

「FOCUS」

A COMPILATION OF NEWS, TECH AND ENTERTAINMENT.



PHOTOS © RODNEY SMITH



ABOVE (L TO R): "Viktoria Under Lampshade," Rhinebeck, NY, 2011; "Nathan Holding Portrait of Himself," Amenia, NY, 2011.

A LEGACY

Looking Back at Wonder

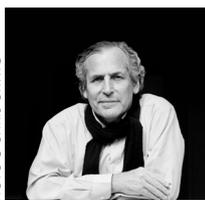


PHOTO © CHRIS ORWIG

A legend of whimsical fashion and portrait photography passed away late last year, but not before leaving behind a final book of his artistic and profound virtuosity. *Rodney Smith Photographs* includes 252 pages of the dream world the photographer cultivated and captured

on film over his 45-year career. The quirky, one-off narratives of surreal and sometimes suspenseful beauty appear in both color and black-and-white.

Known to be a perfectionist in every aspect (while never knowing what frames he'd walk away with going into his shoots), Smith took complete control of this book's production, working very closely with a team of creatives (including his wife, Leslie Smolan, who's listed as the creative director). The carefully selected photos are accompanied by thought pieces from Smith—

personal, intimate, self-assessing and arrestingly honest words of wisdom and Proustian-like memories. Bits of his personality are threaded throughout, even in the thorough acknowledgements where he thought to thank his local post office in Palisades, New York and England. Smith wrote the foreword and afterword as well, imparting a particularly stirring remark:

"If this proves to be my final book—although I truly hope it does not—it will be my swan song of hope, expressing men as gentlemen and women as beautiful, delicate and empowered in a way I love best. It is the way I wish the world to be, not mundane but extraordinary. It represents my belief that, just over that imaginary line, everything you see and feel in this book is possible."

—Libby Peterson

PRICE: \$75
+ rodneysmith.com