



Guide to the Camilo José Vergara Photographs, 1977-2009

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Summary

Collection Title:

Camilo José Vergara photographs, 1977-2009

Creator:

Vergara, Camilo J.

Abstract:

Camilo J. Vergara is a documentary photographer, focusing on the evolution of urban spaces. Collection of color prints from Vergara's 2009 National Building Museum exhibit Storefront Churches, with photographs of urban churches, pasters, and murals from cities around the United States. This exhibit was part of a larger collection featured in Vergara's book, How the Other Half Worships.

Extent:

5 Linear Feet
151 Megabytes
87 Items

Language:

Material in English, and Spanish

Collection ID:

RL.01330

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1mh82>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Camilo José Vergara Photographs, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

Collection consists of 85 color prints, ranging in size from 11x14 inches to 20x24 inches, as well as two 30x30 color transparencies. These images were all part of the National Building Museum's 2009 Vergara exhibit, "Storefront

Churches," and many are also featured in his recent book, *How the Other Half Worships* (2005).

Subjects include urban churches in cities throughout the United States, in particular New York City and its neighborhoods (such as Harlem, Brooklyn, and the Bronx), Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Gary, and Camden. Vergara's photographs vary in what part of each church is highlighted: some are simply the church's exterior, offering a glimpse of the neighborhood and condition of the building; other images are taken inside the church, whether it be an abandoned sanctuary or an active praise service. The collection also contains, to a lesser extent, photographs of religious and spiritually-inspired murals and artwork from different urban environments; cemeteries and outdoor worship spaces; and some portraits of different pastors and preachers, including street preachers. Most of the churches represented in the collection are Pentecostal, Baptist, or some other branch of Evangelical Protestant Christianity.

The collection documents the evolution of church structures, such as the series of rephotography of a Chicago building that evolved from the Holy Raiders Revival Church in 1981 to the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in 2009. Vergara rephotographed the building six times during that period, and each time the building's facade and surroundings had changed significantly. Vergara's photographs also offer one-time glimpses of abandoned and decaying buildings, as well as documentation of reclaimed and re-used urban structures, such as the former Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant that is now a worship center in Newark.

Biographical/Historical

Camilo José Vergara is a New York-based photographer documenting the changing urban landscape of inner cities throughout the United States. He began focusing on urban neighborhoods in the 1970s, and since then has published numerous photography compilations and essays. Vergara is known for his ability to capture transition within a city and its structures, such as the re-use of buildings and their eventual abandonment and reclamation by nature. His titles include *Silent Cities: The Evolution of the American Cemetery*, *The New American Ghetto*, *American Ruins*, *Twin Towers Remembered*, and *How the Other Half Worships*.

Vergara earned a B.A. in sociology from the University of Notre Dame (1968) and a M.A. in sociology from Columbia University (1977). He has received several awards for his work, including a 2002 MacArthur Foundation genius grant.

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Arrangement

This collection has been arranged and boxed by the size of the photograph, and is not organized by subject or date. Vergara's captions frequently include the street address for the structures or people he photographed; these addresses are noted when available. In addition, frequently the church's name was not included in Vergara's caption, but is visible in the photograph. In this case, the church name has been added to the description below. The collection's oversize transparencies are undated and unlabeled, and have been boxed separately.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Camilo José Vergara Photographs were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 2010.

Processing Information

Processed by Meghan Lyon, April 2010

Encoded by Meghan Lyon, April 2010

Materials may not have been arranged and described beyond their original condition.

Accession(s) described in this finding aid: 2010-0010

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Collection Inventory

11x14 color prints

Physical Description: 1 box

Greater True Friendship Baptist Church, 2002 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

1842 W. Vernon, Los Angeles, California

Mount Gaza Baptist Church, 2003 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

1004 Whitemarsh at Raymond, Compton, California

Iglesia de la Profesia, 2003 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

11th St. at Linden, Camden, New Jersey

St. Martin Morning Star, 2006

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

3416 W. 29th St., Gary, Indiana

Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal la Senda Divina,
former Kentucky Fried Chicken, 2003

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

585 Broadway, Newark, New Jersey

Moorish Science Temple of America No. 25,
2008

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

Grand River Blvd. at Hudson

Gospel Church According to Christ Ministries,
2002

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

E. Monument Ave. at N. East Ave., Baltimore, Maryland

General Assembly Church/House of Mercy
Mission, 2002

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

Springfield Ave. at Pierce Street, Newark, New Jersey

Pastor Green's church, Rev. Denson by the
entrance. Fellowship M.B.C. Church, 2002

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

410 E. 31st St., Los Angeles, California

Congregation Ahawath Joseph, 1977

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

Paterson, New Jersey

Pastor Gloria Lawton, New Life in the Great I
Am Church, 2004 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

Bostwick Ave., Jersey City, New Jersey

Mother Downs, House of Blessings, 1991 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

