Some Thoughts on the Politics of Portrait Photography

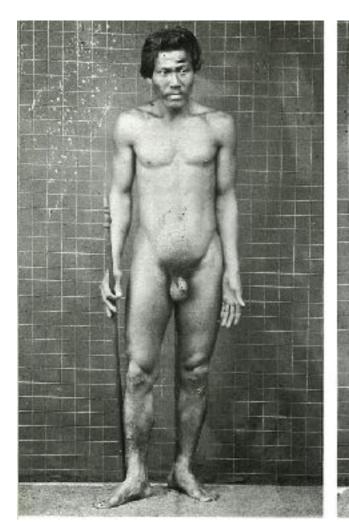
By Karin Bareman

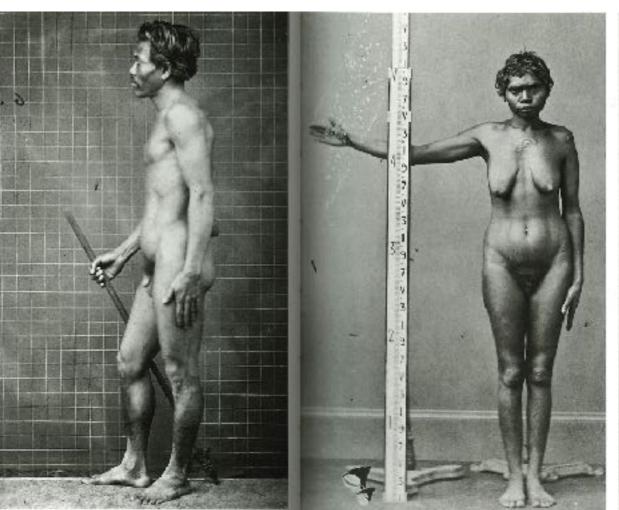
Aida Silvestri

What is Portrait Photography?

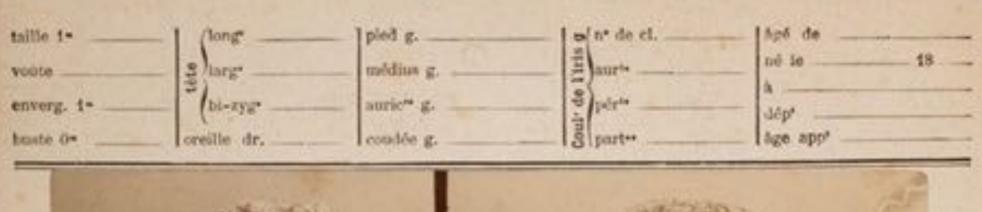
- Definition taken for granted
- Invention of photography 1839
- Affordable form of portrayal for the middle classes
- Method of collecting data for scientists
- 'Greatest Hits' / Roll Call of 'Influential' Photographers

John Lamprey / Anonymous











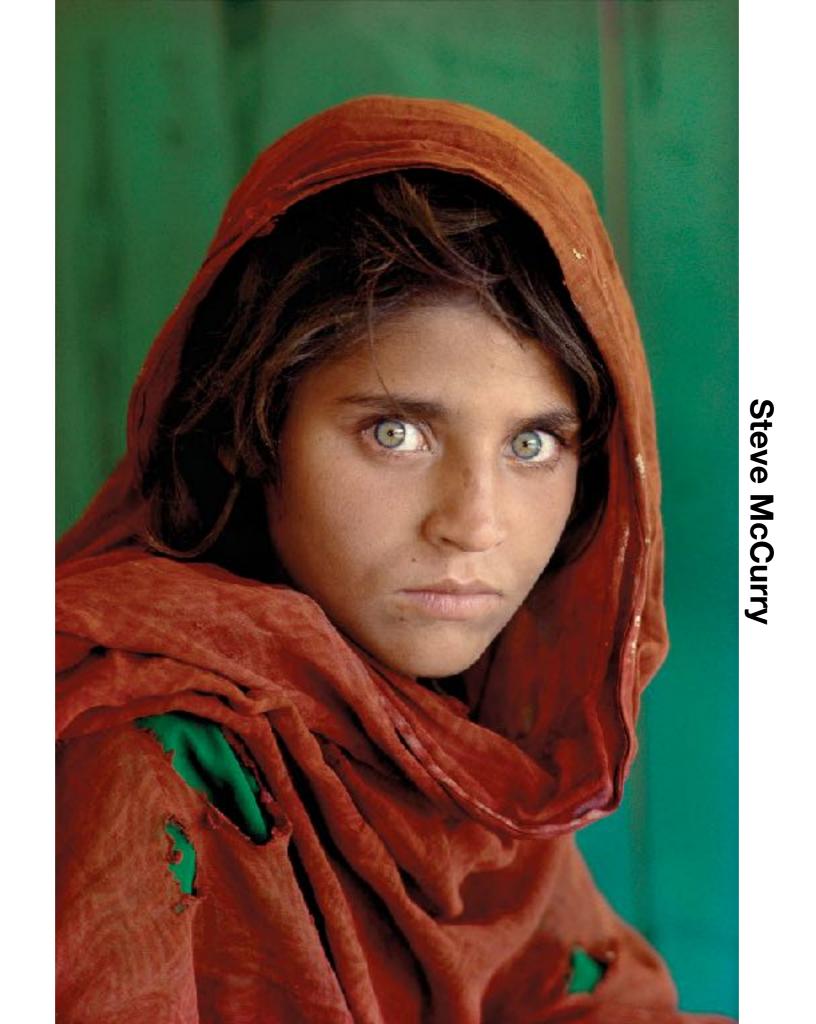
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Pouce Index Médius et Annolaire droits

