

FANFAIR

The Best of Becker

BY BOB COLACELLO
PHOTOGRAPHER JONATHAN BECKER

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Unlike so many contemporary photographers, **Jonathan Becker** doesn't set out to expose or shock. His eye is drawn to the unsettling expression on a subject's face, the offbeat object in a perfect room, the subtle notes that reflect the strangeness of life, especially as it is lived at the top. Now the best of his work has been collected in a splendid compendium from Assouline to be published this month, *Jonathan Becker: 30 Years at Vanity Fair*. Becker's association with this magazine goes back to the revived title's 1982 prototype, to which he contributed a portrait of his mentor, the great French photographer Brassai. From Cornelia Guest about to land a big one on C.I.A. director William Casey at a 1984 inauguration bash to Conrad Black posing on his Palm Beach lawn with a statue of Poseidon behind him and his wife, Barbara Amiel, curled up at his feet, they are all here: the tycoons, politicians, movie stars, and artists who have shaped and dominated our world over the last three decades. The most compelling image: a young Senator Al Gore Jr. and his father, former senator Al Gore Sr., a hard-eyed buck with his sacrificial fawn.



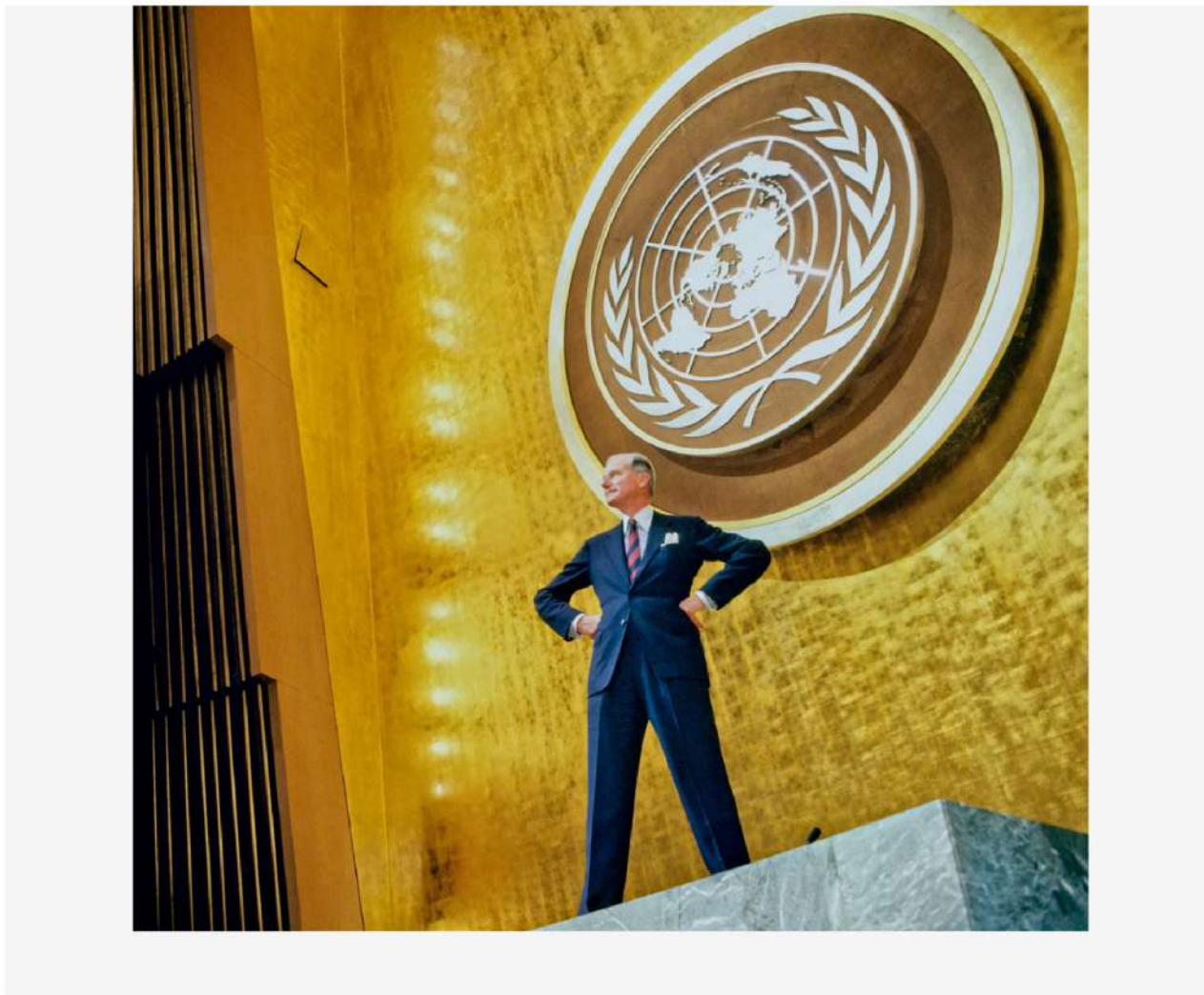
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Chevy Chase, Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi, and Lorne Michaels in the kitchen at Elaine's, New York City, January 1976.



