

PAN

AMSTERDAM

HUNGRY EYE GALLERY



Amy Arnold in Swimsuit, Los Angeles, 1970

61 x 76 cm
Archival Pigment Print
Edition 25

Albert Watson doesn't just take photographs; he constructs them. Over a career spanning more than five decades, the Scottish-born photographer has seamlessly blurred the lines between high fashion, celebrity portraiture, and fine art, creating a body of work defined by its sheer graphic power.

Born in Edinburgh and blind in one eye since birth, Watson's path to photography wasn't direct. He initially studied graphic design in Dundee before moving to London to study film and television. It was there that the camera took hold, combining his eye for design with a cinematic sense of storytelling.

His definitive breakthrough came in 1973. Tasked with shooting Alfred Hitchcock for Harper's Bazaar, Watson captured the legendary director holding a plucked goose by the neck—a brilliant, darkly humorous portrait that remains a milestone in modern photography. By 1976, Watson had won a Grammy for his album artwork, landed his first Vogue assignment, and relocated to New York, where his career truly skyrocketed.

Watson's output is staggering. He has shot more than 100 covers for Vogue and 40 for Rolling Stone, defining the visual landscape of pop culture alongside massive global ad campaigns and movie posters.

Yet, his commercial success tells only half the story. Watson's true passion lies in his personal, fine-art projects, published in acclaimed monographs like *Cyclops* (1994), *Maroc* (1998), and *Kaos* (2017). His lens shifts effortlessly from the vibrant chaos of Marrakech to the stark, rugged landscapes of his native Scotland, bound together by immaculate technical precision.

Photo District News named Watson one of the twenty most influential photographers of all time, placing him in the pantheon alongside legends like Richard Avedon and Irving Penn.

Today, his prints sit in the permanent collections of major museums worldwide. Based in New York, Watson's legendary drive and creative energy remain entirely undiminished.