5440 S. State St., Chicago, Illinois

Evangelista Martin Capeles, 2004 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

Southern Blvd., Bronx, New York

Church sign with missing letters, 2000 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

2291 Ersbine St., Detroit, Michigan

Little Widow's Mite B.C. Church sign, 2004 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

E. 147th St. at Willis Ave., S. Bronx, New York

Home of Life Missionary Baptist Church, 2003 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

4650 W. Madison St., Chicago, Illinois

Sam preaching, 2003 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

5th St., Skid Row, Los Angeles, California

Iglesia Evangelica de Jesucristo Betania, 2003 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

1219 E. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, California

Iglesia Pentacostal Jehova Jreh Inc., 2003 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

2842 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

St. Martins Spiritual Baptist Church, 2002 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

162A Utica Ave., Brooklyn, New York

Red building with cross window, 1979 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

S. Camden, New Jersey

Hermanas Pura y Juara, Dominican, Iglesia Sen
da de Bendecion, 2001 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

506 Brook Ave., S. Bronx, New York

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, 2006 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

Grand River Blvd. at Dexter, Detroit, Michigan

Jesus Christ Saves, Heals, Delivers truck, 2006 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

Grant St. at N. 6th St., Camden, New Jersey

Lawrence Moore preaching on the corner, 2004 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

6th St. at San Pedro, Skid Row, Los Angeles, California

Mision Cristiana Pentacostes el Amor de Cristo,
1999 Box 1

Scope and Contents note

6419 S. Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, California

Triumph: The Church and Kingdom of God in
Christ, 2004 Box 1

Scope and Contents note 824 W. 25th St., Gary, Indiana	
Iglesia Pentacostal Sendero de Luz, 2002	Box 1
Scope and Contents note 612 Union Ave., Bronx, New York	
Pure in Heart, 2000	Box 1
Scope and Contents note 14849 Livernois Ave., Detroit, Michigan	
When Everything Fails Try Prayer sign, 2003	Box 1
Scope and Contents note 5258 S. Indiana Ave., Chicago, Illinois	
If You are Going to the Jail Court or Hospital Call for Prayer sign, 2004	Box 1
Scope and Contents note W. Lake St., Chicago, Illinois	
God Tabernacle of Faith, 1996	Box 1
Scope and Contents note 65th St., Los Angeles, California	
Sacred Heart Garden, Missionaries of the Charity, 1989	Box 1
Scope and Contents note E. 167th St., Bronx, New York	
Sacred Heart Seminary, 2003	Box 1
Scope and Contents note 2701 Chicago Ave., Detroit, Michigan	
Zion Lutheran Church wall, 2008	Box 1

Scope and Contents note

4305 Military St., Detroit, Michigan

Una Luz en el Cavino, 2004

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

Concord Ave., Bronx, New York

Harvest Crusade billboard, Greater St. Paul
Baptist Church, 2004

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

International Ave. at 5th Ave., Oakland, California

Mural by Elliott Pinkney, 1987

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

Compton Ave. at 36th St., Los Angeles, California

St. Cyril and St. Methodius Church, 2003

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

St. Cyril St., Detroit, Michigan

Deacon E.M. McGee, New Jerusalem Baptist
Church, 1998

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

3123 Halsted, Chicago, Illinois

Holy Raiders Revival Church, 1981

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

4344 W. Madison St., Chicago, Illinois

Holy Raiders Revival Church, 1983

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

4344 W. Madison St., Chicago, Illinois

Holy Raiders Revival Church, 1988

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

4344 W. Madison St., Chicago, Illinois

Holy Raiders Revival Church, 1989

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

4344 W. Madison St., Chicago, Illinois

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 2003

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

4344 W. Madison St., Chicago, Illinois

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 2009

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

4344 W. Madison St., Chicago, Illinois

International Christian Lifestyle, 2004

Box 1

Scope and Contents note

1585 Fillmore St., Gary, Indiana

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16x20 color prints

Physical Description: 1 box

Thank God for Jesus Church, 2002

Box 2

Scope and Contents note

1600 N. Bond St., Baltimore, Maryland

Street Evangelist, 2008

Box 2

Scope and Contents note

Adam Clayton Powell at W. 116th St., Harlem, New York

Prayer Tabernacle of the Apostolic Faith, 2000

Box 2

Scope and Contents note

9101 S. Western Ave., Los Angeles, California

Everlasting Church of God in Christ, 2002	Box 2
Scope and Contents note 12107 Kinsman Rd., Cleveland, Ohio	
Greater Love Christian Center Church, 2001	Box 2
Scope and Contents note 514 W. 71st St., Chicago, Illinois	
Former City Methodist Church, 1998	Box 2
Scope and Contents note 6th Ave. at Washington St., Gary, Indiana	
Tree of Life mural (12x12 print), undated	Box 2

