

Thaddaeus Ropac

London Paris Salzburg Seoul

Bob Colacello

It Just Happened, Photographs 1976–1982

Curated by Elena Foster and the Ivorypress team



Bob Colacello, *Louis Falco, Fire Island, 1979*

I never planned or plotted any of this. I have, however, always followed my mother's dictum: 'When opportunity knocks, open the door!'

— Bob Colacello

It Just Happened is the first solo exhibition in London by the American photographer and writer Bob Colacello, documenting his long-standing collaboration with Andy Warhol during the heady cycle of parties and travelling that animated their lives in the 1970s and 1980s. Curated by Elena Foster and the Ivorypress team, the exhibition includes letters, magazines and memorabilia alongside Colacello's

photographs, which help bring to life the era's atmosphere of hedonism and endless possibility.

Between 1971 and 1983, Colacello was the editor of *Interview* magazine and Andy Warhol's right hand at the publication. On one of his many trips with Warhol, Colacello acquired a Minox – a tiny camera said to have been used by spies during the Cold War. From that moment on, he carried this pocket camera with him to jet-set parties, dinners and weddings held in such iconic settings as the Factory and Studio 54. In *It Just Happened*, Colacello shares photographs from his personal album taken between

the late 1970s and early 1980s, providing an intimate and faithful chronicle of the fascinating social circle around the so-called 'Pope of Pop'.



Bob Colacello, Bianca Jagger, Halston's House, New York, 1976

These 'stolen' snapshots, with unexpected framing and overexposed lighting, demonstrate Colacello's rebellious spirit and disregard for photography's formal conventions of symmetry, exposure and balance. 'It just happened that at the parties we were constantly going to in New York, Los Angeles, Paris and London, lesser-known people kept blocking my view of better-known people, but I took the picture anyway, because I realised parties were like that, producing a layered look that I came to see as my style.' It is in this subversive attitude and irrepressible rhythm that lies the photographer's contribution to his medium: the construction of a new aesthetic identity within the photojournalistic genre of the 1970s and 1980s.



Bob Colacello, John Paul Getty III, Mick Jagger, Mackenzie Phillips, Nicky Waymouth Lane, Mr. Chow, London, 1978



Bob Colacello, André Leon Talley and Fran Lebowitz, New York, c.1976

About the artist

Bob Colacello (b.1947) was born in Brooklyn and raised in Long Island, New York. In 1969, he graduated from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and two years later completed an MFA in Film at Columbia University School of the Arts. He was the editor of Andy Warhol's *Interview* magazine from 1971 to 1983. He then worked for *Vanity Fair* until 2017, writing profiles and research articles on cultural, social and political subjects.

His memoir *Holy Terror: Andy Warhol Close Up* (1990) was hailed by *The New York Times* as the 'best-written and the most killingly observed' book on Andy Warhol's inner circle. He has also published *Ronnie & Nancy: Their Path to the White House* (2004), the first of a two-volume biography of the Reagans, and is currently working on the second. His photography book *Bob Colacello's OUT* (2007), published by 7L/Steidl, documents the wild and glamorous life of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Colacello has had solo exhibitions at Boca Raton Museum of Art, Florida; Newport Art Museum, Rhode Island; Vito Schnabel Gallery, New York and St. Moritz, Switzerland; Mary Boone Gallery, New York; Govinda Gallery, Washington, D.C.; Steven Kasher Gallery, New York and Ivorypress, Madrid. Colacello's photographs have been included in group exhibitions at The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh; MoMA PS1, New York; Tate Modern, London; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg; and Museu de Serralves, Porto.



Bob Colacello, *Bob Colacello and Fred Hughes*, c.1980

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