

Foam 3H	WHEN THE TWINS WERE STILL BEAUTIFUL Thomas Kuijpers	17.12.15- 23.01.16
€	INVENTORY LIST	
Medium	Description	Size (cm)
PAINTINGS	Giacomo Twin Towers Painting #1 w/ red frame	54x63
	Giacomo Twin Towers Painting #2	50x60
	Giacomo Twin Towers Painting #3 w/ black frame	64x54
	Giacomo Twin Towers Painting #4 w/ blue/silver frame	65,5x56
	Giacomo Twin Towers Painting #5 w/ matte black frame	123,5x88
	Giacomo Twin Towers Painting #6 w/ glossy black frame	121x88
	Bonsall Twin Towers Painting	70x50
	Painting by unknown painter w/ yellow/black frame	98x64
FRAMED PICTURES W/ LIGHTS (ALL HAVE PLUGS)	Twin Towers w/ moon in black frame	96x72
	Twin Towers w/ purple sky in black frame	98x66
	Twin Towers w/ changing multicolor lights in mirror frame	97,5x46
	Twin Towers w/ flickering lights in black frame	70x49,5
	Twin Towers w/ steady lights in black frame	75x53
	Coca Cola Neon Sign W/ Twin Towers	100x70
	CLOTHING	Bathing suit w/ skyline + window dummy
Denim blouse w/ skyline + window dummy		L
Childrens t-shirt		S
Socks #1 brown (pair)		one size
Socks #2 blue (pair)		one size
Clockhouse long shirt (women)		unknown
Notorious B.I.G. shirt		L
OTHER WEARABLES	Leather + Denim Purse Sparkling Glitter	33x21x14,5
	Twin Tower Skyline	
PLATES	Bamboo Twin Towers Plate	30,5x30,5
	Yellow 3D Twin Towers Plate	21x21
	White Plate w/ Twin Towers Print	21,5x21,5
	3D decorative plate w/ text 'World Trade Center' 1973	15x16
FLAGS	1 Twin Towers / Coca Cola / Allstar /	136x99 flag
	Pallmall flag w/ stick	275 stick
CANVASES	Twin Towers canvas - Set of 2 (sealed)	40x40
	Empire state w/ twins in background (sealed)	50x50
	Panoramic brooklyn bridge / Twin Towers canvas	100,5x50
	Sealed Canvas New York Skyline Black/White	62x47
CD'S	Lee Towers - Never Walk Alone	13x13
	Blackstreet - Finally	13x13
	Beastie Boys - To the 5 Boroughs	13x13
	Keel - Final Frontier (framed)	34x34

