



X-ray, French Vogue, Currier Braalet.

*X-Ray, photographed by Helmut Newton
for French Vogue, Paris, 1994.*

OPEN BOOK

Helmut Newton's Hot Takes

A coffee-table book and exhibition re-create a 1999 album of the photographer's most experimental work, collecting never-before-seen images and their handwritten pencil annotations

Helmut Newton needs no introduction. But we'll give him one anyway. He was born Helmut Neustädter in Berlin in 1920 to a Jewish family. His father owned a button factory, which the Nazis took from him in the 1930s. After Kristallnacht, in 1938, Helmut's parents fled to Argentina while he waited for his passport. Within a month, he was able to hop a ship to China, which ended up in Singapore; the authorities there sent him to Australia, where he enlisted in the army.

After the war, Neustädter returned to Melbourne, changed his surname to Newton, set up a photography studio, and married his life partner June Browne, an actress better known by her stage name, Alice Springs. Newton began shooting theater and fashion, and did industrial photography.

Cut to 1957 and a 12-month contract with British *Vogue*, which meant a move to London. Newton became one of the most celebrated fashion photographers of the 20th century, known for his radical chic, those provocative black-and-white images that fused erotica with haute couture. He shot for British, Italian, French, and American *Vogue*—the big four—and he knew exactly what he was doing.

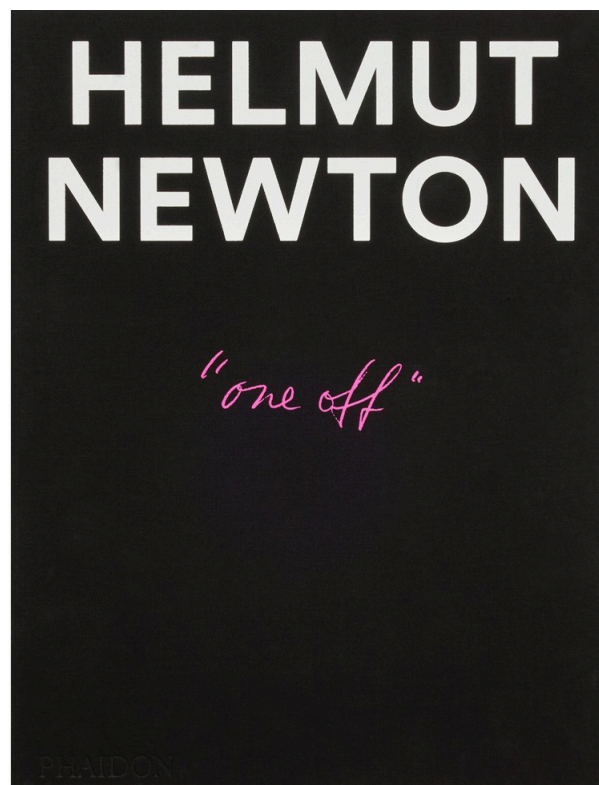
“My job as a portrait photographer is to seduce, amuse, and entertain,” Newton once said. And to that we say, “Check, check, and check!” See Elsa Peretti dressed as a Playboy bunny on a 1970s New York rooftop. Or a man bowing to kiss the detached hand of a female mannequin at Maxim's Paris. Or the entire series titled “Big Nudes,” which, as intended, leaves very little to the imagination. One can add a fourth element to Mr. Newton's repertoire: surprise.

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One-off, a new coffee-table book from Phaidon, explores that often overlooked dimension of Newton's work, the moments when his polished editorial signature gives way to something more autonomous and experimental. An accompanying exhibition will open this summer at the Helmut Newton Foundation in Berlin, bringing together a rare album of 112 prints assembled by the photographer in 1999 for the collector Gert Elfering—each mounted on cardstock and, as in the book, annotated by hand with a title or tidbit. These “one-offs”—images such as Andy Warhol caught napping, or Newton's wife June with a cigar in hand—are uniquely intimate, “Big Nudes” aside. —*Carolina de Armas*

BUY THE BOOK



Helmut Newton: One-off

\$ 69.95

Phaidon

The exhibition "Helmut Newton's One-off Album" runs from June 5 to November 15 at the Helmut Newton Foundation, in Berlin. The accompanying book with contributions from Philippe Garner, Gert Elfering, Matthias Harder, and Nicola Erni is published by Phaidon

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