Alphonse Bertillon



Edward S. Curtis

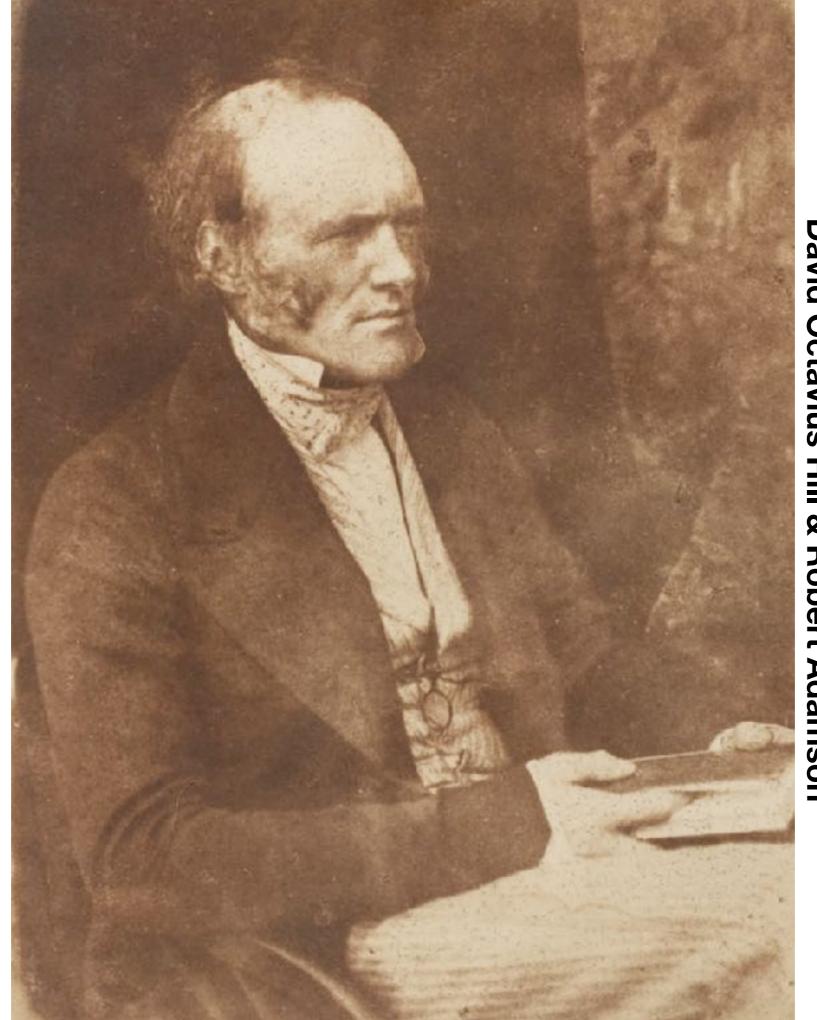




Gaspard-Félix Tournachon, aka Nadar

André Adolphe-Eugène Disderi





David Octavius Hill & Robert Adamson



Julia Margaret Cameron

