

TARGET: 5707-6233

Watts Towers / Los Angeles, California /Photographic Timeline



FEEDBACK:

The Watts Towers, Towers of Simon Rodia, or Nuestro Pueblo ("our town") are a collection of 17 interconnected sculptural structures within the Simon Rodia State Historic Park in the Watts community of Los Angeles. The tallest of the towers reaches a height of over 99 feet (30 m).

The towers and walls were designed and built by Sabato ("Simon") Rodia (1879-1965), an Italian immigrant construction worker and tile mason, over a period of 33 years, from 1921 to 1954. The work is an example of outsider art and Italian-American naïve art.[4][5]

The Watts Towers are located near the 103rd Street/Watts Towers Los Angeles Metro station of the Los Angeles County Metro Rail Blue Line, and off the I-105 Century Freeway. They were designated a National Historic Landmark and a California Historical Landmark in 1990.[4][1]

They are also a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument, and on the National Register of Historic Places in Los Angeles.



The materials used are many: steel pipes and rods wrapped with wire mesh, porcelain, glass, and weird enough also objects such as bottles, bed frames and sea shells. They are built with no plan and no design; he just built them how he felt, and he used about 33 years to finish his work. He used hand tools and random window-washer's equipment, and some of the children from nearby got him materials he could work with. Some of the children even destroyed some of his work because their parents didn't like Rodia





The withstanding of weather and moisture for over half a century have caused pieces of tile and glass to become loose on the towers, which are conserved for reattachment in the ongoing restoration work. The structures suffered little from the 1994 Northridge earthquake in the region, with only a few pieces shaken loose.

The structures have not been compromised by vandalism and are granted respect by the local and surrounding communities.

for more on the watts towers see:
<http://www.wattstowers.us/>

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