

Linda McCartney: Life in Photographs

By Annie Leibovitz, Martin Harrison

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The world through Linda's eyes: A retrospective of Linda McCartney's life and photography


In 1966, during a brief stint as a receptionist for *Town and Country* magazine, **Linda Eastman** snagged a press pass to a very exclusive promotional event for the **Rolling Stones** aboard a yacht on the Hudson River; her fresh, candid photographs of the band were far superior to the formal shots made by the band's official photographer, and she was instantly on the way to making a name for herself as a top rock 'n' roll photographer. In May 1968, with her portrait of **Eric Clapton**, she entered the record books as the first female photographer to have her work featured on the cover of *Rolling Stone*. During her tenure as the leading photographer of the late 1960s' musical scene, she captured many of rock's most important musicians on film, including **Aretha Franklin, Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin, Simon & Garfunkel, The Who, The Doors**, and the **Grateful Dead**. In 1967, Linda went to London to document the "Swinging Sixties," where she met Paul McCartney at the Bag 'O Nails club and subsequently photographed **The Beatles** during a launch event for the *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* album. Paul and Linda fell in love, and were married on March 12, 1969. For the next three decades, until her untimely death, she devoted herself to her family, vegetarianism, animal rights, and photography.

From her early rock 'n' roll portraits, through the final years of The Beatles, via touring with Wings to raising four children with Paul, Linda captured her whole world on film. Her shots range from spontaneous family pictures to studio sessions with **Stevie Wonder** and **Michael Jackson**, as well as artists **Willem de Kooning** and **Gilbert and George**. Always unassuming and fresh, her work displays a warmth and feeling for the precise moment that captures the essence of any subject. Whether photographing her children, celebrities, animals, or a fleeting moment of everyday life, she did so without pretension or artifice.

This retrospective volume—selected from her archive of over 200,000 images—is produced in close collaboration with Paul McCartney and their children. Included are forewords by Paul, Stella, and Mary McCartney. As such, it is a moving personal journal and a lasting testament to Linda's talent.

Standard edition

Text in English, French, and German

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Linda McCartney (née Eastman) was born in New York in 1941. She took a photo course with Hazel Archer and studied art history at the University of Arizona before settling in New York City, where she began her photo career shooting rock portraits. Outside of her photography, which has been exhibited in over 50 galleries worldwide including the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, the National Portrait Gallery, London, the Bonni Benrubi Gallery, New York, and the International Center of Photography, New York, Linda McCartney is known for her passionate animal rights activism and her staunch vegetarianism. She wrote cookbooks and founded her own brand of frozen vegetarian meals, all the while raising a family, continuing to take photographs, and participating as a Wings band member alongside Paul McCartney. She died in 1998 at the age of 56.

Annie Leibovitz has been a working photographer for 40 years. She was the chief photographer for Rolling Stone and then the first contributing photographer for the revived Vanity Fair. In addition to her editorial work at Vanity Fair, and later at Vogue, she has created several award-winning advertising campaigns. She has been designated a Living Legend by the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Martin Harrison is a historian of art and photography and an exhibition curator. He worked with Linda McCartney on *Roadworks* (1996), *Light from Within* (2001), and her exhibitions at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television in Bradford and the International Center of Photography in New York. He has published widely on photography and, most recently, on the paintings of Francis Bacon.

Alison Castle received a BA in philosophy from Columbia University and an MA in photography and film from New York University (NYU/International Center of Photography masters program). She is the editor of titles on photography, film, and design, including *Some Like it Hot*, *The Stanley Kubrick Archives*, *Linda McCartney: Life in Photographs*, and *Marc Newson: Works*.

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