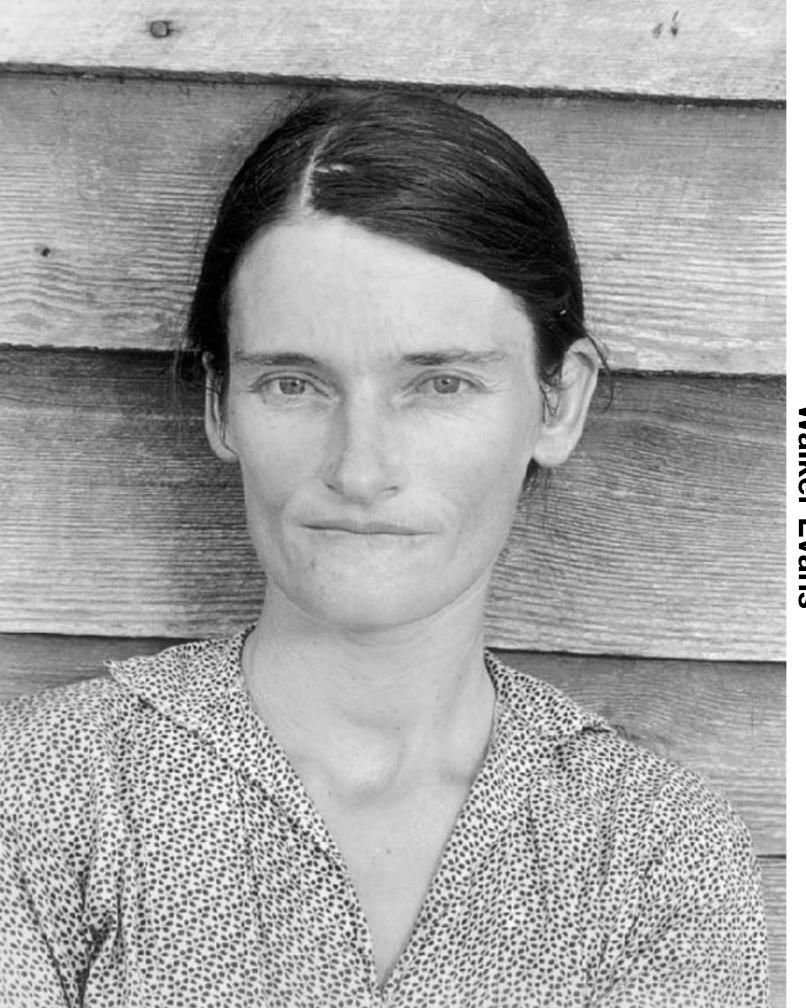
Cecil Beaton



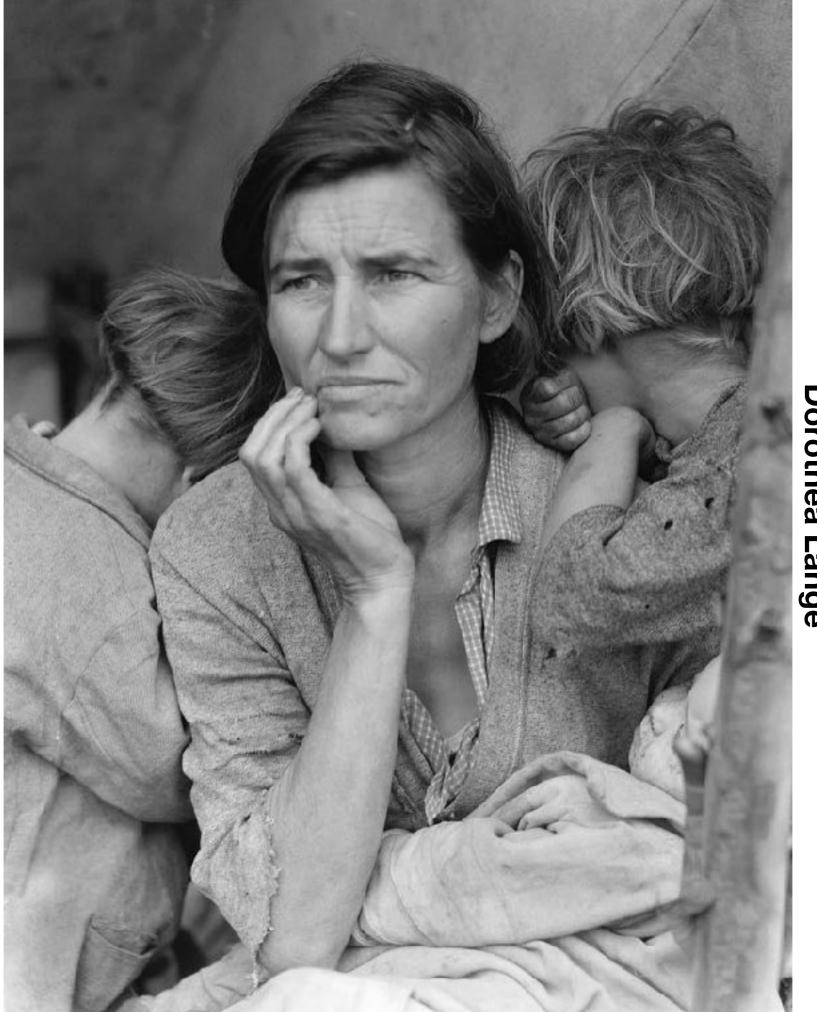
Edward Steichen



August Sander



Walker Evans



Dorothea Lange

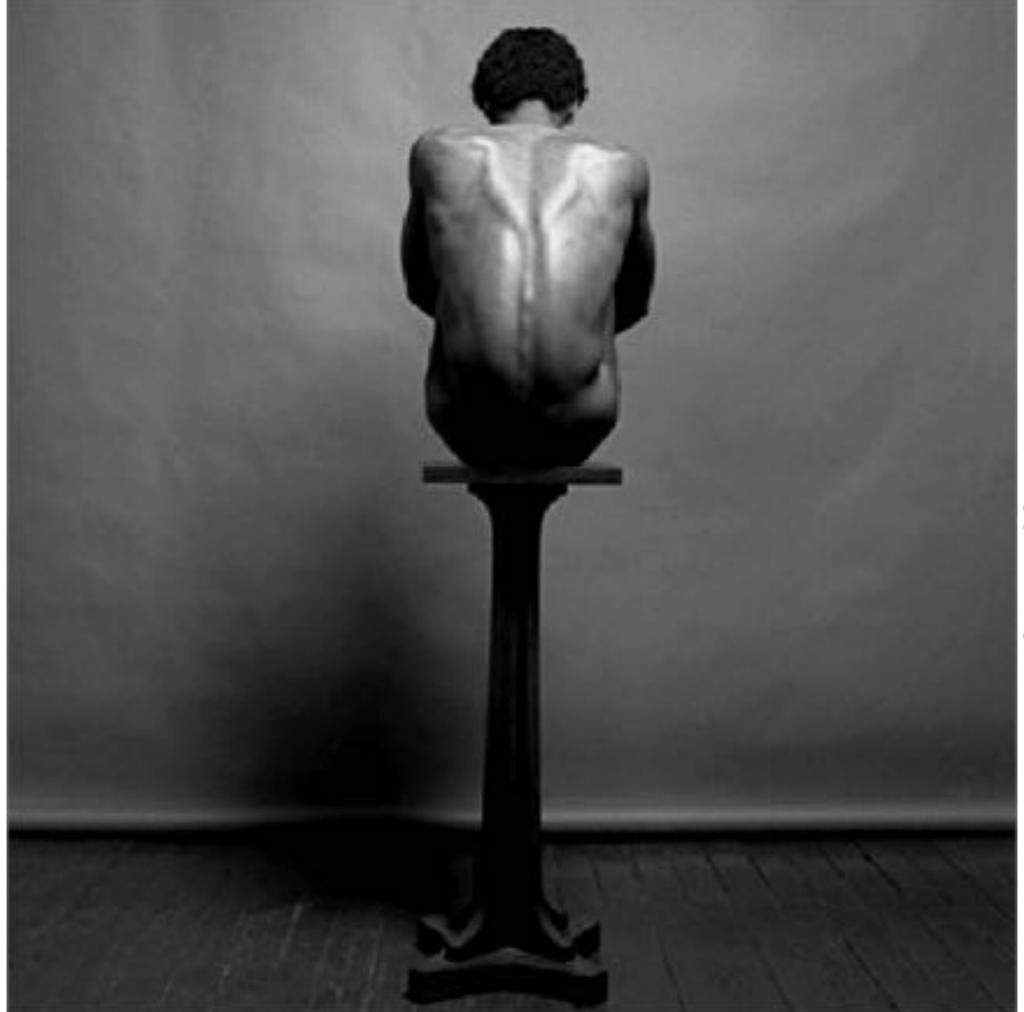
Diane Arbus

Richard Avedon

