



WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, AND WHY IN THE WORLD OF STYLE

W

KATE MOSS
SHE'S NO ANGEL

RAF SIMONS
FASHION'S MAN OF THE MOMENT

HAIR RAISING
THE RETURN OF THE ELEGANT UPDO



EXCLUSIVE
AT HOME WITH
L.A.'S NEW BILLIONAIRE
BOMBSHELL
BY DANA GOODYEAR

DIVINE
STYLE FOR
EVERYONE

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TRIBAL PATTERNS
GLAM SUITS
FLORAL PRINTS
SINFUL SHOES &
A RAINBOW OF GEMS

SPRING'S
FASHION BIBLE

Inside the Artist's Studio

"Today, the portrait is the celebrity interview, and the great portraitist may be Oprah," says Alex Israel, a Los Angeles-based artist whose "video portraits" of the famous go on view this month at New York's Reena Spaulings gallery (Reenaspaulings.com). In his second solo show, the 29-year-old—best known for installations made of items rented from Hollywood prop houses—offers his take on such disparate celebs as Rachel Zoe, Larry Flynt, and Vidal Sassoon.

"I'm attempting to achieve a portrait of each subject, a likeness in the most classical sense," Israel says. Securing his subjects through friends' connections, Israel interviews them on a talk-show set meant to reference TV chats and L.A.'s red carpet culture. But Israel pursues no follow-ups to the often wacky answers his seemingly banal questions elicit. ("Do you prefer a window seat or an aisle seat?" he deadpans to Christina Ricci.) To his question "What is your favorite cult film?" rocker Marilyn Manson replies: "The Jim Jones massacre. Was that filmed?" Only by going off message, Israel says, and departing from their carefully crafted personas, do celebs reveal something of their true selves. His 6-to-15-minute shorts will run at the gallery and then on Asitlays.com and Wmag.com. "Seeing someone in a different way," he says, "can be resonant and magical." **TED LOOS**

Below: Rachel Zoe and Alex Israel, "on set."



Wmag.com

BEGINNING THIS MONTH, GO TO WMAGAZINE.COM FOR A SELECTION OF "VIDEO PORTRAITS" CURATED BY ALEX ISRAEL, WITH EXCLUSIVE COMMENTARY FROM THE ARTIST.