	Lee Towers - New York (framed)	34x34		Double set of Play Cards w/ New York Skyline	13x10
	Night Life	32x32		Home Alone 2 lost in New York -	12x19
	Hologram - Steal the Stars (framed)	34x34		NTSC Super Nintendo Snes	
	Lalo Schifrin - Towering Toccata	32x32	PUZZLES	Paddington New York 99pcs	33x24
	Miker G & DJ Sven - Nights over New York (7")	18x18		Puzz 3D New York, New York 3141pcs	60x40x20
	Robin Gibb - Another Lonely Night in New York (7")	18x18		Ravensburger w/ fireworks 1000pcs	43x30x6
	NEW YORK - Chicco Secci Project (7")	18x18		Ravensburger w/ moon (day) 1500pcs	37x27,5x6
	Eleven - New York Groove (7")	18x18		Ravensburger w/ statue of liberty (night) 1000pcs	43x30x6
SNOW GLOBES			2	Clementoni puzzle Twin Towers Sunset 1000pcs / gold	40x28,5,7
	WTC Souvenir Snow Globe	10x10x12		Clementoni puzzle Twin Towers Sunset 1000pcs / blue	37x28x5
	New York Souvenir Snow Globe w/ Statue of Liberty	9,5x8x7		Panaroma skyline puzzle 750pcs	39,5x19x4,5
	New York Souvenir w/ music box and glass ball	10x15x10		Panaroma skyline puzzle Purple sky over 500pcs	46x15,5x4
MUGS + DRINK-RELATED				Clementoni Fluorescent Panorama Puzzle 1000pcs	40x30x8
	WTC Souvenir Mug (brown)	10x10x15	COLLECTOR CARDS		
	WTC Souvenir Mug (blue)	10x10x15		Barbie and Car	9x12,5
	New York Souvenir Mug (Black/Blue)	10x10x15		Barbie and Ken in front of Towers	12,5x9
	New York Souvenir Espresso Cup (white)	6,5x6,5x7		Twin Towers Joker (framed)	20x15
	King Kong 1976 Water Carafe	19,5x17x15		Baseball Card NY Yankees David Cone in stand	10x7,5x3
	Supertramp Breakfast in America Serving Tray	45x40		Top Trumps Skyscrapers: WTC	10x6,5
FRAMED B/W PICTURES			FRAMED COLOR PICTURES		
	Big IKEA picture w/ Alu frame	120x90,5		Giacomo Twin Towers Painting Reproduction in Alu frame	60,5x45,5
	Brooklyn Bridge w/ Alu frame (broken glass in corner)	120x90,5		New York Purple Skyline (sealed) glued on wood	140x99,5
	Manhattan Morning Large Panorama	164x57		New York Skyline Panorama (sealed) glued on wood	152x56
	Henri Silberman in Alu Frame	80x61		New York Skyline Panorama (sealed) glued on wood	92x30
	Henri Silberman in Black Frame	105x55		Twin Towers w/ blue sky in thick Alu frame	85x65,5
	Standing pic w/ text 'World Trade Center'	70x50		New York Skyline Panorama glued on wood w/ wooden frame	144x52
	in lower right corner			Twin Towers centered photograph w/ loose Alu frame	102,5x74
CALENDARS	2002 w/ blue sky	32x32		Triptych w/ brooklyn bridge	82x51
	2002 black and white	32x32		Diptych w/ brooklyn bridge (1 broken glass)	80x49
GLITTER / 3D PICTURES				Twin Towers w/ brooklyn bridge	
	Glass glitter Twin Towers big (black frame)	82x52		in passe partout (broken glass)	50x40
	Glass glitter Twin Towers small (gold frame)	26x21		New York skyline silkscreen by DIL in white frame	
	Glass glitter Twin Towers small (gold frame)	21x26		(original, numbered #259/310)	42x52
	3D Twin Towers (stretched) on wood	30x20		Statue of liberty + towers golden picture	
	3D Twin Towers Poster	67x47		in golden frame	56x45
	3D Twin Towers (black frame)	42x30		Framed skyline w/ text 'new york skyline'	30x20
	3D Postcard (gold frame)	15x10		3D frame 'God Bless America' w/ 1 of the towers	13x17
	3D Postcard (wooden / gold frame)	14x20		Panorama NY w/ alu frame	120x60
MIRRORS	Blue semi Transparent Mirror w/ Statue of Liberty	34x34		Aerial panorama New York New York	
	Triptych w/ marble style Twin Tower print	82x51		w/ blue metallic frame	110x57
TOYS / GAMES				Aerial panorama New York New York w/	
	Teddy bear 'Twins 4-ever'	22x16x5		blue metallic frame	110x57
	Hot Wheels Truck w/ Twin Tower Print on the side	17x11x4	PHOTO ALBUMS		
	Snow Shovel Truck w/ Twin Tower Print on the box	30x10x10		New York L'Album du Voyage	22,5x28,5
	Twin Towers Ministeck	45x35x6		White Photo Album w/ Twins on Cover	18,5x25
	World Trade Center New York City	18x18x5	BOOKS	Marvin Karp - Amerika w/ 3 WTC pics	26x36,5
	souvenir toy tambourine			Le New York de Paul Auster w/ 9 WTC pics	26x26