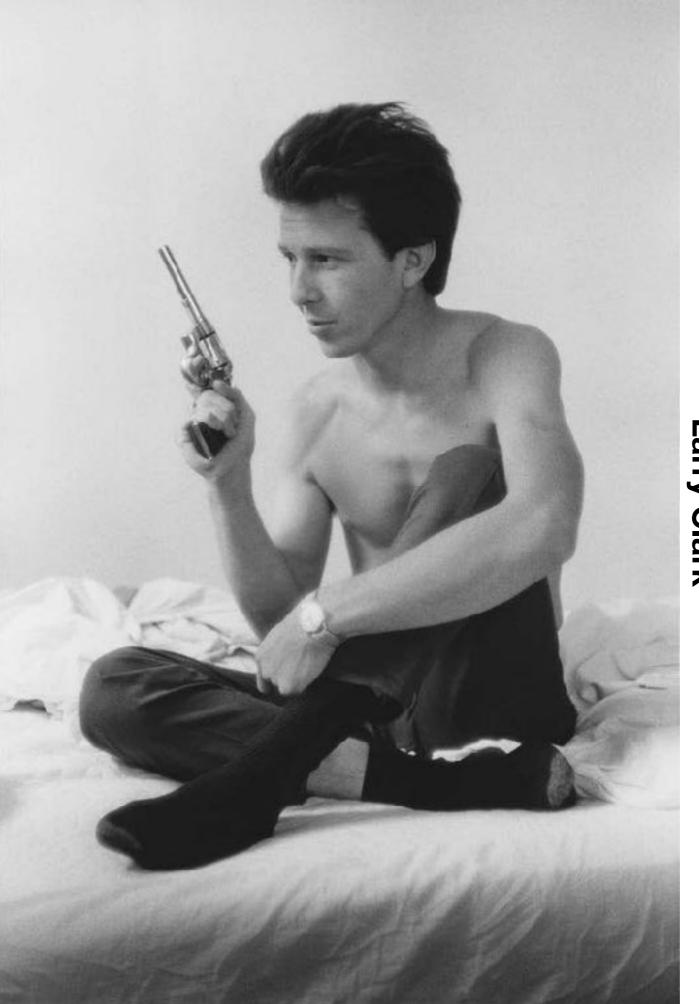
Irving Penn

Arnold Newman

Helmut Newton

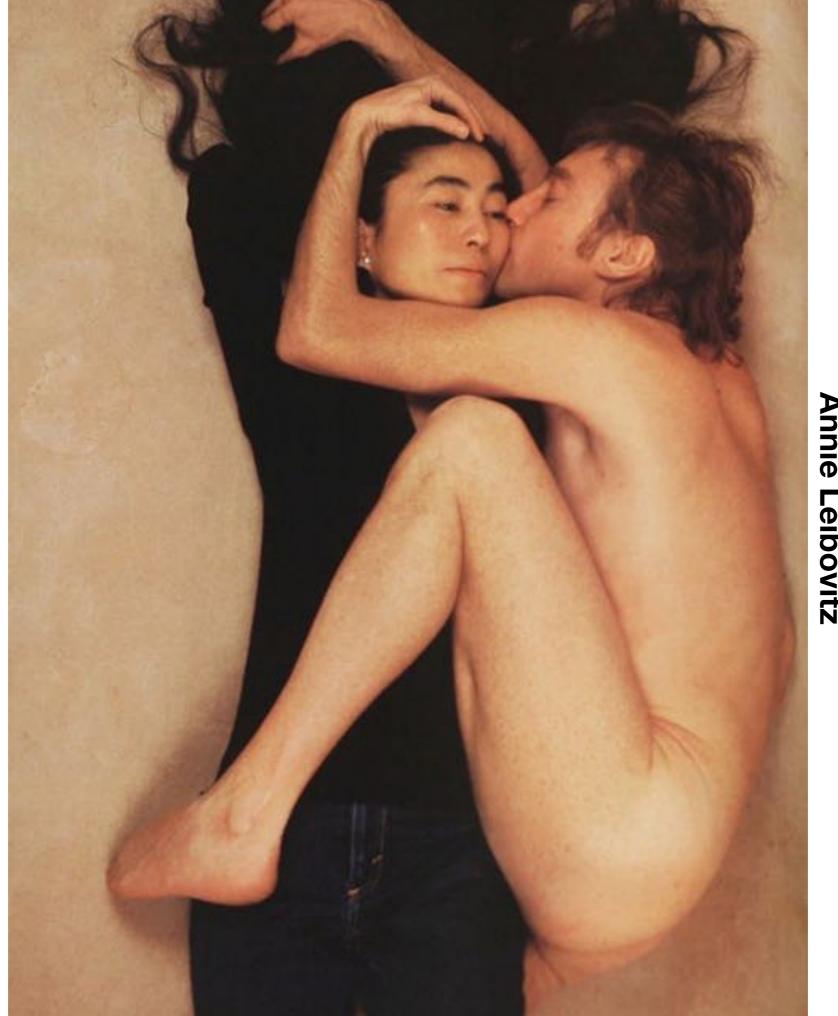


Robert Mapplethorpe



Larry Clark





Annie Leibovitz





Rineke Dijkstra



Thomas Ruff

"There is systematic forgetting. Those bits of history that simply drop out, which people do not regard as interesting or important, which they regard as marginal to the mainstream story...And there's another kind of forgetting. There's what I call 'disavowal'."