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Elaine at Elaine's, May 2002.



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Ambassador Joseph Verner Reed Jr., undersecretary-general, at the General Assembly, United Nations, New York, January 1997.



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Gwyneth Paltrow with her Oscar at the *Vanity Fair* Oscar party, Morton's, West Hollywood, March 1999.



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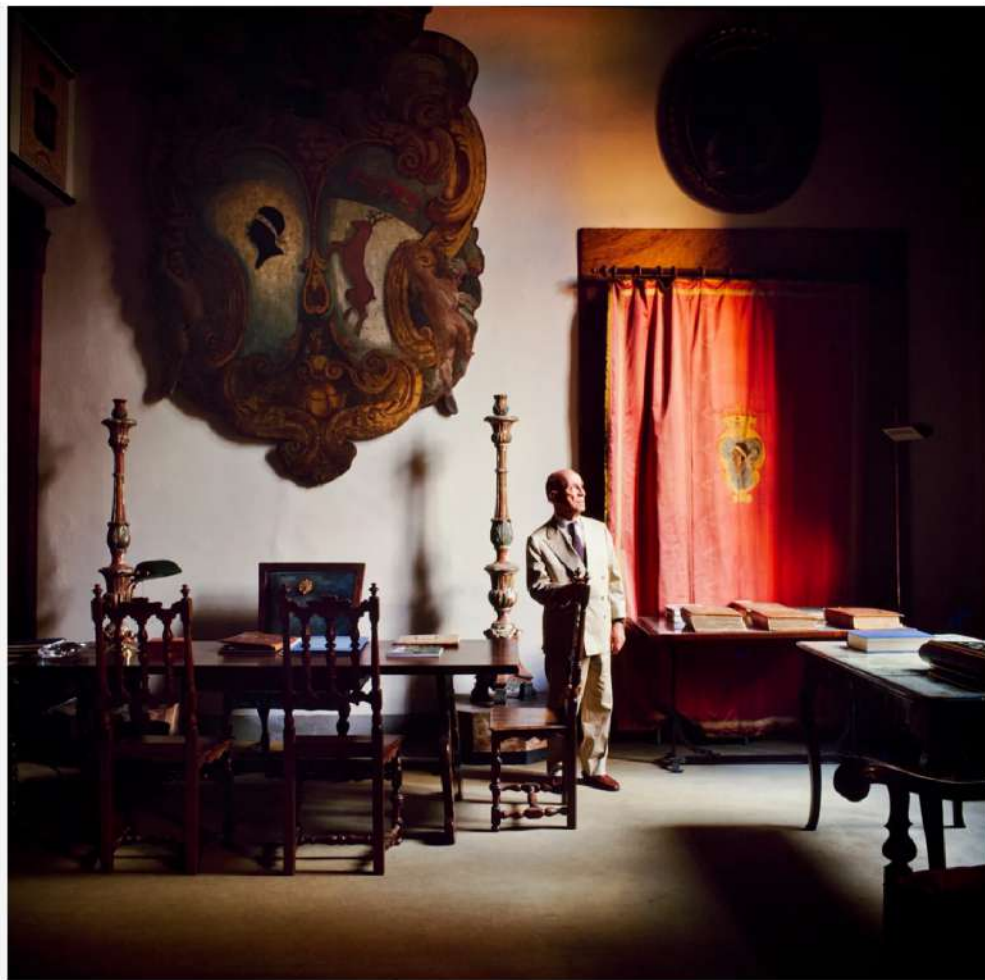
Villa Cetinale, Tuscany, Italy, May 2012.