Bill Harris - New York w/ 29 WTC pics	26x36,5	Crocodile Dundee VHS	12,5x19,5
Reisimpressies New York w/ 2 WTC pics	24x30	Home Alone 2 VHS	12,5x19,5
Vereinigde Staten Larousse Landenserie w/ WTC cover	22,5x26,5	The Concierge VHS	12,5x19,5
New York - Crescent w/ 8 WTC pics	20,5x27,5	Hellraiser III VHS	12x20,5
Amerika - Rebo w/ 3 WTC pics	20x28,5	The Squeeze VHS	12x20,5
Glorious Sky - Herbert Katzman's New York		Manhattan VHS	12x20,5
w/ 52 WTC pics	31,5x23,5	Hercules in New York DVD	13,5x19
Inside New York w/ 19 WTC pics	27x23,5	Mr. Saturday Night DVD	13,5x19
Bob Krist - A Photo Tour of New York w/ 13 WTC pics	30x25	The Ladies Man DVD	13,5x19
New York City Souvenir Book w/ 18 WTC pics	19,5x24	The Best of the Chris Rock Show DVD	14x19
Bernard Hermann - New York w/14 WTC pics	19x28,5	POSTCARDS + POSTCARDBOOKS	
New York - Minerva w/ 4 WTC pics	23x26	New York Smells (scratch & sniff guide)	
AA - Discover America w/ 5 WTC pics	22,5x29	w/ 21 postcards	20x12
Bill Harris - New York a Picture Memory w/ 30 WTC pics	23,5x30	Twin Towers w/ pink letters 'New York'	15x10
Carole Chester - New York w/ 8 WTC pics	23,5x30	Manhattan aerial view w/ courier font 'Manhattan'	15x10
Panorama van New York w/ 14 WTC pics	24,5x33	Exiting Highlights Gray Line Tour w/ 20 postcards	20,5x8,5
Costanza Poli - New York w/ 15 WTC pics	25x30,5	Fold out postcard WTC + helicopter	50,5x17
Bill Harris - New York City of Many Dreams		New York w/ golden letters and golden apple	15x10
w/ 33 WTC pics	32,5x28,5	New York w/ towers on the left, white text	15x10
Insight Guides - New York City w/ 9 WTC pics	15,5x22,5	Brooklyn Bridge w/ pink text	15x10
Merian XL - New York w/ 5 WTC pics	13x22	1972 Aerial Photo Postcard (unfinished Twin Towers)	10x15
Richtig Reizen Dumont New York w/ 10 WTC pics	13x20,5	Twin Towers w/ musical notes (framed)	14x18,5
Everyman Guide - New York w/ 19 WTC pics	12x22,5	New York w/ golden letters and golden apple (framed)	18,5x13,5
Lonely Planet New York 1st edition w/ 6 WTC pics	13x18,5	New York 4 pics in 1 postcard	
ANWB Reisgids US Noordoost w/ 3 WTC pics	11x19,5	(2x Twins) in wooden frame	22x17
Merian Live! New York w/ 7 WTC pics	11x19	World Trade Center New York City (framed)	12,5x17,5
Berlitz reisgids New York w/ 3 WTC pics	10,5x14,5	PINS	
Berlitz guide de Voyage New York w/ 3 WTC pics	10,5x14,5	Manhattan Skyline Tie Clip	6x0,5
Insight Guides - New York State w/ 11 WTC pics	15,5x22,5	Martini Extra Dry WTC pin	3x3
The Companion Guide to New York w/ 7 WTC pics	14,5x22	12 Shiny Olivia WTC pin	4x4,5
Dr. A. J. Van Zuilen - New York Washington DC		New York Twin Towers pin	2x2,5
w/ 6 WTC pics	12,5x20,5	WALLPAPERS	
American Express New York w/ 4 WTC pics	12,5x20	Brooklyn Bridge (ideal decor #114) 366x254cm	97x8x8
In alle staten reisgids w/ 2 WTC pics	10,5x20	POSTERS	
Kosmos reisgids New York w/ 9 WTC pics	11x20	Vacanze in America - Movie Poster (original)	72x50
City Wijzer New York w/ 6 WTC pics	11x19	Twins + Brooklyn Bridge w/ purple/pink sky	91,5x61
Flodder in America comic book	21x27	2 N.Y. 3D poster w/ 3D glasses (1986)	61x41,5
Jay McInerney - Bright Light, Big City (WTC cover)	13x20,5	Chevrolet Belair Sportcoupe +	
UHS + DVD Friends Series 4 UHS Box	13x20x12,5	Carriace in front of skyline	43x33
Men in Black VHS	12,5x19,5	Canvas Twins behind Brooklyn Bridge (unmounted)	77x57
Asteroid VHS	12,5x19,5	Canvas Black / White Twins (unmounted)	77x57
The Tomorrow Man VHS	12,5x19,5	Escape From N.Y. French Movie Poster on Canvas	
Fools Rush In VHS	12,5x19,5	(unmounted)	60x90
Antz VHS	14x22	4 Twin Towers + River w/ red sky (scandecor #52)	99x68
The Cowboy Way VHS	12,5x19,5	4 Twin Towers + Brooklyn Bridge w/ yellow/orange sky	
Babe Pig in the City VHS	12,5x19,5	(scandecor #107)	99x68
The Siege VHS	12,5x19,5	MISCELLANEOUS	
		Ash Tray 'New York City'	12,5x12x5
		Phone Cover (phone unknown)	7,5x14