Stuart Hall, in keynote speech in 2008

Malick Sidibe





Maryam Sahinyan





James VanderZee



Gordon Parks

Dawoud Bey

Roy DeCarava



Carrie Mae Weems

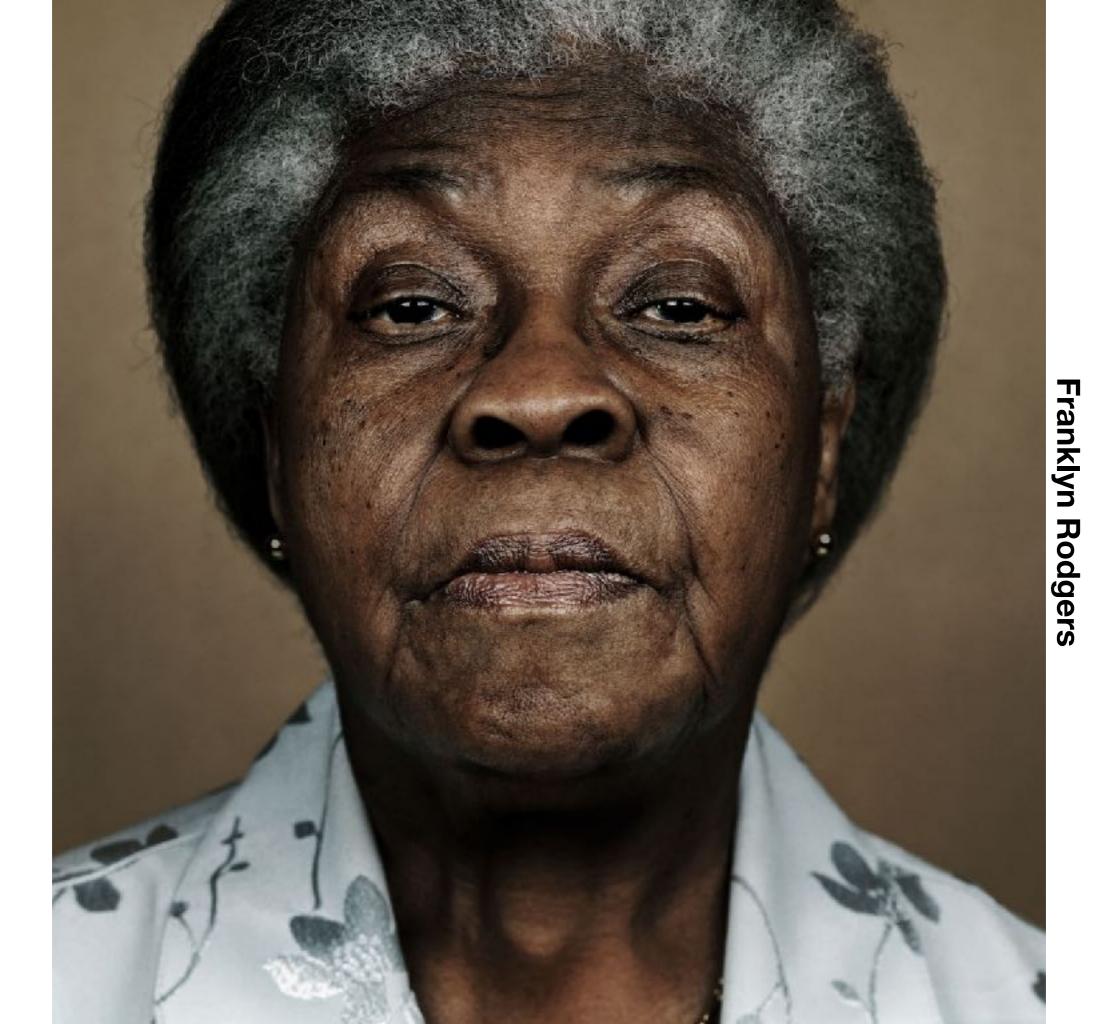
Zanele Muholi



Samuel Fosso



Eileen Perrier



Mahtab Hussain

Arpita Shah

Sunil Gupta

"Decolonisation is the process of actively rolling back colonially. Coloniality is a violent system that frames everything outside the colonising 'other'.

Coloniality centres white, colonial, Eurocentric knowledge and temporality, positioning these as 'given', 'objective' and 'natural'..."

BeBOP Catalague

".... All perceptions and experiences that do not adhere to this hierarchy are seen as 'unscientific' or simply ignored. *Decolonisation is a process of unlearning*. A way of centring that, which has been de-centred.

It is a two-fold movement that exposes the marginalisation of 'other' bodies and experiences as well as affirming their existence."

BeBOP Catalague

"The invention of photography, then, is not the achievement of a single person who may have isolated several chemical elements and activated them by means of a certain mechanism.

Instead, the invention of photography was the creation of a new situation in which different people, in different places, can simultaneously use a black box to manufacture an image of their *encounters*: not an image of them, but of the *encounter* itself..."

Ariella Azoulay in The Civil Contract of Photography.

"... It is an *encounter* that always and inescapably involves a measure of violence, even when the situation is one of full and explicit consent between the participant parties."

Ariella Azoulay in The Civil Contract of Photography.

