



# Mick Rock - Rock-'n-Roll Kate

*In association with Raj Prem Fine Arts Photography*

**V!P's International Art Galleries Amsterdam:**

**From January 27 until March 4 at V!P's Amsterdam.**



## **Mick Rock on Kate Moss:**

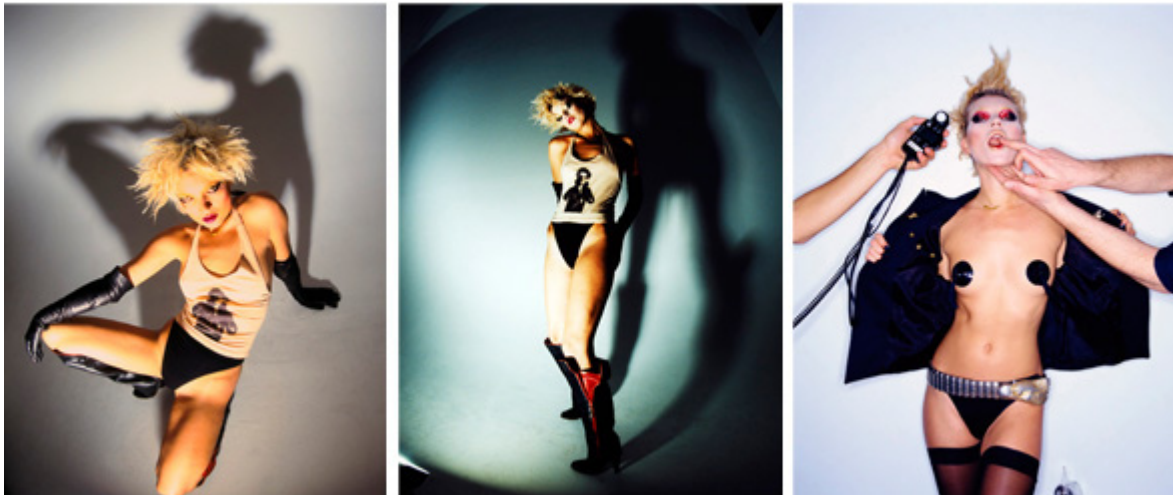
" I first met Kate Moss at a downtown Manhattan party a couple of months after 9/11. I was introduced to her by Marlon Richards (Keith's son) who was hanging out with Kate and Liv Tyler. I had met Marlon a couple of years previously through my longtime right-arm in New York, Liz Vap. Kate told me she was a big fan of my photos especially the classic Syd Barrett, Bowie, Iggy, Debbie Harry stuff. She clearly know her rock n roll! We talked about doing a shoot, very glam/punk, above all very edgy, like nothing she'd ever done before.

We made up a few basic one-off t-shirts with photos of mine of Iggy, Ziggy and Lou Reed to set the tone. I also brought along an eagle-head belt that Lou Reed had given to me in the 70s and which he had worn for his infamous 'Rock n Roll Animal' concert and album, and a little blue jacket with a bunch of hip military appliques that I had acquired through my girlfriend Pati in the early 80s, and which she had picked up at a thrift store. Agent Provocateur provided me with with some nipple tassels and

a corset. I gathered up some light chains and a ski mask and in the autumn of 2002 we were ready!

We set the session for noon at Milk Studios, my favorite New York studio, owned by my friends Rassi and Eras. Kate had had a long night and showed up with Marlon around 3pm. Rock n roll time! It was a long crazy session that went deep into the evening. I shot hundreds of photos of a variety of setups. I emphasised shadows and worked extensively with wide angle lenses to underscore the rawness of the images. I didn't want anything that evoked the vibe of Kate's typical fashion sessions. Nothing was really planned. It was all improvised out of the elements we had at hand. It was pure glam/punk in the classic sense. I encouraged the hair and makeup people to take chances, to not worry about producing a 'pretty' effect. To me Kate was beautiful enough that it could all be very extreme and her innate beauty would shine through. And the photos bear witness to that fact.

We also shot 8mm tape of the session which shows how much fun we both had. She said she'd never laughed so much during a session. She was a superb subject, totally open to all my suggestions and throwing in her own when she felt it appropriate.



When I first showed her the photos she was a little taken aback. She'd never seen herself in this way before. She thought her model agency might proclaim them too extreme for her 'commercial' appeal. Not that she cared. She recognised their 'classic' resonance.

My life was moving so fast at that point that the photos sat around unpublished until in 2003 I started to put one or two in exhibitions.

To me they were (and are) as full of the true spirit of rock n roll as anything I've ever done, After that some magazines wanted to publish them, and very sparingly I allowed a few to surface in the right context, because to me they truly belonged above all in the books and museums and galleries alongside her heroes Bowie, Iggy, Debbie etc.

Kate has remained a friend and has attended a number of high profile parties and openings centred around my work and I've taken many casual photos of her. She was the hostess for the New York launch in 2004 of my book 'Picture This: Debbie

Harry and Blondie' where I was finally able to introduce her to her idol, the Divine Ms Debbie! We've often talked of doing another fullon session, and I'm sure we will. But this session was so powerful and intense and produced so many evocative images that we both recognise we'd be hard pushed to match it!

So here she is.....Kate Moss, the Rock n Roll Icon that she has become, in her full Glam/Punk glory....."

Mick Rock  
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*Tuesday through Sunday 12.00-18.00 hour*