It all started with a painting by an unknown artist depicting the iconic image of the Twin Towers. The description only said ‘painted before 2001’. When visual artist Thomas Kuijpers looked at it for the first time, the replaying footage of the collapsing towers so heavily engrained in his memory was put on hold for a moment, and replaced by a glimpse of how the image of the World Trade Center must have been experienced before the disaster. Fascinated by this thought, he decided to buy the painting. This ultimately became the starting point for Kuijpers to amass a wide collection of pre-9/11 memorabilia, including tourist photos, puzzles, socks, books, film excerpts, wallpaper and even a bathing suit.

In fact, Thomas Kuijpers artistic practice is all about collecting. Browsing the media landscape, he saves every topic of interest that might become relevant in a neat file cabinet in his studio. He has a nose for inconsistencies in media narratives and their imagery that are mostly overlooked by others. Following certain topics or media hypes for longer periods of time through a strict self-imposed regime of reading several daily newspapers and following other media broadcasts, Kuijpers’ artistic practice is all about the development, impact, and consequences of imaging and representation. While most of his works reflect on recent events or developments, such as the current Islamophobia in European media, the work presented in Foam 3h *When the Twins were still beautiful* (2013 – ongoing) goes further back in time and in fact reflects on a history of symbolic representation.

One of the objects in Thomas Kuijpers’ Twin Towers-collection is a postcard from 1972 with birthday wishes to Dirk, sent from New York to Holland. It is shown on the back of this booklet, and it depicts the Twin Towers as though completed, while in fact the South Tower (2 WTC) was still under construction. Although it is one of the first examples of the Twin Towers’ status as a symbol of New York in popular culture, it stems from a time of fiscal and social crises in the 1970s in which the Towers’ grandeur clashed with their social surroundings. As the backdrop against which CNN reporters presented updates on the global financial market, the WTC’s symbolism of economic power also had an unattractive aura of arrogance within New York’s rising socio-economic inequality within 1970s to the 1990s.

Yet the more positive symbolic connotations exceeded the Twin Towers’ symbolism of economic might. The WTC was used in popular culture to symbolize “New Yorkness”. As Thomas Kuijpers’ collected footage that flickers through the installation of *When the Twins were still beautiful* exemplifies: a movie or TV series set in New York wouldn’t appear without a shot of the city’s iconic skyline with the Twin Towers shimmering in the sun, or twinkling against the night sky.