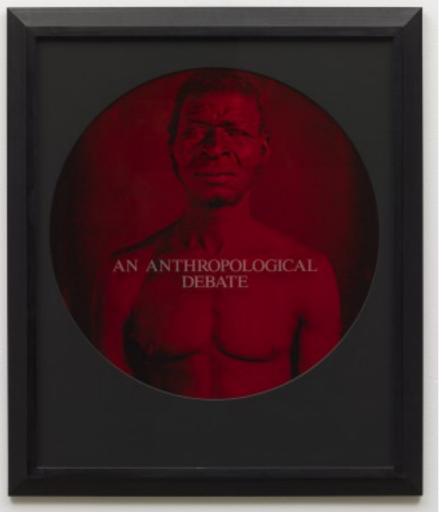
Joy Gregory

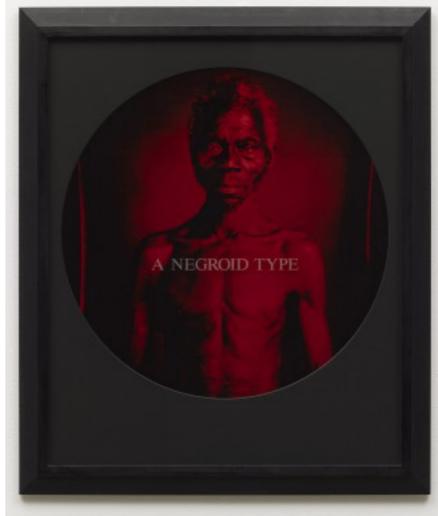


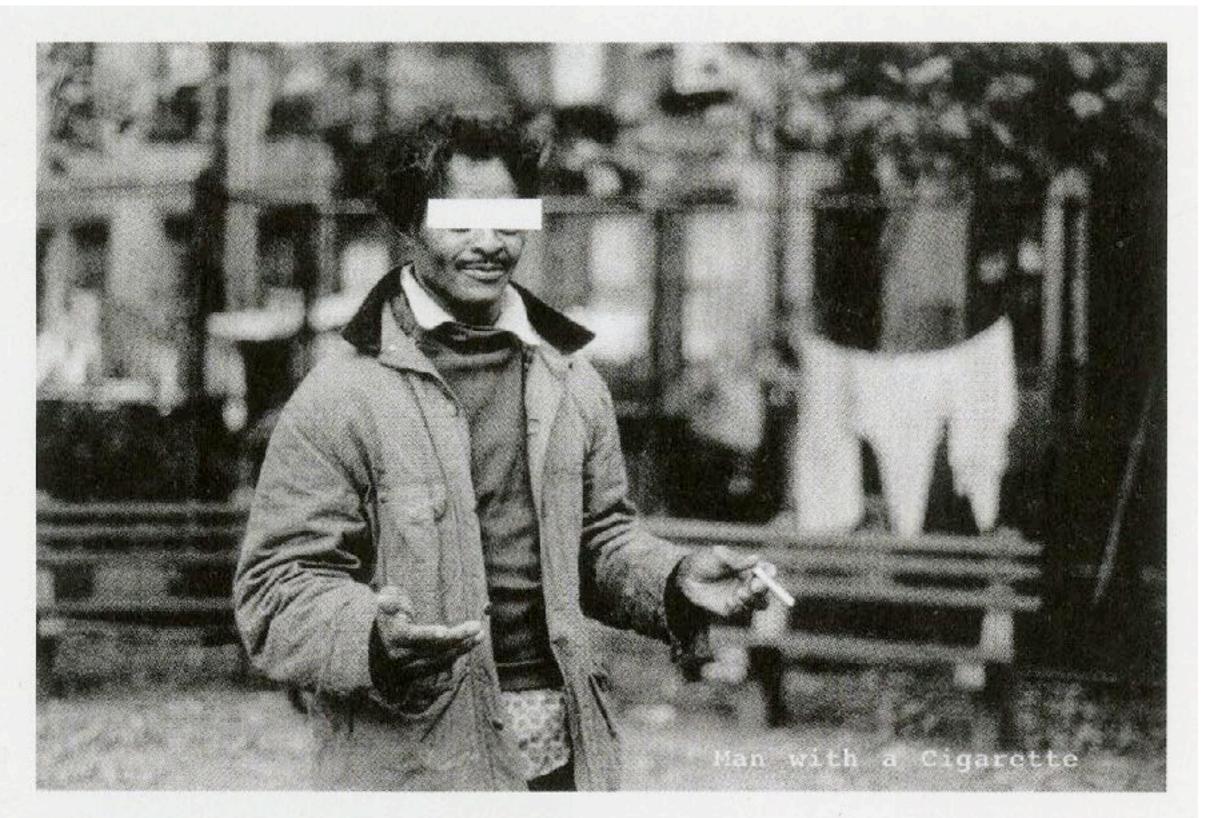
"The body/self is not photographed, but positioned, worked on. It has become a place of inscription: literally, something to be written upon and 'read'; an 'auto-graph."

