

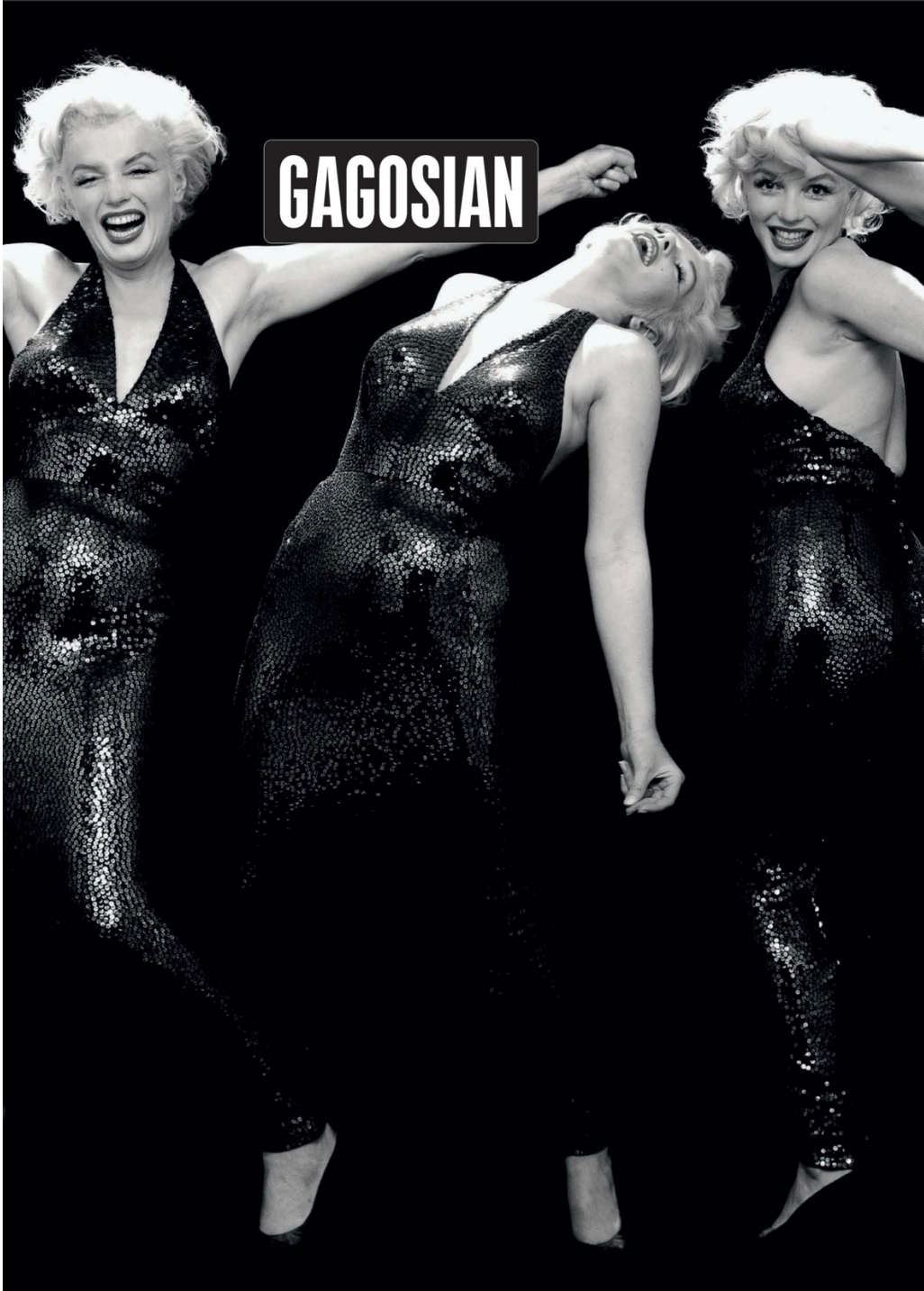
# ALTMAN SIEGEL

1150 25TH ST. SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107

tel: 415.576.9300 / fax: 415.373.4471

www.altmansiegel.com

“Hans Ulrich Obrist’s Questionnaire: Lynn Hershman Leeson,” *Gagosian Quarterly*, Summer 2023, pp. 44-46



**F**or the Summer 2023 issue we have invited voices from the worlds of art, fashion, literature, and activism to reflect on the legendary career of Richard Avedon. Author and poet Jake Skeets has written a powerful and personal response to a photograph of his uncle, Benson James, from Avedon's series *In the American West*. Skeets addresses the power dynamics and underlying tensions beneath the surface of the image and draws parallels to similar structures that endure in society today.

