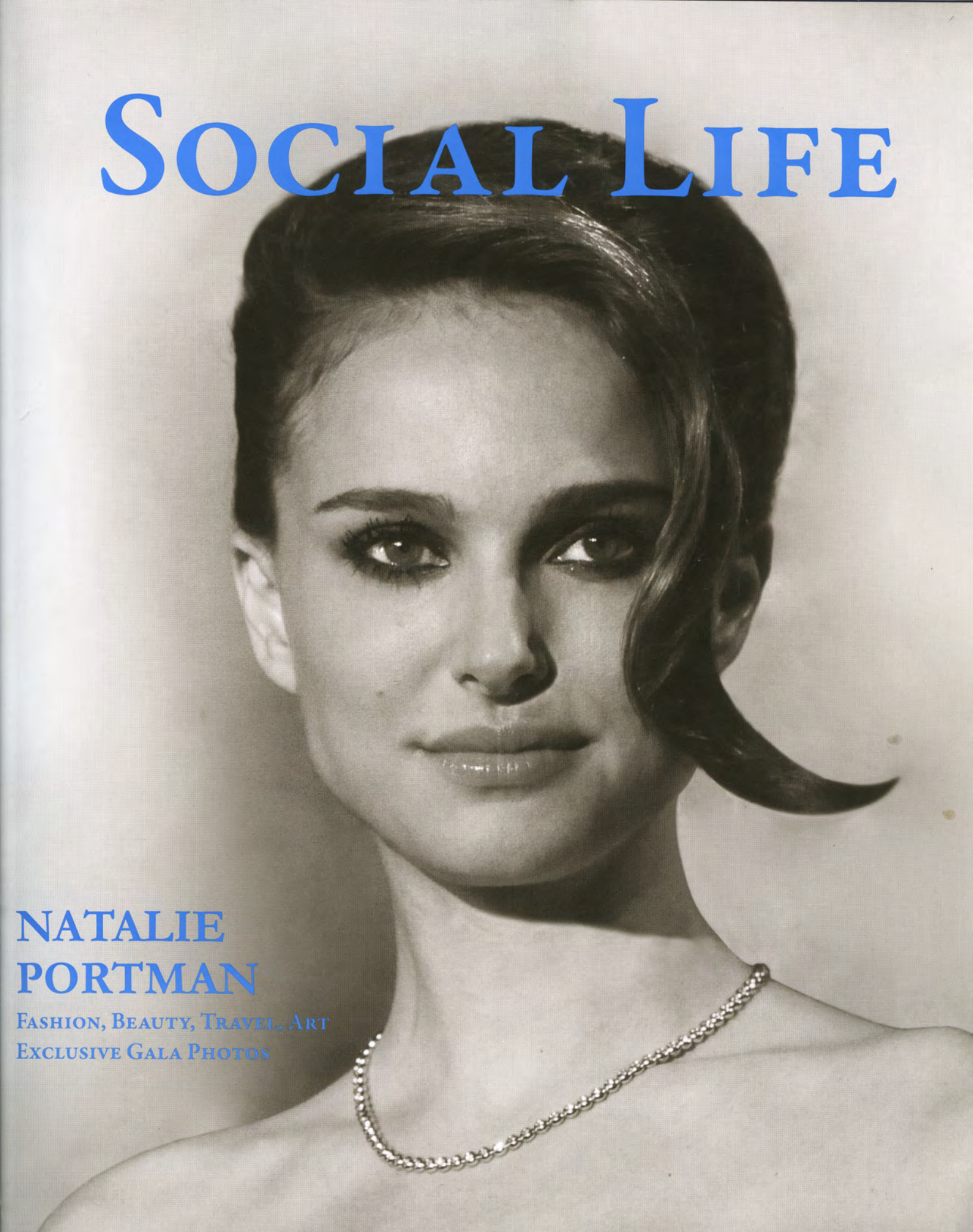


SOCIAL LIFE

A black and white portrait of Natalie Portman. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. Her hair is styled in an updo with a large, curved, dark hairpiece on the right side. She is wearing a thin, metallic chain necklace. The background is a plain, light color.

**NATALIE
PORTMAN**

FASHION, BEAUTY, TRAVEL, ART
EXCLUSIVE GALA PHOTOS

ART

MEET THE ARTIST: STEVE JOESTER

By Kevin Berlin

Steve Joester in his Water Mill studio. Photo by Katarzyna Zill



Steve Joester is a British-born rock 'n roll photographer and mixed-media artist who lives and works in Water Mill and New York City. In the 1970s and '80s, Joester had his iconic images of great rock performers appear on album covers and posters, and in exhibitions and magazines worldwide. Joester made

his mark shooting such icons as Mick Jagger, Bob Marley, Neil Young, and Sting. He also filmed Andy Warhol with Rob Halford of Judas Priest backstage at the Palladium in April 1979 and Warhol at Studio 54. Joester's latest works can be seen at Lawrence Fine Art of East Hampton, from Aug. 22 to Sept. 24.

KEVIN BERLIN: Tell us about the new works on display.

STEVE JOESTER: These works are stripped down and raw. The older works were more like a big rock 'n roll show: loud, multilayered with lots of color, lots of very vibrant action. The newer ones are more like the blues instead of the big rock 'n roll show of playing with silk screens and powerful images.

KB: Can you describe a particular piece that strikes you?

SJ: One piece in particular is going to be kind of an image for the show. It's a large Stones piece that really captures the power of Jagger's on-stage presence. The work is mixed media on wood. The images capture the Mick strut. Very powerful piece.

KB: So what's it like to work with the Rolling Stones?

SJ: They are different from any other band. You don't get to work with them, you get to shoot them. When Maroon 5 was on tour opening for them, Adam Levine said: "I never even got to meet them. They fly in from Mars or wherever they come from. They do the show, and they're gone." They are one of the few bands you just have no association with.

KB: Are there any bands you do get close to?

SJ: Judas Priest and I were good friends. I spent a lot of time on the road with Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart, Billy Joel, Thin Lizzy, Queen, ZZ Top. The rock 'n roll circus is really an extended family. The bands are very different off-stage, but when it's showtime, they become amazing showmen. The lighting kicks in and it's a different world.

KB: Do you remember the first time you loved taking pictures?

SJ: I always loved photography, but I remember seeing



Steve Joester, "Blondie 1," mixed-media: photographs, oil stick, acrylic on canvas, 32" x 21". 2013 (Photographed in New York, 1978)



Steve Joester, "J.J. Flash," mixed-media: photographs, silkscreen, acrylic and oilstick on wood, 48" x 48", 2013. (Photographed in London, 1975)

David Hemmings in "Blow-up" and thinking: "Wow, you can make a living doing that?" So that really inspired me to head south, down to London, buy my white Levis, and get into the whole photography game. I love it.

KB: Let's talk about shooting rock 'n roll.

SJ: Sure. Life on the road is 20 hours of boredom and a few hours of intense action: showtime. I loved working with film. The camera was my instrument. The light changed so quickly: You get a bright spotlight then dark reds, blues. I was playing with the aperture and timing. It was manual, it was instinctive, and the music led me to the visual. I used to shoot on Kodachrome 56, which is a very slow film, and I became very well known for freezing action and getting incredible skin tones without a big flash burning everything out. It was my formula, and I made it work.

KB: You've been living in the Hamptons for a long time. What is your inspiration in the Hamptons?

SJ: The quiet. I know it sounds crazy in the summer, but I've got my studio out here. I just lock myself away and get into it. I've all the printing gear, my dog. I just love working out here.