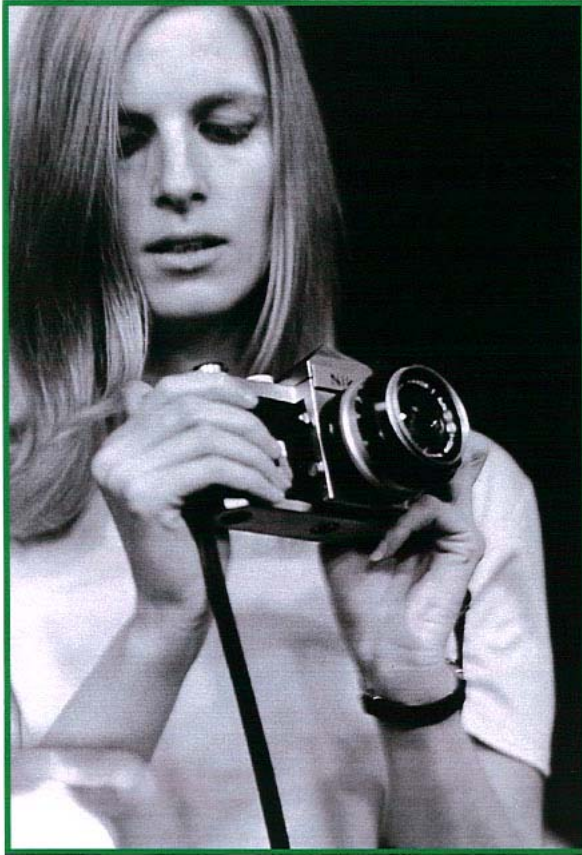


THE INSIDE STORY

SIR PAUL McCARTNEY PICTURE-PERFECT MEMORIES



Linda's photos evoke contented times for Sir Paul. "I could make any music I wanted. Linda could take any pictures she wanted and we could live how we wanted. We just made it up as we went along... I could talk about those days for ever," he says



She was a respected photographer with an archive of more than 200,000 pictures – and now the late Linda McCartney's talent has been celebrated in a new book, *Life in Photographs*, published by Taschen and lovingly compiled by her music legend husband, Sir Paul McCartney.

The former Beatle and his famous daughters, fashion designer Stella and Mary, also a photographer, have selected some of their favourite intimate images from their family album – which they have described as a "lasting testament" to Linda, who died from cancer in 1998, aged 56.

The photographs give a rare glimpse into the family life of one of the world's most famous men at the height of his fame, but away from the spotlight – at home, on holiday, and on the family farm in Scotland (below, with son James and daughter Stella in 1982).

Some shots are delightfully playful. In this image (above), the singer is seen on holiday in Jamaica in 1971. "I was just diving into the pool," he tells *The Times*. "Inevitably Linda would have her camera with her. Pull it out, take a snap..." A similarly spontaneous photo (above) is used as the cover of *Life in Photographs*.

Going through the family albums reminds the 68-year-old, he says, of "little



things" like "the way that she held her camera" – as in this self-portrait (top left).

"She had very graceful hands, long fingers, and there was a way that her fingers framed the camera that was so expert and elegant. She knew the moment to click, which I think was her big secret."

Linda became the first ever female photographer to have a photograph make the cover of *Rolling Stone* and had a career taking pictures of the world's biggest rock stars. Annie Leibovitz, who has co-authored the book, is full of praise. "Her pictures are proof of a life well lived," she says. "As a woman and as an artist, Linda's life became one with her photography."

Proud Sir Paul has the last word on the collection of photographs. "I think when you have a bit of distance from someone you have lost, you can just look at it with pleasure," he says. "Because they were great times. It is tinged with sadness because you lost that person, but the main feeling for me looking at these is joy."

● Linda McCartney: *Life in Photographs*, £44.99, is published by Taschen. A special collector's edition is also available, at £650, limited to 750 copies, numbered and signed by Sir Paul McCartney. For more details, visit taschen.com.

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