Harold Ancart and Katharina Grosse participate in illuminating conversations about the challenges of painting, articulating their unique concerns in the medium and describing how they push the limits of their distinctly different practices. And Pjú Oshin talks with Phoebe Boswell, Adelaide Damoah, and Julianknxx about artmaking that explores the function of ritual, the role of identity, and the blurring of cultural boundaries often defined by such constructs.

The fight for women's rights—specifically for reproductive rights in the United States—has traced a long history through several generations of artists. Salomé Gómez-Upegui reflects on the power of these artists' images, their ability to define and shape public opinion, their long-term influence, and the critical role of artists today in facing this conflict with heightened urgency.

We highlight the work of IntoUniversity, a British nonprofit that addresses systemic inequities, both in society at large and specifically in the art world, by creating educational opportunities for young people from disadvantaged communities.

The sudden and rapid proliferation of artificial intelligence—AI—in our world at this moment is both fascinating and disquieting. In this issue, Benjamín Labatut considers Bennett Miller's engagement with AI as a partner in the act of creation. The possibilities of AI are truly limitless, yet the grave responsibility that accompanies those opportunities is as yet undefined and cannot be underestimated.

34

### Harold Ancart

In a wide-ranging conversation, Harold Ancart and novelist Andrew Winer cover a lot of artistic and philosophical ground, from being present to pathological escapism, and from portals and all-things-are-possible to palm trees.

44

### Hans Ulrich Obrist's Questionnaire: Lynn Hershman Leeson

The sixth installment of the series.

48

### Avedon 100

In celebration of the centenary of Richard Avedon's birth, almost 150 artists, designers, musicians, writers, curators, and representatives of the fashion world were asked to select a photograph by Avedon for an exhibition at Gagosian, New York, and to elaborate on the ways in which image and artist have affected them. We present a sampling of these images and writings.

66

### Rites of Passage

Péju Oshin speaks with Phoebe Boswell, Adelaide Damoah, and Julianknxx about their participation in the exhibition *Rites of Passage* at Gagosian, London, and about the complexities of community, performance, truth, and identity.

72

### Fashion and Art, Part 14: Edward Enninful

Edward Enninful OBE has held the role of editor-in-chief of British *Vogue* since 2017. Here, Enninful meets with his longtime friend Derek Blasberg to discuss his recently published memoir, *A Visible Man*.

78

### Building a Legacy: Provenance

For this installment of the Building a Legacy series, Lisa Turvey met with Sharon Flescher and Lisa Duffy-Zeballos of the International Foundation for Art Research (IFAR) to discuss the complexities of provenance research, the recent burgeoning of the field, and the multiple resources available for tracing the ownership history of artworks.

82

### A Wild Wild Wind: Bennett Miller's AI-Generated Art

Benjamin Labatut addresses Bennett Miller's engagement with artificial intelligence as a partner in the creation of a series of new artworks, asking what this technology—and its hallucinations—can reveal about our own humanity.

88

### Bigger Picture: IntoUniversity

Precious Adesina charts the development of the UK-based nonprofit organization IntoUniversity.

94

### Tom Wesselman

Susan Davidson, the editor of the forthcoming monograph on *The Great American Nudes*, a series of works by Tom Wesselmann, explores the artist's early experiments with collage, tracing their development from humble beginnings to the iconic series of paintings.

