino communities of NYC in the early ’80s known as Banjee, this group adopts the style of dress and attitude found in heterosexual males. They can choose to emulate hardcore gangsters, skating punks, military men... any typically masculine identity.

Leathers
Another of the costumed groups, “Leather” is commonly applied as a prefix to the more physical tribes: e.g. “Leather Twink” or “Leather Bear.”
Like the “Trade” group, members of the Leather group also seek to convey their masculinity — but their signifiers are drawn from the gay community rather than the straight community. Artists like Tom of Finland draw on iconic “Leather” imagery: harnesses, police hats, and chaps. At times the “Leather” group can be mistaken for members of a heavy metal band. Thanks Rob Halford.
Choose the answer that best describes your method of coping.

Do you:

A) Leave mid-sentence, you only date “masc” guys.
B) In lieu of pitchfork, run away in fear.
C) Ask if he has a ball gag — he might be part of the leather tribe.

ANSWER: Nothing. Calm down Mary... you’re gay too.

Tip Please.

$5 Cost to pose with the Statue of Liberty.

Where you once found hookers, pimps, and junkies, Times Square is now filled with Spidermen, Elmos, and Minions. —FEIFEI RUAN
On Saturday night at 7 p.m., the Times Square Alliance, which pays for private security in Times Square, counted a whopping 52 costumed characters roaming the streets.

“This is a cancer on Times Square that has to be excised soon. It spread from the West Coast, where it began in Hollywood, outside of Mann’s Chinese Theater,” State Senator Brad Hoylman told The Observer. “The panhandlers are exploiting the First Amendment, but I don’t think you have a First Amendment right to harass and threaten people as some of these characters have done.”
These costumed characters claim they’re street performers and don’t need licensing.

“Some days are good. You can make $80 on an average day. On Thanksgiving, you can make about $125,” Elmo told New York Daily News. “But not everyone tips. You can’t do anything. Just wave and smile.”

Sources: The Observer; NY Daily News.
Lessons Learned.

—River Angel

Friday, New York, 6pm.

Cool, meet me at the AMC on 42nd.

Alright, what time?

Eight. You have plenty of time.

Dude, I've only got like two hours.

Uh, aren't you just a mile away?

Dude, what took you so damn long?
Leave NYC Alone!

Blasted by UFOs, wrecked by monsters, frozen-over and flooded, New York City has been destroyed on screen more than any other place in the world. A look at some of the landmarks of a city in ruins. —FEIFEI RUAN

TORCH DAMAGE
Superman, 1980

HEAD DAMAGE
Braman dinner, 1995
Judge Dredd, 1995
X-Men, 2000

AMPUTATION
A Man Called Hero, 1968

DECAPITATED
Deep impact, 1998
Cloverfield, 2008

BURIED
Planet of the Apes, 1968
Oblivion, 2013

SUBMERGED
Deluge, 1933
Artificial Intelligence, 2001
The Day After Tomorrow, 2004
Ice Age, 2011

The Statue of Liberty
Excuse Me, Ladies and Gentlemen

Anna Eveslage
Minneapolis, MN
"Please keep out of direct sunlight."

HATE
New York's summer heat.

LOVE
New York's variety.

RECOMMENDS
The IFC Center on 6th Avenue.

PAGES
40-41, 64-65

Nadia DeLane
New Jersey
"Frayed pages are worth the read."

HATE
Anything is possible in New York.

LOVE
Anything is possible in New York.

RECOMMENDS
The Horus Cafe in the East Village. The hummus is particularly good. They keep it community-cozy, but you never feel locked in.

PAGES
38-39, 62-63

Zachary Dana Are
Detroit, MI
"Always carry a change of clothes."

HATE
Trains that travel seven miles per hour.

LOVE
Living where they filmed Saturday Night Fever.

RECOMMENDS
80th Street and Shore Road, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn — for the beautiful view of the Verrazzano Bridge.

PAGES
66-70

Ryan Ansel
Lake Orion, MI
"Ryan is Gaelic for little king."

HATE
New York has so many people.

LOVE
There are so many people.

