Lillian Bassman

(1917-2012)







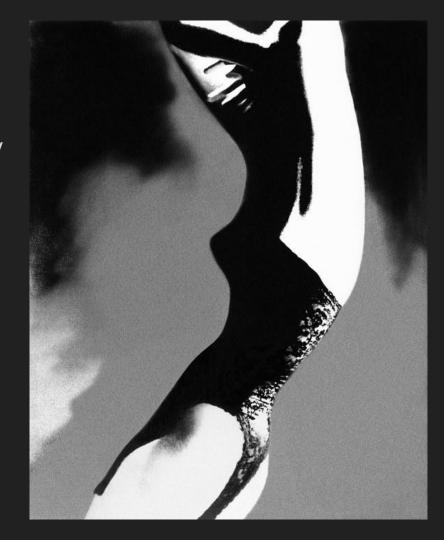
"Mistress of the Darkroom"



- Graphic designer, art director, painter, and photographer
- Best known for her photographic style
- One of the most influential fashion photographers in the 1900s
- Was working as a graphic designer in the 40s
 when her photography was discovered by
 Richard Avedon

Why She Was Famous

- Bold, moody, elegant fashion photography
- High-contrast black and white images of high-society women, models, and actresses
- Worked mostly within lingerie fashion
- Gave Harper's Bazaar the elegant reputation they are so well-known for today



Her Artistic Process

- Used bleaching, dodging and burning, and selective focus to make her images appear less life-like
- Would use tissue paper to diffuse the light and create softer effects
- Would blow smoke between the enlarger and the paper to diffuse the light as well
- Took out parts of the lens to create softness as well
- Aimed to "take the hardness out of photography"



Her Later Career



- She grew to dislike fashion photography and destroyed most of her film in 1971
- Continued to take photographs but only for her personal practice
- Later on, she revisited the few images she saved and reworked them in digital softwares
- Her work became regarded as high art rather than for commercial print









Works Cited

- http://www.staleywise.com/collection/bassman/bass_collection1.html
- http://www.artnet.com/artists/lillian-bassman/
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- http://www.peterfetterman.com/artists/lillian-bassman
- https://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/14/arts/design/lillian-bassman-fashion-and-fine-art-photographer-dies-at-94.html