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Mick Jagger and Charles Finch at the *Vanity Fair* Oscar party, Sunset Tower Hotel, West Hollywood, February 2009.





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Sergio Cappelli and Fiamma De Sanctis, Capri, Italy, September 2000.



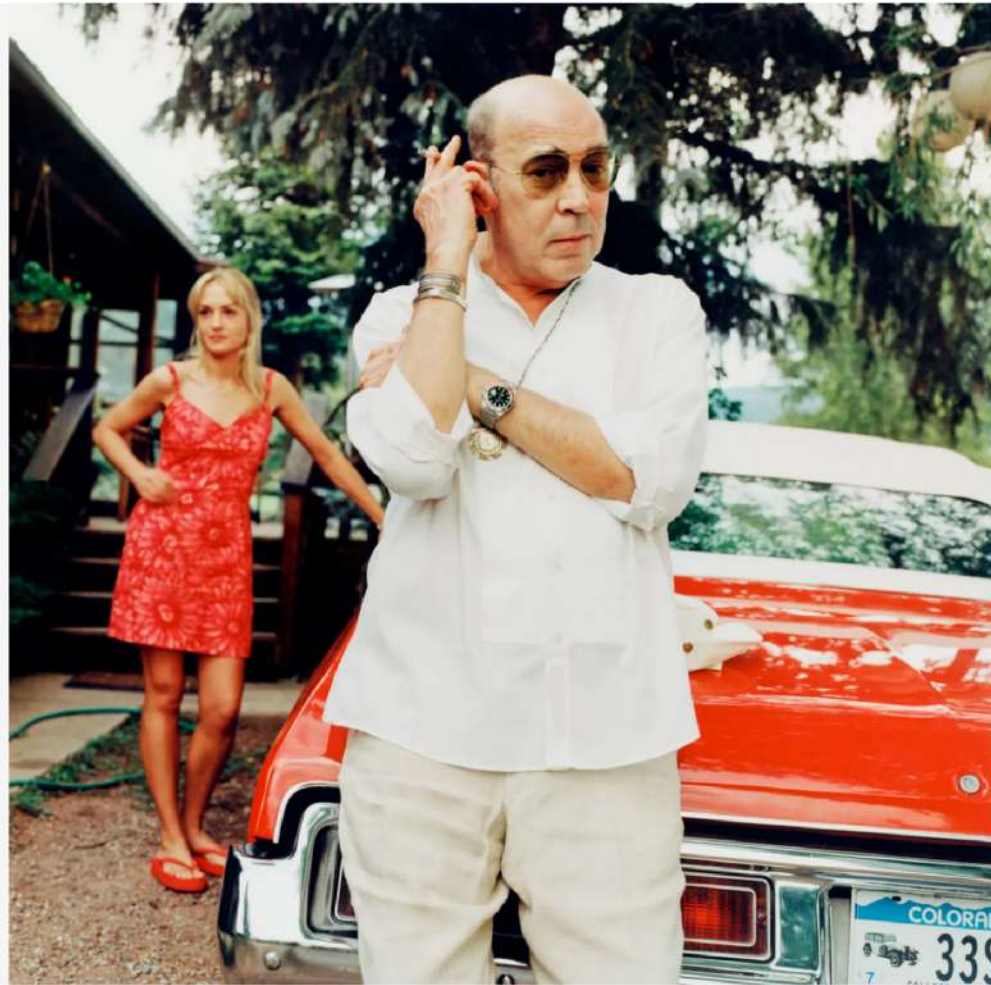
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Julian Schnabel in his studio, Montauk, New York, August 2001.



