

#77 November 2022 Cameraderie
Marcia Resnick (1950-)



Marcia Resnick, among other things, is a photographer of pop celebrities. I am including her in this series because she has done a *lot* of that work, and should be noticed, even if you don't care for vinyl and CD cover photos. Personally, I think those portraits are quite good, and worth looking at.

Resnick is famous for her dead-pan sense of humor, both in her photography, and in written work she has done. In keeping with her tone, I will vacuously refer you to her Wikipedia article—it ironically being the thinnest I have ever seen in this series:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcia_Resnick

Here is Resnick's personal website, with a full bio and lots of sample images:

<http://www.marciaresnick.com/>. See the excellent portraits of musicians and “provocateurs.”

There is also a section of images from her inspired 1978 book, “Re-Visions,” of which I show a few below.

This article in ARTnews (<https://www.artnews.com/art-news/artists/marcia-resnick-photographer-exhibition-bowdoin-museum-1234623343/>) tells the story of a current retrospective of Resnick's work. Here are a few excerpts from that article:

Last month [Feb. 2022], the Bowdoin College Museum of Art in Brunswick, Maine, opened a traveling survey of images made by Resnick, now 71, decades ago. Running until June before it heads to the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the George Eastman Museum in Rochester, New York, “Marcia Resnick: As It Is or Could Be” marks the first-ever institutional survey of the renegade [renegade, huh, renegade] artist.

...

In researching Resnick's career, and through multiple marathon interviews conducted over Zoom with the other curators, Goodyear [the Bowdoin College Museum curator] realized just how trailblazing of an artist Resnick was. “She was doing all sorts of things that broke from what a successful photograph was supposed to be,” he said. In all her work, from the celebrity shots to the conceptual frames, she didn't take it too seriously. “She embraced humor. She saw photography as a performative act—you could add text, or draw on it, or cut it up,” he added. “It is kind of remarkable that she has never really had a museum retrospective before.”

Here is a sampling of Resnick's work, covering several areas.

She imagined herself a starlet, from "Re-Visions," 1978.



This is known to be an imaginary self-image of Resnick. The model represents a moment (or a period, or a thought) in Resnick's own life. It is this sort of image, with its hand-written title, that makes Resnick's work unique, especially in her early years. She is not alone in adding her annotations to photos to inject performance into the finished photo: Allen Ginsberg did similar, and very extensive, on-photo annotations of his photographs, as seen at a 2010 National Gallery of Art show of his photographs.

They were continually telling her that she had stars in her eyes, from "Re-Visions," 1978.

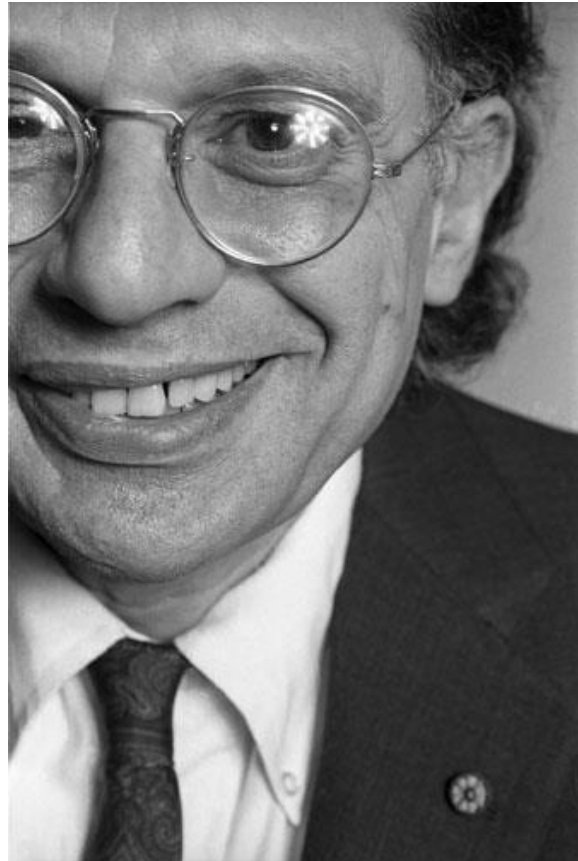


This is a prime example of Resnick's creativity and sense of humor.

Here are Resnick's typical celebrity photographs:



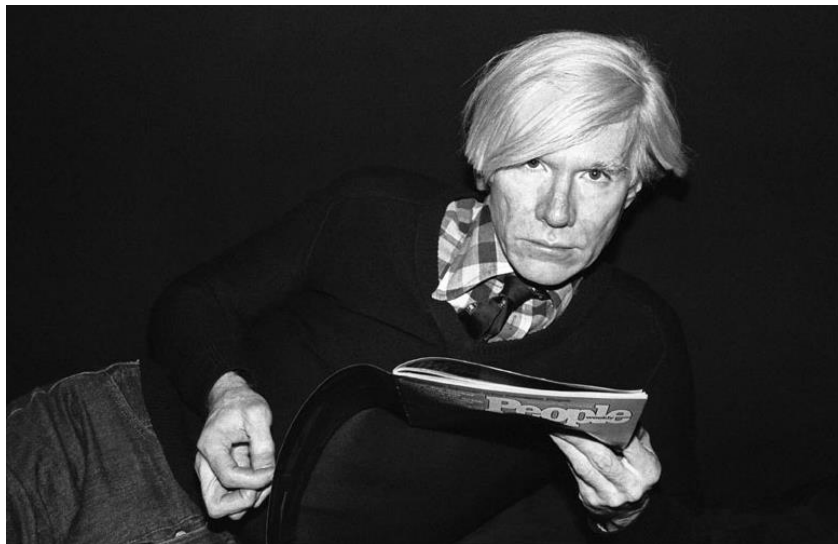
Anthony Bourdain



Allen Ginsberg



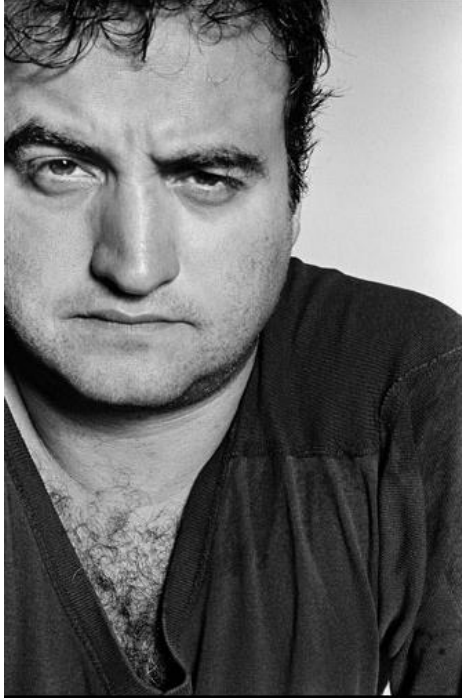
Mick Jagger



Andy Warhol

It isn't about the lighting; it's about the personalities and the evocation of feeling.

I find Resnick's photographs of John Belushi to be her most interesting celebrity shots.



John Belushi



John Belushi



John Belushi