



US VOGUE, MONTE CARLO, 1998

Courtesy of Helmut Newton Estate

Instant gratification

New photo collection exposes Helmut Newton's prowess with Polaroids

By Maryam Math

The legendary photographer Helmut Newton was known for two things — shooting stern, mostly naked, heavily styled models; and making locations seem inhumanly glamorous. But he also used a humble Polaroid SX-70 camera, mostly for test shots. In the preface of the new collection, “Polaroids,” his widow June Newton writes that some of these were

used as “place cards for dinner parties.” This book culls work from five decades and shows both how well Newton understood the Polaroid’s particular kind of color as well as how carefully he arranged his shoots. Even through the filter of Polaroid, Newton’s tableaux are instantly, obviously his. ■

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