



Compass Rose

Literature and Art Journal

COMPASS ROSE interviews **Henry Horenstein**

Compass Rose: *How did you decide what to photograph for your next book?*

Henry Horenstein: I met some Burlesque performers and got chatting with them and one of them asked to have her picture taken while performing. I took her pictures and realized that I really liked photographing them so I kept doing it and expanded my subject to drag and performance in general.

CR: *Who has been the most influential artist in your work?*

Horenstein: A few documentary photographers--Vianargis, Wigi, Ray, Vanderelskin and Robert Franks to name a few.

CR: *If you weren't a photographer what would you be doing now?*

Horenstein: I would want to be a musician if I had any talent [*laughs*]. I think I would be a history teacher because I study German history.

CR: *What did you want to be when you were a child? Do you think that has influenced you in some way?*

Horenstein: I wanted to be a basketball player or a baseball player but I was short and couldn't hit the ball at all [*laughs*]. When I was a child I loved books and I want to make sure they are around for kids to enjoy now.

CR: *What is your overall goal as an artist?*

Horenstein: To be able to juggle everything and manage to continue working and doing everything else as I have been.

CR: *Have you ever photographed an aquatic being in its natural habitat?*

I've only taken one picture of marine life outside of an aquarium, and that was of carp that was in a stream in between exhibits at the aquarium. I don't really like to shoot wildlife; I try to make a beautiful photograph using wildlife as a subject.

CR: *If you could only photograph one specific subject for the rest of your career what would it be?*

I wouldn't want to shoot just one thing. After I shoot something once I'm done with it because I usually find out more about my subject than I like, and then I don't like it. On the

other hand, I would love to continue taking photos of the Burlesque carnival dancers.