

## Portfolio **BRONX, NEW YORK CITY, SUMMER 1966**

The past is a foreign country ... "In the 1960s, New York was dirty and dangerous," photographer Jean-Pierre Laffont remembers. The Bronx was where kids played on abandoned cars because the street was the only place to play. It was where street gangs fought drug dealers and each other. It was a symbol of the decline of the American empire. But America, at war in Vietnam and reaching for the stars, hadn't noticed.

Laffont, born in Algeria and raised in Morocco, did though. He captured America's fall through the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s – from protests to assassinations, from black power to Watergate and from Reagan's boosterism to the death of the automobile industry. You could say this picture – a vision of a city falling apart – is a prophecy. Fewer than 10 years later New York would be on the verge of bankruptcy.



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Taken from Photographer's Paradise: Turbulent America 1960-1990 by Jean-Pierre Laffont published by Glitterati Incorporated (glitteratiincorporated.com), priced £57.50.

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