

BOOK REVIEW

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Srebnick, Jessica Goldman and Hal Rubenstein. *Walls of Change: The Story of the Wynwood Walls*. New York: Assouline Publishing, 2019. 260 pp. US\$60.00 (hardcover). ISBN: 978-1-6142-8857-2.

Walls of Change: The Story of the Wynwood Walls not only serves as a visual archive of the street art developed in this Miami neighborhood from 2009 to 2018 but also includes reflections by several participating street artists that illuminate larger themes pertaining to public art including accessibility, innovation, activism, and community building.

Published in November 2019, *Walls of Change* is largely composed of richly colorful photographs of the murals and street artists at work in Wynwood. The book begins with a foreword by Franklin Sirmans, director of the Pérez Art Museum Miami, who orients readers to the Miami art scene and to the contributing factors that made the city a logical location for Wynwood Walls—one of the first public art mural destinations—in essence an outdoor museum. Following Sirmans’s foreword is an introduction by writer and fashion director Hal Rubenstein and a few short essays by those who knew Wynwood Walls’ founder, Tony Goldman. Organized chronologically from 2009 to 2018, *Walls of Change* features ten essays with one per year written by a collaborator or participating street artist. Interspersed between the pages of photographs and texts are noteworthy quotations presented in stylized stencil lettering evocative of the street art aesthetic.

At first glance, the book’s primary purpose appears to be a compendium of praise for Tony Goldman (1943–2012). Several essays by business colleagues and family members including Goldman’s children, Joey Goldman and Jessica Goldman Srebnick—now curator at Wynwood Walls and founder of Goldman Global Arts—provide a portrait of Tony. They detail his legacy as an urban planner, entrepreneur, and cultural innovator. However, the book further functions as an important case study in the broader discourse of urbanism and the intersection of art and public space.

Collectively these initial essays function as the origin story of the development of the Wynwood neighborhood as seen by millions of visitors. Contributors shed light on considered logistics and the inevitable physical and societal changes of the neighborhood. Upon encountering Wynwood in 2005, Joey Goldman described the environment as a “neighborhood in ruins.” The area was zoned for industrial use only and was filled mostly with empty