A black and white photograph of Marilyn Monroe lying in bed, partially covered by white sheets. Her arms are raised, and she is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The lighting is soft, creating a classic, intimate atmosphere.

A Life in Pictures

by Douglas
Kirkland

OPERA GALLERY

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Douglas Kirkland

It was November 17th, 1961, just before midnight. The room was stark but for a few carefully selected apparatus: white, silk sheets, Frank Sinatra records, and a bottle of Dom Pérignon champagne. A 27-year-old Douglas Kirkland nervously concentrated behind the lens of his Hasselblad camera. The focus: a disarming Marilyn Monroe, wearing nothing but Chanel No. 5 and a coquettish grin.

A novice photographer for *Look* magazine, Kirkland had been sent to photograph the illustrious movie star for their twenty-fifth anniversary cover. The evening that ensued - one that is rather coyly documented by Kirkland in his book *'With Marilyn, an Evening/1961'* - produced some of the most sensual and intimate photographs ever made of the iconic movie star. A seductive dance between camera and subject, *'An Evening with Marilyn'* immortalized an ethereal type of elegance informed by the charisma and vulnerability that defined Marilyn's unparalleled spirit. Behind Kirkland's lens she is sensual and spontaneous, irresistible yet remote. These images speak as much to the persona of a star as to the exquisite humanism that made her so beloved. Recalled as one of the most memorable moments of his 61-year career, Kirkland's brief yet charged encounter with Marilyn marked the beginning of one of the most prolific and celebrated photography careers in entertainment history.

Douglas Kirkland was born in Toronto, Canada, in 1934. He took his first photograph at ten years old, and by his early twenties was hustling his way through New York City, working freelance for *Look* and *Life* magazines and looking out for

his big break. In 1961 he got it - marked first with his meeting and subsequent shooting of Elizabeth Taylor for *Look*, and later that year by the Marilyn shoot that would propel him into an overnight sought-after celebrity photographer. From then on the young and ambitious photographer barrelled forth interminably, producing photographs since that time and again captured the underlying humanism of his subjects - as present in the quiet contemplation of Rolling Stones rock icon Mick Jagger as in the defiant stare of an Aboriginal man in the Australian outback. Able to remove the awe and intimidation usually associated with celebrity portraiture, Kirkland's images provide a glimpse into the person behind the persona.

The numbers associated with Kirkland's career are staggering. Six decades, six continents, numerous awards, thirteen books, over one million photos and 150 motion picture sets, including classics such as *The Sound of Music*, 1963; *A Space Odyssey*, 1968; *Titanic*, 1997; *Moulin Rouge!*, 2000; and *The Great Gatsby*, 2013. He has photographed the greats such as Elizabeth Taylor, Sophia Loren, Andy Warhol, Coco Chanel, Meryl Streep, Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio and hundreds of others. He has completed over 2,000 assignments, starting back as a photojournalist in Greece, Lebanon and Japan in the 1960s and 1970s for *Life Magazine*, and showing no signs of slowing down. Documenting some of the most significant people and creations over the past sixty years, Douglas Kirkland is an archivist of cultural history, a powerhouse of production and an integral force in the world of photography and portraiture.

Gili Karev
Art critic



Dancer, 2000
Photography, edition of 24
101,6 x 76,2 cm - 40 x 30 in.



Brigitte Bardot, Mexico, 1965
Photography, edition of 25
101,5 x 152,5 cm - 40 x 60 in.



Coco Chanel, Paris, 1962
Photography, edition of 24
76 x 101,5 cm - 30 x 40 in.



Coco Chanel, Paris, 1962
Photography, edition of 24
51 x 61 cm - 20 x 24 in.



Coco Chanel, Paris, 1962
Photography, edition of 24
51 x 61 cm - 20 x 24 in.



Marilyn Monroe, 1961
Photography, edition of 25
101,5 x 101,5 cm - 40 x 40 in.

Marilyn Monroe with Douglas Kirkland, 1961
Photography, edition of 25
61 x 51 cm - 24 x 20 in.



Marilyn Monroe, 1961
Photography, edition of 25
101,5 x 152,5 cm - 40 x 60 in.



