

Ann Ray

Visual Artist, Photographer, Filmmaker and Art Director

Paris based artist Ann Ray has been a global force in film and photography since 1997. A new species of humanist photographer her work contains a poetry lacking in our modern world. A poetry charged with timeless elegance or fierce irreverence.

Born Anne Deniau in Brest, France she graduated from the prestigious French école nationale des ponts et chaussées in Paris, but then chose to dedicate herself to film and photography; moving to Tokyo and then London to study for a Master's Degree in Photography at Central Saint Martins.

From 1995 to 1997 she worked for clients such as Cartier, Givenchy, Elle, Marie Claire and La Seine. In 1997 she started taking portraits for The Times, a collaboration that lasted for over 10 years. During this time she entered into an artistic collaboration with Alexander McQueen, a collaboration that resulted in the creation of a collection of 35,000 silver photos taken over 13 years. Between 1997 and 2010, Ray captured the frenetic activity of every show, the intense preparations for each spectacular performance, work in the studio and portraits of the designer in reflective and joyous moments.

Like McQueen, Ray has a passion for the handcrafted and unique. She is fascinated by nineteenth and early twentieth century processes and employs printing techniques such as bromoil and gum bichromate, even hand painting on lithographic prints with watercolours and oils; one of her first portraits of McQueen was a striking blue cyanotype. Ray shot approximately 35,000 photographs in total, all on film. Her fourth book *Love Looks Not With The Eyes* is a tribute to a collaboration that was based on 'joy, creativity, love and excitement', Ann Ray

Ray has worked with Opéra de Paris and the Metropolitan Opera for over a decade, producing portraits and programmes for them and many other prestigious theatres. She is currently working on an immersive exhibition focussed around her 13 year creative relationship with Alexander McQueen to be exhibited in Arles in 2018. Her fifth book, *Blind Faith/Les yeux fermés* is due to be published in 2017.

Her work has been acquired by private collectors and public collections include:

- 2015 V & A Museum, London, 13 artworks.
- 2015 Art Pradier, 5 works
- 2014 Art Pradier, 22 works
- 2012 Foundation Carmignac, Paris, artpiece, *Unfallen Angels*