

*Artistic Visionary*

# RALPH GIBSON

An Exclusive NUDE Exhibit

Ralph Gibson. Iconoclast. Renegade. Visionary. We could go on, but really, what's the point? Chances are you already know Gibson's work. You know that this is one photographer that doesn't follow; he leads. He's an original, the real deal. This is why we asked Ralph to share some of his favorite nudes. What you see on the following pages are from Gibson's just-published book, 'Nude' (no relation) from TASCHEN Books. 'Nude' is an extremely limited and meticulously crafted collection of more than 400 of Gibson's finest nudes. All the art in this exhibit has been provided exclusively to us by TASCHEN Books.

Various museums and exhibits world-wide display Gibson's photography, including such esteemed venues as the George Eastman House to the Whitney Museum. Gibson is one of the most collected photographers in modern times, with his work being seen by many as a solid investment.

Ralph Gibson has been photographing nudes since the beginning of his career and continues to do so today. His love of the female form is something he has spoken about frequently. He explains that the female body is "absolute and perfect," and through his wonderful photographs, that Gibson successfully captures this perfection time and time again.

Gibson injects his work with energy. His images contain his unique visual signature, exuding a certain vibe viewers instantly recognize. His signature is especially pervasive in his nudes.

Now, a full decade after his first TASCHEN book, 'Deux ex Machina', he released 'Nude' in June of this year.



We at Nude recently talked to Ralph Gibson to discover his perspective on his exulted career in the art industry. Here's what he had to say.

**Gibson on culture:**

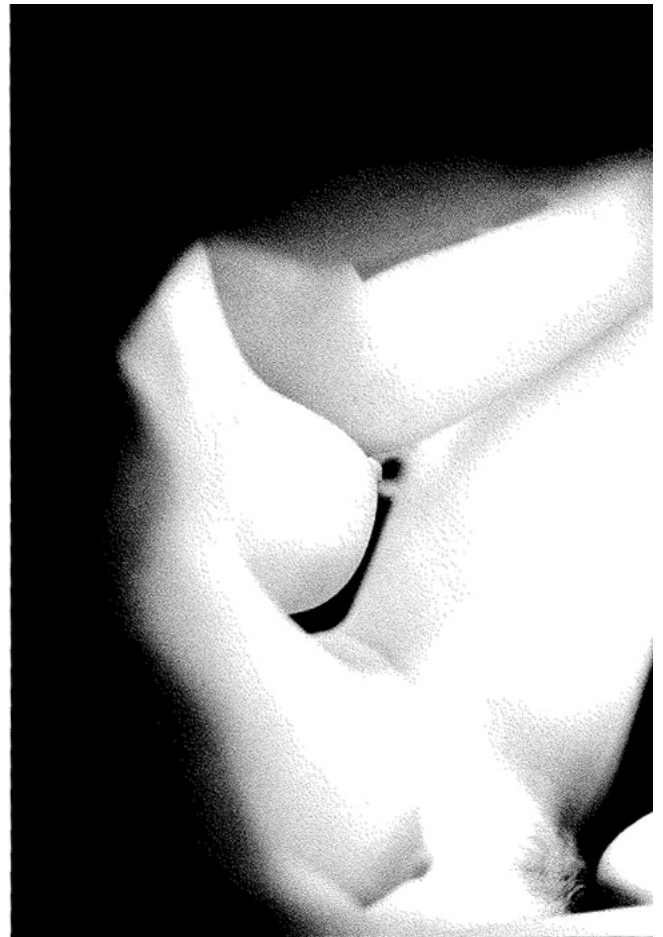
"I want to be my own source of my own culture, I don't want it to be something that comes from outside, I want it to come from inside."

**Gibson on starting a career in art:**

"I came to New York in the late 60's and I started working out of the Magnum Offices briefly, I thought I wanted to be a photo journalist. But that wasn't meant for me. So, I started assisting Robert Frank with his film projects, and out of a feeling of discontent with my documentary work, I started doing a more personal style of imagery (as seen in the book *The Somnambulist*).

"I started serious photography at the age of 18 in the Navy. So, by the time *The Somnambulist*, *Déjà-Vu Lustrum*, and *Days at Sea* came out, I was thirty, and I had all the fundamentals under my belt. It was more of an aesthetic pursuit. Now, as it turned out these books brought recognition to me. In my early 30's, I was able to make a living without having to be a commercial photographer.

"I had a chip on my shoulders. If a guy on Madison Avenue wouldn't give me work I would hate him, and if he would give me work, I would hate him more. I just wasn't cut out to be a professional photographer. It is a mentality. I was great friends with Helmut Newton and some great professional photographers, but I am just of a different mind set."



**Gibson on inspiration:**

"This is how I work. I am active as a musician. I am getting ready to do a performance in Paris which will be linked to my book signing of the *ashen* book and an exhibit of the work. So the idea, in terms my personal creative requirements, is to integrate everything I do in my photography: my travel book writing, music performance... I want it all to be part of my own research and evolution. I obviously do things to keep myself inspired that long since ceased being an issue.

"If I lived the life of ten men, I couldn't do the things I want to do. I am always about a year behind. I have a lot of new work-the summers coming up and there is always something going on. In my early thirties I wanted to stay inspired, I still want to stay inspired. I am only as good as my last image."

**Gibson on audience:**

"It is something I am doing in my own eyes for myself. I am in it for myself. I long since stopped caring what other people think of my work. I want to see how far I could go in terms of my creative potential."