100

### The African Desperate

Artist and filmmaker Martine Syms teamed up with writer and poet Rocket Caleshu to create the 2022 film *The African Desperate*. Starring the artist Diamond Stingily as Palace, the film received rave reviews for its honest and unflinching portrayal—and parody—of the art world. Syms, Caleshu, and Stingily met with Fiona Duncan to discuss the film's creation.

106

### All I Wanted to Do Was Paint: A Conversation between Katharina Grosse and Sabine Eckmann

Curator Sabine Eckmann met with Katharina Grosse to discuss the evolution of her practice.

114

### American Artists and Reproductive Justice

Salomé Gómez-Upegui traces the evolution of visual artists' involvement in the fight for reproductive rights in the United States.

122

### Soothing Sounds of Dread

Mike Stinavage profiles Weyes Blood during the musician's world tour with a new record.

124

### Still Life, Still

Harry Thorne reflects on the collaborations and friendship between Marcel Duchamp and the artist and author Brian O'Doherty.

130

### Screen Time: Internet\_Art

Ashley Overbeek speaks with Omar Kholeif about their new book *Internet\_Art: From the Birth of the Web to the Rise of NFTs*.

138

### A Vera Tatum Novel by Leonora McCrae by

The second installment of a short story by Percival Everett.

152

### Copyright

Novelist Rachel Cusk responds to artist Taryn Simon's *Sleep* (2020–21), exploring the fraught relationships between motherhood, artistic practice, mortality, and repetition.

156

### Waiting for Clarice

Carlos Valladares marvels at the life and work of the prolific and peerless Brazilian author Clarice Lispector.

160

### Out of Bounds: Marcia Tucker

Raymond Foye speaks with Lisa Phillips, the Toby Devan Lewis Director of the New Museum, New York, about *Out of Bounds: The Collected Writings of Marcia Tucker*, a comprehensive anthology of the writings of the museum's founder.

180

### Game Changer: Dorothy Miller

Scholar Wendy Jeffers is working on a comprehensive biography of Dorothy Miller, the groundbreaking curator who joined New York's Museum of Modern Art in its early years and built a remarkable program, introducing many now-famous artists to the world. Here, Jeffers recounts key moments from Miller's extraordinary life.

Hans

Ulrich

Obrist's

Questionnaire

Lynn

Hershman

Leeson

In this ongoing series, curator **Hans Ulrich Obrist** has devised a set of thirty-seven questions that invite artists, authors, musicians, and other visionaries to address key elements of their lives and creative practices. Respondents are invited to make a selection from the larger questionnaire and to reply in as many or as few words as they desire.

For the second installment of 2023, we are honored to present the artist and filmmaker

**Lynn Hershman Leeson**.

2. Does money corrupt art?

A: No, lack of money does.

8. What was your first museum visit as a child?

A: The Cleveland Museum of Art, which I went to at least weekly.

5. What is your most recent work?

A: They are all always unfinished, but the latest is about immortality. I'm working on the final part of *The Cyborgian Rhapsody*, a project I began in 1996 about the evolution of AI and how it affects identity and culture. Part 4 was written and performed by a GPT-3 chatbot that thinks it looks and sounds like me thirty years ago. I hope to have this complete by May. I'm also working on a much larger project about immortality, investigating the existence of immortality in certain plants, bacteria, and even jellyfish. I'm not certain what final form this will take yet—most likely a multimedia installation like *The Infinity Engine* (2014) or *Twisted Gravity* (2019–21).

7. What role does chance play?

A: Failure and chance are indispensable to complete a work.

17. Has the computer changed the way you work?

A: Hahahah. I live in the Bay Area mostly, where you breathe technologies and use the computer as your brain.

11. How did you come to art/How did art come to you?

A: I was born.

9. What keeps you coming back to the studio?

A: Noise.

6. What is your unrealized project?

A: My life.

27. What was your biggest mistake?

A: Fretting about past mistakes.

29. Do politics and art mingle?

A: Yes: one can't exist without the other. Art is about change and perception in the context of current states of life, which politics defines.

23. What is time?

A: An invention to quantify reality.

34. What is your advice to a young artist?

A: Don't throw anything away, and keep your sense of humor.