VALÉRIE BELIN
(b. 1964, France)



Valérie Belin is a Paris-based photographer known for her portraits of women. In her pictures, several images are layered: comic-book graphics, fragments of paintings, advertisements, and flowers settle across the women's faces and the spaces around them. Her subject is the distance between who a woman is and how she is pictured.

Since the 1990s, Belin has made photographs that blur the line between the living and the manufactured. In *Mannequins* (2003), she photographed shop-window figures so closely that they can pass for real women. In *Black Eyed Susan* (2010–), named for the wildflower, she pairs women with blossoms in the long tradition of classic beauty, while questioning what that tradition asks of them. The pictures move between surface and inner life, between a woman as subject and as object, and between coming into bloom and remaining a wallflower. Later series layer her sitters with other worlds of imagery: American comic books in *All Star* (2016), the conventions of romance novels in *Modern Royals* (2020), and theater and mime in *Heroes* (2023).

In 2024, Belin turned to a more intimate scale, making smaller, black-and-white portraits with processes from photography's early history, including heliogravure and platinum-palladium printing. *New Marilyns* (2024) draws on vintage comic books, *Cover Girls* (2025) on fashion magazines, and *Girls After Dark* (2026) on the memento mori, with its skulls, chandeliers, and games of chance.

BIOGRAPHY

Born: Boulogne-Billancourt, France, 1964
Lives: Paris, France
Education: École Beaux-arts de Versailles (1985); École Nationale Supérieure d'Art de Bourges (1988); Université de Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne (1989)

SELECTED AWARDS & HONORS

2024 – Elected to the Académie des Beaux-Arts, France
2023 – Commandeur de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres, French Ministry of Culture
2017 – Officier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres, French Ministry of Culture
2015 – Prix Pictet

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 – *Valérie Belin*, Museu Picasso, Barcelona
2024 – *Silent Visions*, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Bordeaux
2024 – *Photo London Master of Photography*, Somerset House
2023 – *Heroes*, Edwynn Houk Gallery, New York
2019 – *Reflection*, Victoria and Albert Museum
2019 – *Painted Ladies*, Les Rencontres de la Photographie, Arles
2018 – *Painted Ladies*, Edwynn Houk Gallery, New York
2017 – *Meta-Clichés*, Shanghai Center of Photography; Chengdu Museum; Three Shadows Photography Art Centre
2017 – *All Star*, Edwynn Houk Gallery, New York
2015 – *Les images intranquilles*, Centre Pompidou
2015 – *Super Models*, Edwynn Houk Gallery, New York
2013 – *New Palimpsests*, Edwynn Houk Gallery, New York
2009 – *Made Up*, Peabody Essex Museum

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 – *Flowers: Flora in Contemporary Art & Culture*, Saatchi Gallery
2024 – *In the Now: Gender and Nation in Europe*, Brooklyn Museum
2023 – *Noir & Blanc: une esthétique de la photographie*, Bibliothèque nationale de France
2021 – *Origin Stories: Photography of Africa and its Diaspora*, Norton Museum of Art
2019 – *Unseen: 35 Years of Collecting Photographs*, J. Paul Getty Museum
2019 – *Looking Back: 10 Years of Pier 24 Photography*, Pier 24 Photography
2019 – *Civilization: The Way We Live Now*, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art; National Gallery of Victoria; National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea
2014 – *A World of Its Own: Photographic Practices in the Studio*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York
2012 – *Elles: Women Artists from the Centre Pompidou*, Seattle Art Museum

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Bibliothèque nationale de France
Brooklyn Museum
Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain
Fonds national d'art contemporain
International Center of Photography, New York
JPMorgan Chase Art Collection
J. Paul Getty Museum
Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Maison Européenne de la Photographie
Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris
Musée de l'Elysée
Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Pompidou
The Museum of Modern Art, New York
National Gallery of Australia
National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea
Norton Museum of Art
Peabody Essex Museum
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
UBS Art Collection
Victoria and Albert Museum