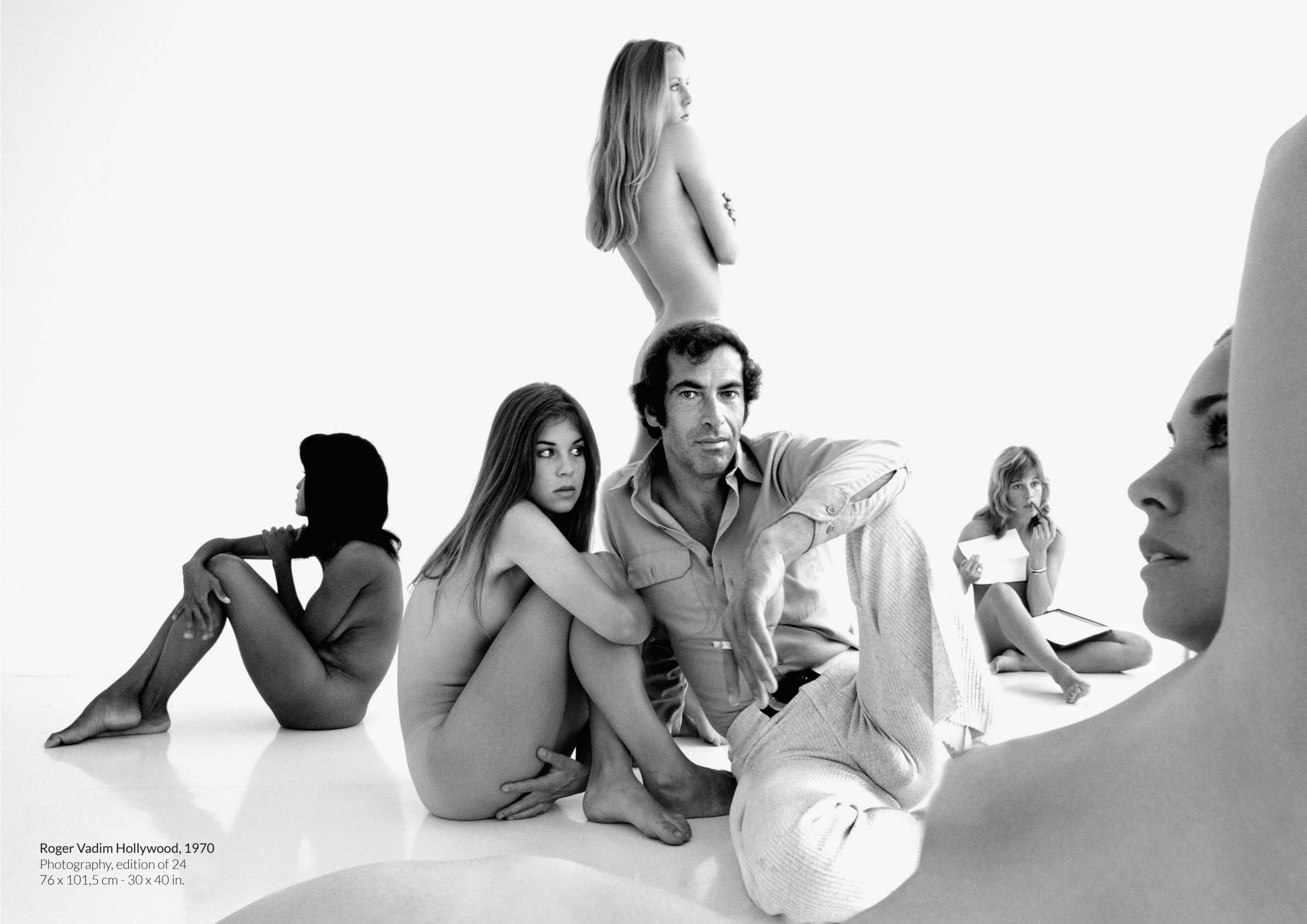
Marilyn Monroe, 1961
Photography, edition of 25
152,5 x 101,5 cm - 60 x 40 in.



Marilyn Monroe, 1961
Photography, edition of 25
152,5 x 101,5 cm - 60 x 40 in.



Marcello Mastroianni, 1993
Photography, edition of 24
51 x 61 cm - 20 x 24 in.



Roger Vadim Hollywood, 1970
Photography, edition of 24
76 x 101,5 cm - 30 x 40 in.



Romy Schneider, 1969
Photography, edition of 24
51 x 61 cm - 20 x 24 in.