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20x24 color prints

Physical Description: 1 box

New Creation Ministries, 2003	Box 3
Scope and Contents note Sutter at Sheffield Ave., Brooklyn, New York	
Rock Church, 2007	Box 3
Scope and Contents note Broadway at 8th Ave., Gary, Indiana	
Anthony Ray, The Greater Temple of Praise, 2002	Box 3
Scope and Contents note 153 Snediken, Brooklyn, New York	
New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Christ from the Apocalypses, 2002	Box 3
Scope and Contents note 4923 S. Western Ave., Los Angeles, California	

Mural of Jesus and his disciples, over a doorway, 1992 Box 3

Scope and Contents note

Garfield Ave., West of Normal, Chicago, Illinois

Mt. Paran Baptist Church, 2008 Box 3

Scope and Contents note

Corner of Broadway and Shaffer, Brooklyn, New York

Inner City Gospel Ministry mural, 1994 Box 3

Scope and Contents note

Cari Ave. at Temple St., Detroit, Michigan

Supernatural Deliverance Revival Tabernacle, 2003 Box 3

Scope and Contents note

70 1st St., Newark, New Jersey

Mural of crucified Jesus, 2003 Box 3

Scope and Contents note

Evergreen St. at Menahan St., Brooklyn, New York

Life of the Valley Spiritual Church, 2002 Box 3

Scope and Contents note

257 W. 48th Place, Chicago, Illinois

Pastor Ashford, True Gospel Church of the Living God, 2004 Box 3

Scope and Contents note

1855 Third Ave., Richmond, California

Tabernaculo de fe Iglesia de Dios en Cristo, 1996 Box 3

Scope and Contents note

Hoover St. at 65th St., Los Angeles, California

Dorian at New Friendship M.B. Church, 2003	Box 3
Scope and Contents note	
3620-3622 139th St., Harvey, Illinois	
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Anointment by Bishop Wallace Furns, America Come Back to God, 2004	Box 3
Scope and Contents note	
Rockaway Ave. by Gutter, Brooklyn, New York	
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Wooden cross, 2006	Box 3
Scope and Contents note	
Chloe Ave. at Frederick St., Detroit, Michigan	
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Christ Temple House of Prayer Deliverance Church, after Sunday service, 2007	Box 3
Scope and Contents note	
405 Malcolm X Blvd., Harlem, New York	
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New Testament Baptist Church, 2002	Box 3
Scope and Contents note	
13311 Mack Ave., Detroit, Michigan	
<hr/>	
New Jerusalem Baptist Church, 1992	Box 3
Scope and Contents note	
7133 S. Halsted, Chicago, Illinois	
<hr/>	
Church of Gospel Ministries, 2000	Box 3
Scope and Contents note	
S. Main St. at 70th St., Los Angeles, California	
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Praises of Zion Baptist Church, 2006	Box 3
Scope and Contents note	
1722 55th St., Oakland, California	
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View North towards Florence, 2005	Box 3

Scope and Contents note

7th St., Camden, New Jersey

Devil's Juice mural by John B. Downey,
Emmanuel Baptist Rescue Mission, 2003 Box 3

Scope and Contents note

Crocker at 5th St., Skid Row, Los Angeles, California

Pentacostal House of Prayer, 2004 Box 3

Scope and Contents note

4143 W. Madison St., Chicago, Illinois

St. James Apostelic Church, a former Broadway
Trust, 2003 Box 3

Scope and Contents note

Broadway at Walnut St., Camden, New Jersey

St. Francis of Assisi R.C. Church, built in 1903.
View East, 2009 Box 3

Scope and Contents note

Hammond at Buchanan, Detroit, Michigan

True Vine Temple of Christ, 2000 Box 3

Scope and Contents note

4155 St. Aubin, Detroit, Michigan

Evergreen Cemetery, tombstone photographs of
Rev. William H. Rozier, founder of the Pleasant
Hill Baptist Church (died 1937), May 1985 Box 3

Scope and Contents note

Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, California

Emmanuel Baptist Rescue Mission mural by
John B. Downey, 2003 Box 3

Scope and Contents note

5th St. at Crocker St., Skid Row, Los Angeles, California

Former Werth's Appliance Center, 2000	Box 3
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Scope and Contents note

State St., Hammond, Indiana

Antioch Independent Church of God in Christ sign, 2003	Box 3
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Scope and Contents note

547 S. 19th St., Newark, New Jersey

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30x30 transparencies

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Contents note

Consists of 2 oversize transparencies. These are not labeled or dated.

Jesus Never Fails neon sign	Box 4
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Stained glass cross	Box 4
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Digital materials, 2009

Access Restrictions:

Access note. Series contains electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

"Storefront Churches", 2009	Digital-materials RL01330-SET-0001
	Folder 1 > Disk RL01330-OP-0001

Physical Description: 151 Megabytes
2 files

Scope and Contents

Contains multimedia files

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