

Diane Rosenstein Fine Art

About the Artist

Matthew Rolston (USA, b. 1955) is an artist who works in photography and video; his practice centers on portraiture, most notably subjects drawn from celebrity culture. Rolston, who lives and works in Los Angeles, studied at Chouinard Art Institute (Los Angeles, California) and Otis College of Art & Design (Los Angeles, California). In 2006, he received an Honorary Doctorate from Art Center College of Design (Pasadena, California) where he had studied photography from 1976-1978. While still a student at Art Center, Rolston was discovered by Andy Warhol, who immediately commissioned portraits for *Interview* magazine. Thus began an extraordinary career; and for the next 25 years, Matthew Rolston's photographs were published in *Interview*, *Vogue*, *W*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and over 100 covers of *Rolling Stone*.

Along with his friend Herb Ritts, Rolston was a member (with Bruce Weber and Annie Liebovitz) of an influential group of photographers to emerge from the 1980's magazine scene. Rolston's early photographs from this era are notable for their distinctive and glamorous lighting style, surrealistic tableaux, and detail-rich sets. His imagery has helped define contemporary aesthetics of American portrait photography and truly embodies modern glamour.

Robert Sobieszek, the legendary former Curator of Photography for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), compared Rolston's work to the "four mega-greats of the '50s and '60s: Avedon, Hiro, Penn and Skrebneski...I think Rolston is one of the foremost editorial, glamour/fashion photographers working today," he said, "giving us immensely sophisticated, exciting, glamorous shots and portraits that surround us daily."

Matthew Rolston is also a filmmaker who works in video. Recently, his short film *The Most Beautiful Woman in the World* (2011, color, 3:00 min) screened as part of *SF Shorts: The San Francisco International Festival of Short Films* (2013), among others. Last spring, The Whitney Museum of American Art (as part of *Blues for Smoke*) screened *Whatta Man* (1994, color, 4:52 min) in *Through the Lens of the Blues Aesthetic: An Evening of Short Films Selected by Kevin Everson* (April, 2013). Other films include *Be Without You* (2005, color, 4:09 min) for which he won "Best Director" (MTV Video Music Awards, 2006); and *Candyman* (2007, color, 3:18 min) for which he won (with Christina Aguilera) "Best Director" (MTV Video Music Awards, 2007).

Rolston's photographs have been exhibited at museums and institutions. Selected group shows include *Beauty CULTure* (with Lauren Greenfield, Herb Ritts, Andres Serrano, and Carrie Mae Weems, 2011), The Annenberg Space for Photography, Los Angeles, California; *The Warhol Look: Glamour, Style, Fashion* (curated by Mark

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Francis and Margery King), The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1997); and *Fashion and Surrealism*, FIT Gallery, New York, 1987 (traveled to the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK, 1988). His photographs are in the permanent collection of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the National Portrait Gallery (Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture at The Smithsonian, Washington D.C.).

Three monographs have been published of Rolston's work: *Big Pictures, A Book of Photographs* (1991), a collection of early photographs (introduction by Tim Burton) published by Bulfinch Press, New York; *beautyLIGHT, Pictures at a Magazine* (2008), a survey of twenty years of celebrity portrait photographs, published by teNeues, Germany; and most recently, *Talking Heads: The Vent Haven Portraits* (2012), published by Pointed Leaf Press, New York, which accompanies this exhibition.

In 1998, Mr. Rolston endowed the "Matthew Rolston Scholarship for Photography and Film," at Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California. He remains actively involved in this program, as a mentor and guest lecturer. Matthew Rolston is represented by both Diane Rosenstein Fine Art and Fahey/Klein Gallery, Los Angeles.