Stuart Hall, in introduction text *Autoportraits*











César Dezfuli

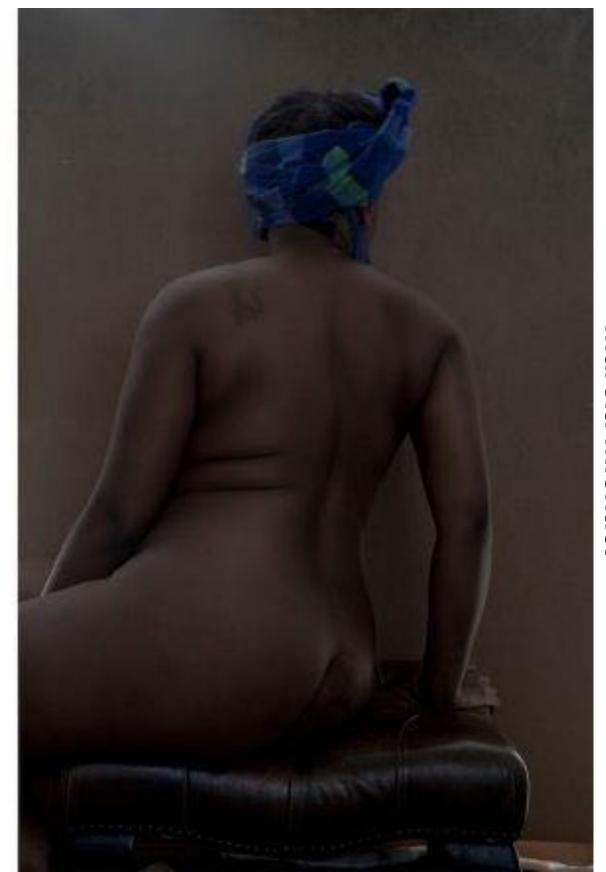
Gideon Mendel



"The pose allows a person to reveal something about his self-perception and his social status: the pose is at once a conscious attitude and an involuntary expression of psychic dispositions and social norms [...] To pose means to show oneself as one wishes to be perceived."

Susanne Holschbach





Marcia Michael





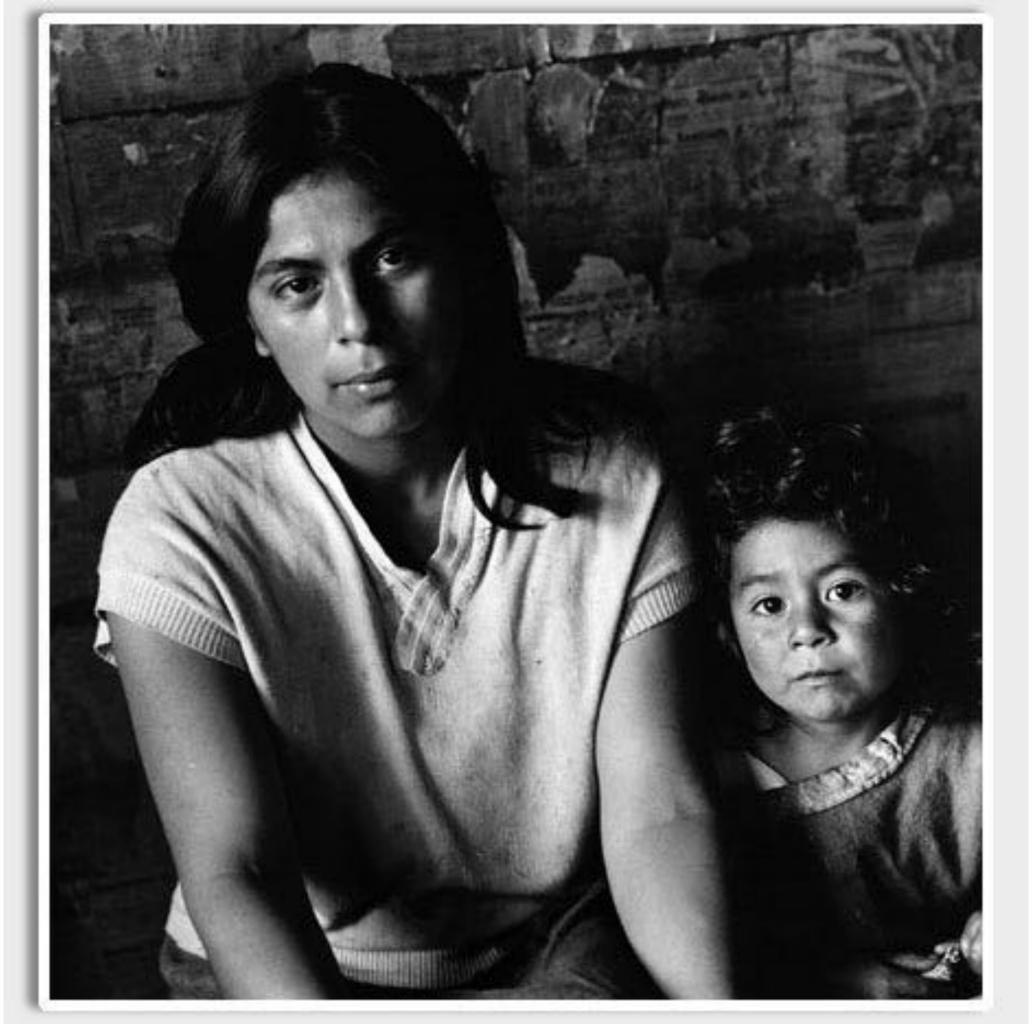
Wendy Ewald

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Alaperca 39 very Mesus mogares &

Jim Goldberg



From Still Another Day

Pardon me, if when I want to tell the story of my life it's the land I talk about. This is the land. It grows in your blood and you grow If it dies in your blood you die out.

Pablo Neruda, from Windows that Open Inwards.

Q&A