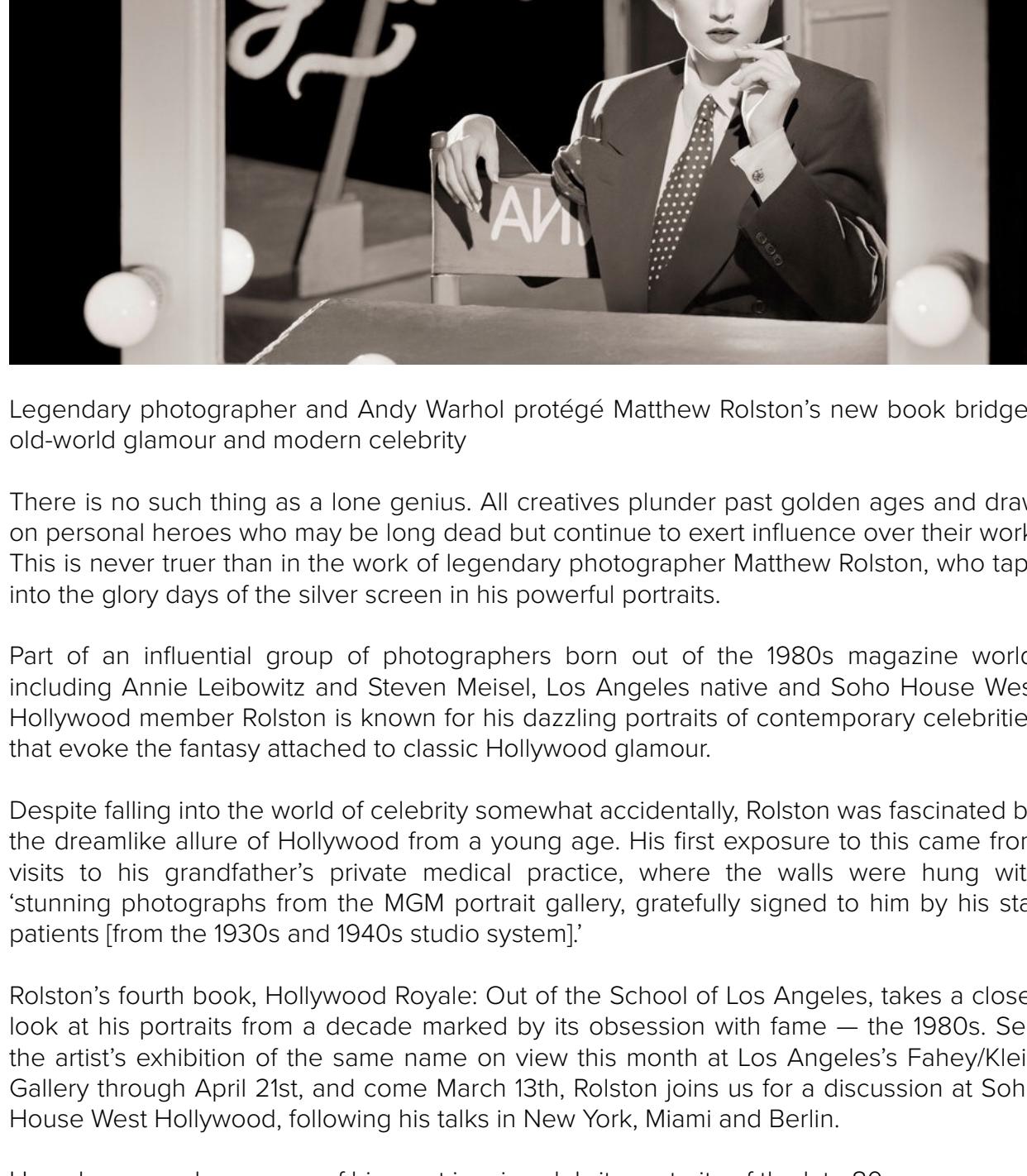


# HOUSE SEVEN

## Borrowed Time

By Charlotte Steinway



Legendary photographer and Andy Warhol protégé Matthew Rolston's new book bridges old-world glamour and modern celebrity

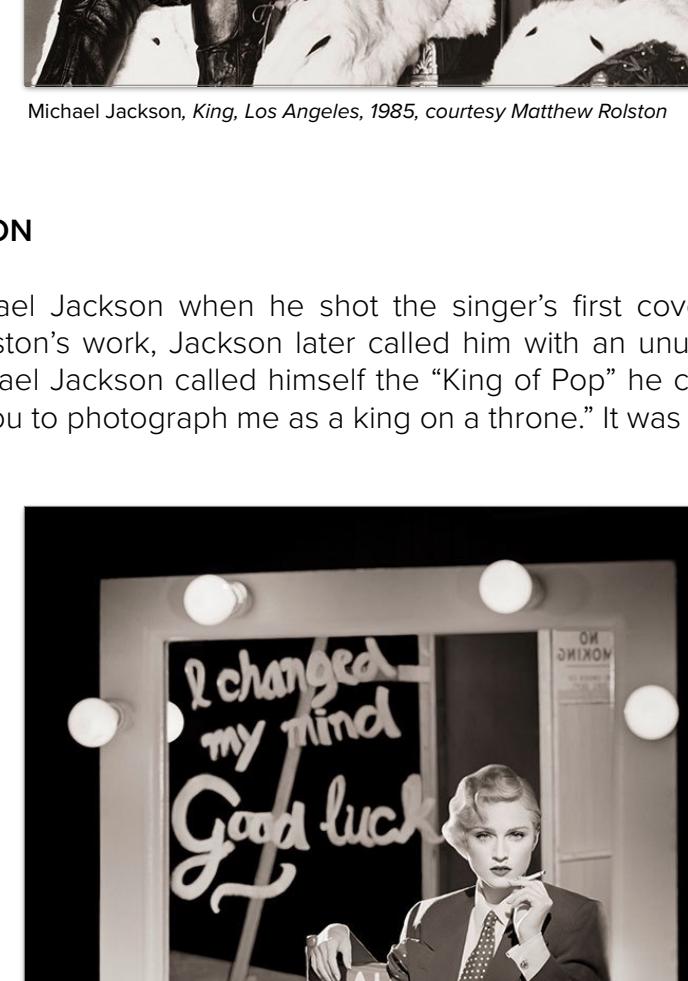
There is no such thing as a lone genius. All creatives plunder past golden ages and draw on personal heroes who may be long dead but continue to exert influence over their work. This is never truer than in the work of legendary photographer Matthew Rolston, who taps into the glory days of the silver screen in his powerful portraits.