For that very reason many producers of television shows such as *Friends*, *Spin City* and *Sex and the City* faced an odd dilemma when the immediate crisis of September 11 took place. The two hijacked Boeing 767s that collided into the World Trade Center not only

Key Ring World Trade Center - Gold
 Rilaco Manhattan Condoms set of 4
 Crystal + Gold souvenir statuette
 ...

brought physical destruction; they destroyed the shows’ symbolic backdrops that signified ‘being’ in New York. Yet little had changed in the Manhattan of post-9/11. Episodes of *Friends*: no references were made to the event except the change of New York’s skyline, making the tragedy present in its very absence. *Sex and the City* had just finished editing the second part of its fourth season, but its executive producer decided to erase the Towers from all six episodes, including from the credits, where they were superimposed with Sarah Jessica Parker’s name – the star of the show. One image was kept however: a shot of a souvenir snow globe containing replicas of the Towers, which featured in that season’s fourteenth episode.

Thomas Kuijpers’ installation *When the Twins were still beautiful* contains snow globes like the one from *Sex and the City*, and many other pre-9/11 objects that are not kitsch tourist souvenirs alone, but in retrospect have become rather nostalgic artifacts of a New York City that no longer exists. Yet Kuijpers’ collection bears a plurality of implications. In a way, it might bring to mind another TV series called *Fringe*, which has used the powerful image of the Towers in a unique way—to represent an alternate universe in which they still exist. At first sight, the artist equally attempts to recreate a world in which the Twin Towers are still standing, as a modern-day Don Quixote. However, his seemingly naïve creation of an alternate universe in fact refers to another paradigm, a way of seeing the world before the War on Terror emerged, prison camp Guantanamo Bay opened and a strong feeling of Islamophobia spread throughout the western world. Thomas Kuijpers doesn’t provide answers, but raises questions about what 9/11, as the biggest media event in history, represents in our collective memory, and how it changed the Twin Towers’ symbolic meaning. The attacks for example completely downplayed the WTC’s negative symbolic significance and still evoke a familial sense of loss that overrules earlier feelings of socio-economic inequality. From an example of “modernist architectural inhumanity,” as architectural criticics called it, to evoking an intense feeling of humanity through images linked to rescue workers and firefighters representing American heroism and sacrifice.

The inventory list in this booklet captures a snapshot in time of a continuously growing collection of objects depicting the Twin Towers. Thomas Kuijpers continues to browse online market places, using notification systems so he never misses new offers related to the Twins. He claims to have rarely had any bidding competition. Glancing over this inventory list perhaps assumes we no longer need the actual images to recall their representation. Yet stepping into the physical inventory of *When the Twins were still beautiful* recreates a time and paradigm seemingly suppressed.

3, 5, 12, 5
 5, 5, 7, 5
 8, 8

THOMAS KUIJPERS (b. 1985, Helmond, NL)
studied photography at the AKU
St.Joost, Breda, and is repre-
sented by LhGWR, The Hague (NL).
Earlier this year he had his
first solo show *Paradigm #01* at
B.A.D., Brussels (BE). The past
few years his work appeared in
several group exhibitions and
has been acquired for the
collection of the Stedelijk
Museum Amsterdam. He currently
lives in Rotterdam, but holds
onto his studio in Eindhoven
where his ever expanding archives
and collections of media material
are stalled.

TEXT Mirjam Kooiman, Foam curator.
COPYRIGHT 1972 Aerial Photo by Jim Doane,
postcard (unfinished Twin
Towers), part of the installation
*When the Twins were still
beautiful* © Thomas Kuijpers
& LhGWR

DESIGN This booklet was designed by
Marius Schwarz, graduate in
graphic design of the Gerrit
Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam.
PRINT robstolk@

This exhibition has been made
possible by Van Bijlevelt
Stichting and the Gieskes-
Strijbis Fund.

Foam is supported by the BankGiro
Loterij, De Brauw Blackstone
Westbroek, Delta Lloyd, Gemeente
Amsterdam, Olympus and the
VanderEnde Foundation.

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