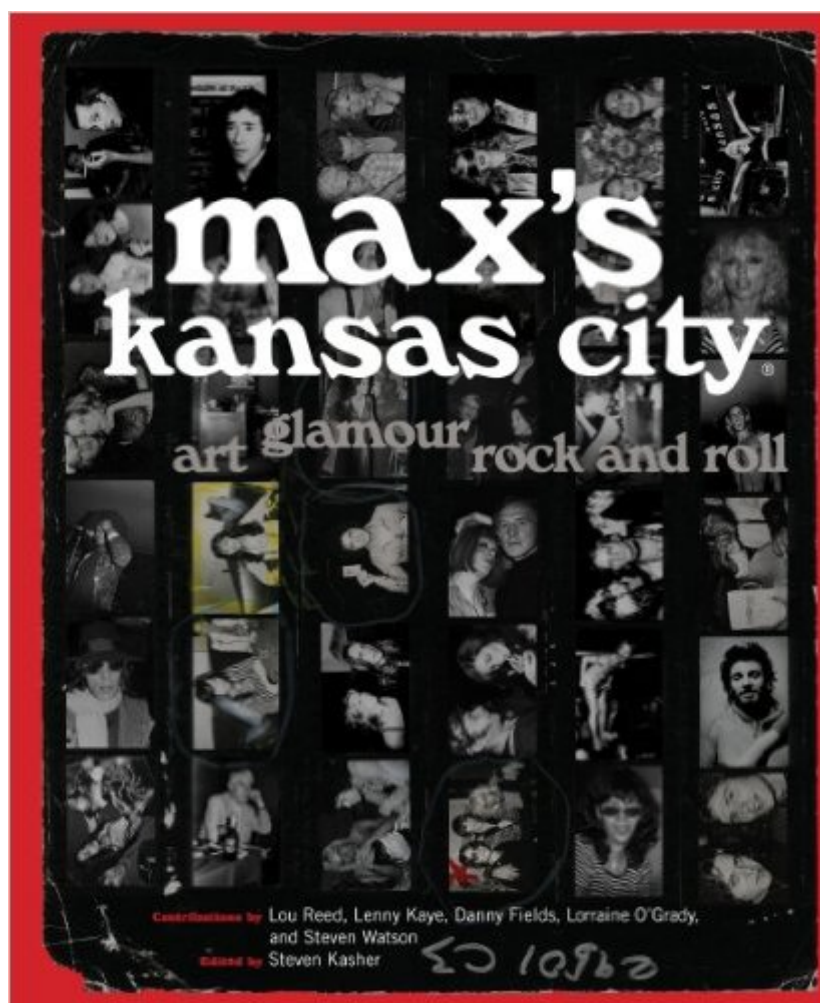


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Max's Kansas City: Art, Glamour, Rock And Roll



Synopsis

At no other time in history has there been a more exciting collision of art, music, and fashion than at Max's Kansas City from the 1960s to the early 80s. Max's was the place where you could stare at Andy Warhol, argue about art with Willem de Kooning or John Chamberlain, discuss literature with William S. Burroughs, and get a record deal just by showing up. If downstairs the artists were paying their tabs with original art, upstairs was home to the iconoclastic New York music scene, with performances by Max's house band, the Velvet Underground; the irreverent New York Dolls; and undiscovered musicians such as Bruce Springsteen, Bob Marley, Blondie, Iggy Pop, and Madonna. A luminous collection of photographs that captures the exuberance and decadence of the coolest club of all time, as well as essays by Lou Reed, Lenny Kaye, Danny Fields, and Steven Watson, Max's Kansas City is a stunning souvenir of one of New York City's most important cultural landmarks. Praise for Max's Kansas City: "a raucous photo book with reminiscences of the club" --The New York Times "a brilliant photographic tribute to New York City's hippest hangout, long regarded the crossroads of music and fashion" --Harper's Bazaar

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Customer Reviews

I am Roberta Bayley, and I am not featured in this book nor am I mentioned, which is absolutely 100% fine with me. Lee Black Childers is mentioned, as one of the four great Max's photographers, along with Anton Perich, Danny Fields and Brigid Berlin, and a photo of Lee appears. However, NONE of Lee's photographs are included in either the book or the show about it at Steven Kasher

Gallery. Lee is alive and well, and still an active photographer with many recent and upcoming shows. So why is he missing here? Absurd. Every one of the Cockettes (a very famous drag troupe from San Francisco with many documentaries and books about them extant) are identified only as "a Cockette" except for Pristine Condition. As if they didn't all have names! It's like showing a photo of Mick Jagger and John Lennon and captioning it "Mick Jagger and a Beatle". Dee Dee's Ramone's wife, Vera, who recently published her own memoirs, is "unidentified"!!! Couldn't anyone make phone call? (Actually I learned that someone from Abrams, the publisher, DID make a phone call, to Lenny Kaye, who told them the "blonde in the photo" was Vera, Dee Dee's wife.) Many quite famous people are "unidentified" in this book. Where oh where were the research people on this? Talking to "editor" Steven Kasher? The "unidentified" chimp at Max's was the World's Most Famous trained chimp, J. Fred Muggs! (Do you think Mickey would let just ANY chimp into Max's?) I also have to say I was appalled when the New York Times article about this book and show gave Steven Kasher credit for having "helped discover previously unknown pictures of Max's from insiders like music producer and writer Danny Fields." (BTW Danny Fields is not a music producer.

Had I not owned the book "High On Rebellion: Inside the Underground At Max's Kansas City" by Yvonne Sewall-Ruskin (former wife of Max's owner, Mickey Ruskin), I may have given this a higher rating. "Max's Kansas City: Art, Glamour, Rock and Roll" is glossier in packaging (although it has 12 years on "High On Rebellion", so that isn't surprising), in that, the pictures are bigger, there are more color pictures, etc., but that's about the only thing it can boast over the other. As a 24-year-old girl with a passion for rock n' roll, but who obviously wasn't around back in the early 70's when the back room at Max's was the hottest place to be, I learned of the famed nightclub mostly from collecting issues of Rock Scene magazine, a New York-based music mag that heavily featured bands like the New York Dolls and the Stooges, and they were always reporting about Max's. And although I am in no way an aficionado or expert on the era, I thought the research done for "Art, Glamour, Rock and Roll" was a bit "lazy" to say the least. As pointed out by photographer Roberta Bayley, several recognizable people are heinously labeled as "unidentified". There isn't much text in the book either, but as I was purchasing it for the photos, that part didn't really bother me (but if you're looking for an introduction to Max's, I wouldn't look to this as the answer). If you are buying this book as a complement to High On Rebellion, I would say go for it. Although some of the same photos are featured, there are plenty of different ones, although most aren't that rare, and I was a bit disappointed that there was but one photo of Cyndi Lauper (former wife of David Johansen and Steven Tyler, a Warhol darling, and a back room staple), and it was one I'd already seen many

times before.

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