Part of an influential group of photographers born out of the 1980s magazine world, including Annie Leibowitz and Steven Meisel, Los Angeles native and Soho House West Hollywood member Rolston is known for his dazzling portraits of contemporary celebrities that evoke the fantasy attached to classic Hollywood glamour.

Despite falling into the world of celebrity somewhat accidentally, Rolston was fascinated by the dreamlike allure of Hollywood from a young age. His first exposure to this came from visits to his grandfather's private medical practice, where the walls were hung with 'stunning photographs from the MGM portrait gallery, gratefully signed to him by his star patients [from the 1930s and 1940s studio system].'

Rolston's fourth book, *Hollywood Royale: Out of the School of Los Angeles*, takes a closer look at his portraits from a decade marked by its obsession with fame — the 1980s. See the artist's exhibition of the same name on view this month at Los Angeles's Fahey/Klein Gallery through April 21st, and come March 13th, Rolston joins us for a discussion at Soho House West Hollywood, following his talks in New York, Miami and Berlin.

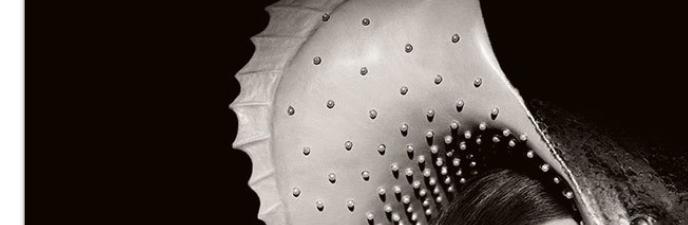
Here, he remembers some of his most iconic celebrity portraits of the late 80s:



Cyndi Lauper, *Headdress*, New York, 1986, courtesy Matthew Rolston

### CYNDI LAUPER

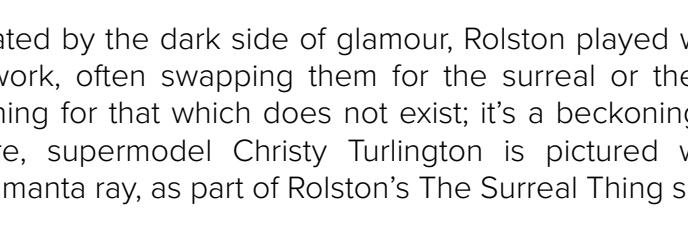
'Warhol's tongue-in-cheek appropriation of celebrity always appealed to me, especially in the colorful "Marilyns" from the late 1960s,' says Rolston. 'But a later Warhol that was a direct influence was his silkscreen series of Greta Garbo in a jeweled headdress, based on a publicity still from the 1931 film Mata Hari. It's called The Star and was created by Warhol in 1981. My portrait of Cyndi Lauper in a jeweled headdress, which became a cover of Interview in 1986, was my own tongue-in-cheek quotation.'



Michael Jackson, *King*, Los Angeles, 1985, courtesy Matthew Rolston

### MICHAEL JACKSON

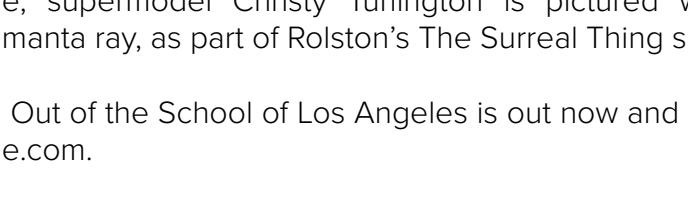
Rolston met Michael Jackson when he shot the singer's first cover story for *Interview*. Impressed by Rolston's work, Jackson later called him with an unusual request. 'Several years before Michael Jackson called himself the "King of Pop" he called me up and said, "Matthew I want you to photograph me as a king on a throne." It was total self-creation.'



Madonna as *Marlene*, Los Angeles, 1986, courtesy Matthew Rolston

### MADONNA

'I was the first person to cross-dress Madonna,' says Rolston. 'I was playing with the idea of gender display and the so-called "gender bending" movement of the 1980s; trying to identify who Madonna actually was, given her ever-changing persona.' Rolston was careful to ensure that his portraits of stars such as Madonna put them in a context that more widely explained the individual's character in that moment.



Christy Turlington, *Manta Ray*, New York, 1987,

courtesy Matthew Rolston

### CHRISTY TURLINGTON

Perpetually fascinated by the dark side of glamour, Rolston played with traditional notions of beauty in his work, often swapping them for the surreal or the strange. 'Essentially, glamour is a yearning for that which does not exist; it's a beckoning to our imaginations,' Rolston said. Here, supermodel Christy Turlington is pictured wearing a headdress fashioned out of a manta ray, as part of Rolston's *The Surreal Thing* series.

*Hollywood Royale: Out of the School of Los Angeles* is out now and available for purchase via [hollywoodroyale.com](http://hollywoodroyale.com).