

Marcia Resnick *Re-visions*



They were continually telling her that she had stars in her eyes.

In 1978 Coach House Press published Marcia Resnick's book, *Re-visions*, with minimal text and promotional blurbs by an impressive array of artists and writers including Allen Ginsberg, Andy Warhol, and William S. Burroughs. Terry Southern, who complimented Resnick's success in conveying "her subliminally erotic design" without actually showing penetration, admitted to "responding to the imagery with a healthy and ever-increasing tumescence." You betcha. Thirty years later these pictures still make me laugh.

Re-visions' protagonist is an adolescent girl whose innocence has given way to an understanding of good and evil and who displays increasingly little ambivalence about the appeal of being a good girl. Her crimes are minor – sticking chewing gum under her chair, being unruly in class – but they have consequences. Awakening sexuality in both body and mind occupy some of the pictures, not surprisingly, given that the book is dedicated to Humbert Humbert of *Lolita* fame. Resnick's Lolita wavers between being mortified when her actions draw attention and being provocative by setting herself apart in clothes or situation. She's ambitious, but in a teenage way, such as wanting to be a starlet. Adults can't be trusted, particularly the men in her father's NRA chapter, and nighttime is when the imagination is given free rein.

Staging ideas for the camera, rather than seeking out an equivalent in the tangible world, is almost as old as the photographic medium. The practice of "making" a photograph by creating and arranging all the elements, rather than "taking" a photograph, has gone through cycles of popularity over the decades. Resnick's images were produced concurrently with a burst of new activity by other practitioners of the photographic narrative. William Wegman, Resnick's friend who also contributed a jacket blurb, was one of the few photographers who even attempted, much less succeeded, in making art with Resnick's wit and invention.

Anne Wilkes Tucker

Curator of Photography

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston



*She was repeatedly told to stop looking at her feet
while in the company of adults.*

chronology

1950 Born in Brooklyn, New York.
Lives and works in New York, NY.

education

1973 MFA, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

1972 BFA, The Cooper Union, New York, NY

permanent collections

The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

George Eastman House/International Museum of Photography and Film, Rochester, NY

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA

Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, FL

solo exhibitions

2009 "Re-visions," Deborah Bell Photographs, New York, NY

1994 "Marcia Resnick's Books," Books & Binding, New York, NY

1987 "Marcia Resnick's Photographs," University of Texas at Dallas, Dallas, TX

1985 "Bad Boys by Marcia Resnick," Idée Gallery, Toronto, Canada

1984 "Marcia Resnick: Audio-Visual," Theatre Passe Muraille, Toronto, Canada

"John Belushi by Marcia Resnick," Night Gallery, New York, NY

1978 "Re-visions," Galerie Ricke, Cologne, Germany

"Re-visions," Gotham Book Mart, New York, NY

"Re-visions," Paul Klapper Library, Queens College, New York, NY

1977 "Landscape," Light Work Gallery, Syracuse, NY

"The Fabric of Night," Photoworks Gallery, New York, NY

1976 "See," Susan Penzner Gallery, New York, NY

"See," Galerie Ricke-Projektions, Cologne, Germany

selected group exhibitions

2008 "No Wave. Post Punk. Underground. New York. 1976-1980," K.S. Gallery, New York, NY [catalogue]

"Chelsea Hotel Through the Eyes of Photographers," Chelsea Hotel, New York, NY

2007 "The 20th Anniversary of Andy Warhol's Death," Gershwin Hotel Gallery, New York, NY

2006 "Hung," CBGB's 313 Gallery's 32nd Anniversary Art Exhibition, New York, NY

2005 "Bande à part: New York Underground 60's-80's," Galerie du Jour agnès b, Paris, France, and traveling [catalogue]

2000 "Fashion Culture: Realities of Glamour," Gershwin Hotel Gallery, New York, NY

1999 "Punk Rock Photographs," Luhring-Augustine Gallery, New York, NY

1995 "Feminine Eyes," Half-a-Dozen Roses Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

1994 "Beat Art," New York University, New York, NY

"Allen Ginsberg In and Out of Town,"

Boulder Public Library, Boulder, CO

"Call Me Burroughs," Aktionsforum Praterinsel, Munich, Germany, and traveling

"Portraits and NYC Memories," Suzan Cooper Gallery, Woodstock, NY

1991 "Open Mind: The Sol LeWitt Collection," Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT

1986 "Television's Impact on Contemporary Art," Queens Museum, New York, NY [catalogue]

1984 "Photographs: Group," Galerie Wilde, Cologne, Germany

"Verbally Charged Images," Independent Curators, Inc., Queens Museum, New York, NY, and traveling

1982 "Four Friends of Frank Gilette," Klein Art Gallery, Woodstock, NY

1981 "Heresies Invitational," Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York, NY

1980 "Resnick, DeLappa & Morrita," Friends of Photography, Carmel, CA

1978 "Marcia Resnick & Larry Williams," Columbia College, Chicago, IL

1975 "Women of Photography: An Historical Survey," San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA, and traveling [catalogue]

books by marcia resnick

1978 *Re-visions*. Coach House Press, Toronto, Canada

1977 *Landscape-Loftscape*. Printed Matter, New York, NY

1975 *Tahitian Eve*. Self-published

Landscape. Self-published

See. Self-published

Published by Deborah Bell Photographs and Paul M. Hertzmann, Inc. in conjunction with the exhibition "Marcia Resnick: Re-visions" at Deborah Bell Photographs, New York, NY, March 20-May 16, 2009.

Deborah Bell Photographs
511 West 25th Street, Room 703
New York, NY 10001
tel 212 691 3883
deborahbell@rcn.com
www.deborahbellphotographs.com

Paul M. Hertzmann, Inc.
P.O. Box 40447
San Francisco, CA 94140
tel 415 626 2677
pmhi@hertzmann.net

design

Beverly Joel, pulp, ink.

printing

Meridian Printing, East Greenwich, RI

Brochure copyright © 2009

Deborah Bell Photographs and Paul M. Hertzmann, Inc.

Essay copyright © 2009 Anne Wilkes Tucker.

All photographs are vintage gelatin silver prints.

All photographs copyright

© Marcia Resnick. No images may be reproduced without the written permission of the photographer. These and other photographs by Marcia Resnick are offered for sale.

We would like to thank Charles Gatewood for bringing the photographs of Marcia Resnick to our attention.



She imagined herself a starlet.



She was often gripped with the desire to be elsewhere.



*She developed slowly but learned how to stuff her bra
so that both sides matched.*



She had a poor sense of direction and would awkwardly miss her mark when playing pin-the-tail-on-the donkey.