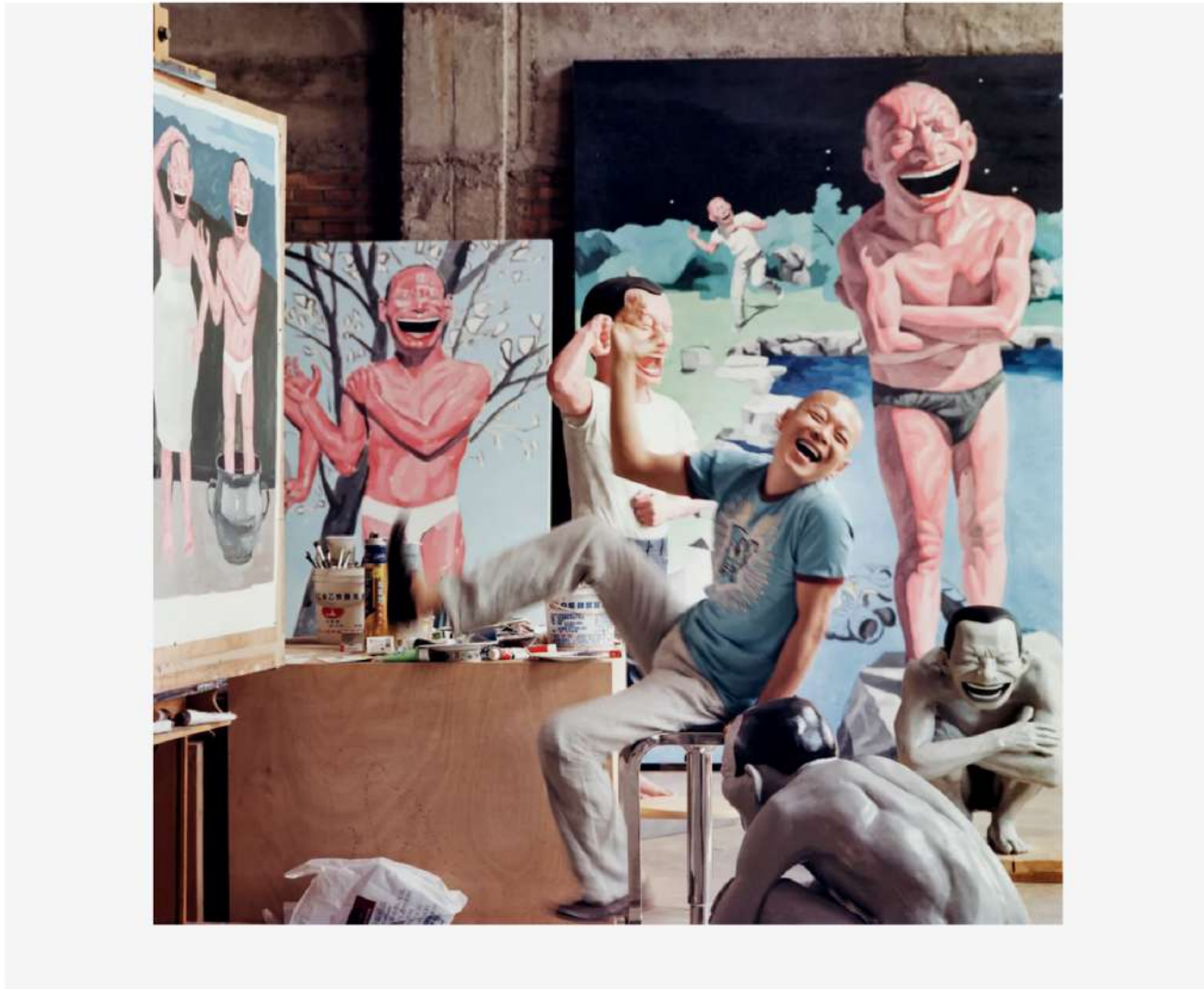
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Madonna, Martha Graham, and Calvin Klein after Graham's final onstage bow, City Center, New York City, October 1990.



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Hunter S. Thompson with Anita Bejmuk at home, Woody Creek, Colorado, July 2002.





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Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Bernard Malamud at the American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, May 1983.



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Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman at the *Vanity Fair* Oscar party, Morton's, West Hollywood, March 2000.



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Senator Al Gore Jr. and former senator Al Gore Sr. at the Gore homestead, in Tennessee, December 1987.