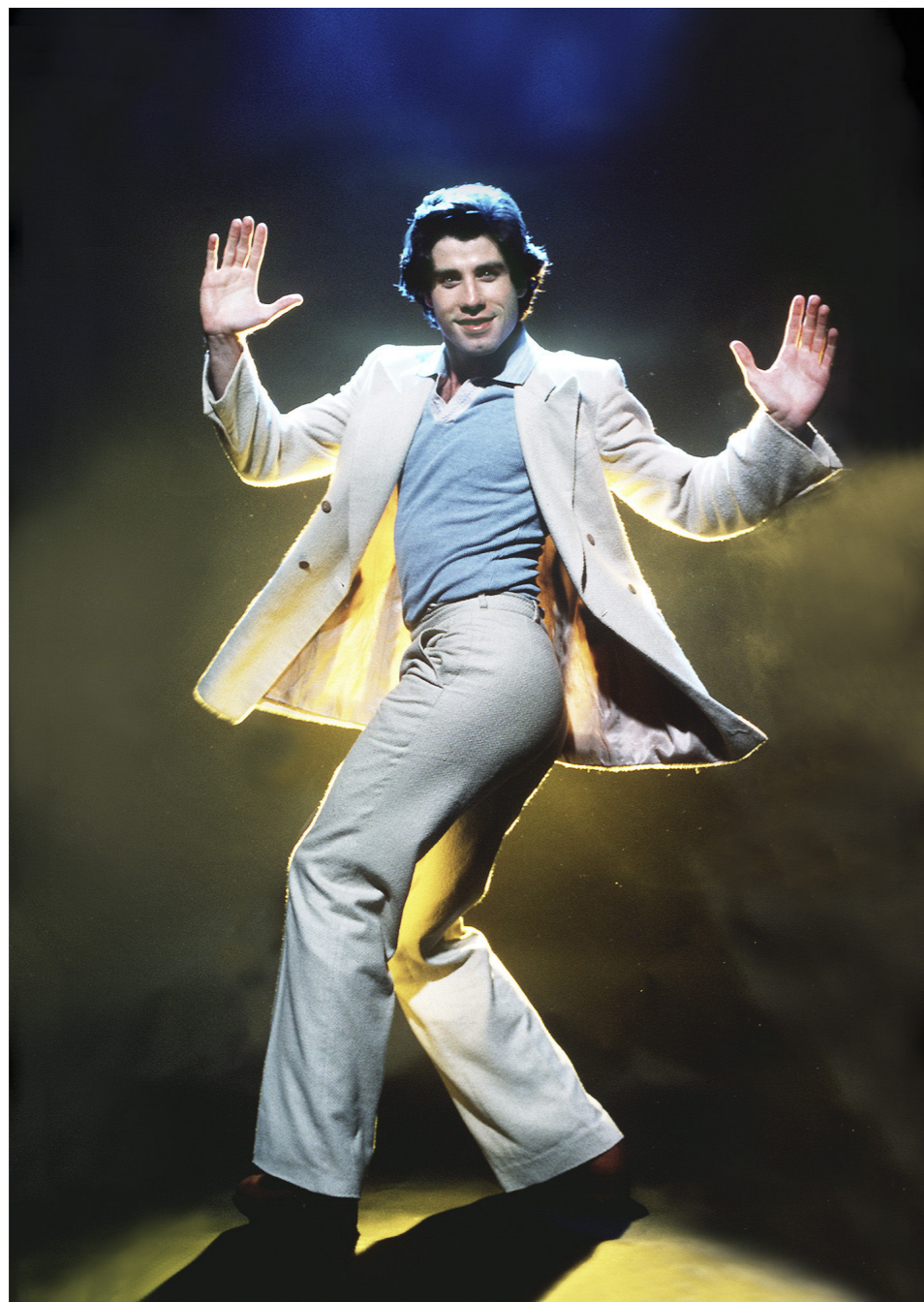
Romy Schneider, 1969
Photography, edition of 24
76 x 101,5 cm - 30 x 40 in.

Sophia Loren, 1972
Photography, edition of 25
152,5 x 101,5 cm - 60 x 40 in.





Virna Lisi, 1965
Photography, edition of 24
61 x 51 cm - 24 x 20 in.



John Travolta, 1977
Photography, edition of 24
61 x 51 cm - 24 x 20 in.

Grace Jones, 1977
Photography, edition of 24
61 x 51 cm - 24 x 20 in.



Dita Von Teese, 2006
Photography, edition of 25
152,5 x 101,5 cm - 60 x 40 in.





Veiled Beauty, 1996
Photography, edition of 24
101,5 x 76 cm - 40 x 30 in.



Dancer, 2000
Photography, edition of 24
101,5 x 76 cm - 40 x 30 in.

Beatrice, 1994
Photography, edition of 24
61 x 51 cm - 24 x 20 in.





Aboriginal in Australia, 2007
Photography, edition of 24
101,5 x 76 cm - 40 x 30 in.



David Frost, 1969
Photography, edition of 24
51 x 61 cm - 20 x 24 in.

New York City, 1990
Photography, edition of 24
61 x 51 cm - 24 x 20 in.



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“Kirkland has worked on over one hundred motion picture film sets over the course of his sixty-year career.”

DOUGLAS KIRKLAND BIOGRAPHY

Douglas Kirkland is a prominent photojournalist, fashion and fine art photographer; the man behind the lens of iconic Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor and Romy Schneider images. He worked for *Life Magazine* in the golden age of the 1960s and 1970s as a photojournalist as well as a fashion and celebrity photographer. Kirkland has on over one hundred motion picture film sets over the course of his sixty-year career, including *Sound of Music*, *Out of Africa*, *Titanic*, *Moulin Rouge!*, and the recent Baz Luhrmann rendition of *The Great Gatsby*.

Kirkland's photographs have been exhibited all over the world, and included in the permanent collections of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Beverly Hills, the Smithsonian, the Natural Portrait Gallery of Canberra, Australia, the National Portrait Gallery in London, the Eastman House in Rochester, the Houston Center for Photography and the Annenberg Space for Photography in Los Angeles. In September 2008, *Vanity Fair* organized a retrospective of his works at the Museum of the Triennale in Milan. Included in his many awards is the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American S.O.C. and a Lucie Award for Outstanding Achievement in Entertainment Photography. Kirkland has published thirteen of books, with *'Titanic'* becoming an instant #1 New York Times Bestseller. He continues to be commissioned for work around the world.



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