RECOMMENDS
Chin Dogs on St. Mark’s just off Avenue A. They have deep-fried hot dogs wrapped in bacon.

PAGES
16-17, 75-77

Craig Coss
Petaluma, CA
"Six words can’t encapsulate my life."

HATE
Pedestrians walk into the bike lane without looking out for bikes.

LOVE
An energy here that gets me fired up to make stuff.

RECOMMENDS
Sitting next to the "Water Stone" sculpture, by Isamu Noguchi, in Room 228 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

PAGES
28-29, 45-46, 54-57

Jenny Goldstick
Chappaqua, NY
"Reaching differences between math and music."

HATE
The quick, uneven pace of the city.

LOVE
New York is the apex of all things disgusting and beautiful.

RECOMMENDS
An east side seat on the F train heading into Manhattan as it passes the Statue of Liberty, midday on a Saturday, preferably springtime. The Statue is facing you and then all of a sudden the moment is gone and the Statue is hidden behind buildings as the train heads underground.

PAGES

Ryan Coddou
Pittsburgh, PA
"Six words can’t encapsulate my life."

HATE
Trains that travel seven miles per hour.

LOVE
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RECOMMENDS
The Brooklyn Flea in Williamsburg. You can’t not enjoy the art, food, and atmosphere.

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Pedestrians walk into the bike lane without looking out for bikes.

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An energy here that gets me fired up to make stuff.

RECOMMENDS
Sitting next to the "Water Stone" sculpture, by Isamu Noguchi, in Room 228 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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PAGES

Contributors
Excuse Me, Ladies and Gentlemen

Melissa Malzkuhn
Washington, D.C.
“Black coffee every morning, thank you.”

Ivory A. Núñez-Medrano
Dominican Republic
“A journey full of great surprises.”

Alison Paul
San Francisco, CA
“Learning art things, teaching art things.”

Jacob Atom Reilly
Florida
“Dammit, Atom! You make everything up!”

Feifei Ruan
22.5500° N, 114.1000° E
“I’m from Shenzhen, now in New York.”

Steven Little
Virginia/Brooklyn
“Sic semper tyrannis; Ars gratia artis.”

HATE
Repeating myself.

LOVE
New York’s endless creative opportunities and the density of experience.

RECOMMENDS
Walking around Flushing Meadows Park on a Sunday, or Floyd Bennett Airfield.

PAGES
49-51

HATE
New York’s visual pollution.

LOVE
New York’s visual pollution.

RECOMMENDS
At the intersection of Orchard St. and Broome St. there is excellent coffee, a few great brunch choices, Asian- and Mexican-fusion restaurants, bars, a museum and a bookstore. I rarely leave.

PAGES
7-13, 52-53

HATE
Doorblockers.

LOVE
New York’s street performers.

RECOMMENDS
The Inwood Local, a small beer garden on Broadway, between Isham St. and 207th St. in Inwood.

PAGES
24-25, 34-25

HATE
That New York is... so... much.

LOVE
That New York is... so... much.

RECOMMENDS
Tres Carnes, (on the corner of 6th and 23rd), a burrito bar that plays ’80s rap and serves Mexican beer. It feels like home to me.

PAGES
26-27, 36-37

HATE
That person who stops at the top of the stairs.

LOVE
New York City is the physical internet.

RECOMMENDS
The Greco-Roman Sculpture Garden at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. If you think it’s beautiful on a sunny day, you should sit under those skylights when it’s raining.

PAGES
30-33

HATE
Dog poo on the sidewalk and pigeon poo on the head.

LOVE
Public restrooms (Starbucks) are everywhere.

RECOMMENDS
The Creperie at 135 Ludlow Street is the perfect stop on the walk home during any exceptionally late night.

PAGES
18-23

HATE
People that hate New Jersey.

LOVE
New Jersey.

RECOMMENDS
The Brooklyn Bridge — the place where Godzilla and the Cloverfield monster met.

PAGES
60-61, 71-75, 78-83

Ryan Weber
Wall Township, NJ
“This took me hours to write.”

HATE
People that hate New Jersey.

LOVE
New Jersey.