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Patti Smith 1969-1976



Synopsis

"I was eager to be Judy's model and to have the opportunity to work with a true artist. I felt protected in the atmosphere we created together. We had an inner narrative, producing our own unspoken film, with or without a camera." —Patti Smith, from her afterword — Like a scene in Godard's *Vivre sa vie* or Dreyer's *La Passion de Jeanne d'Arc*, Patti Smith posed for the lens of a young photographer, Judy Linn. — It was 1969, some years before Patti Smith entered the arena of rock and roll. Smith was a struggling poet, harboring a romantic ideal of the collaborative possibilities between an artist and model— a dream happily fulfilled within this intimate and high-spirited body of work. — Linn's images of Smith range from the vulnerable to the iconic. Focusing on shifting influences and spotlighting her profound relationships with artists such as Robert Mapplethorpe and Sam Shepard, Linn has captured Smith like no one else, in the grainy atmosphere of a bygone New York. — Judy Linn's photographs document the blooming of an enduring friendship and the evolution of two unique artists: gritty and visionary, fragile and tough. Praise for Patti Smith 1969-1976: "a striking new book, Patti Smith: 1969-1976 (out March 1) . . . collects photographs of the coolly photogenic star taken by her talented friend Judy Linn during the same time Kids describes. They're wonderfully composed shots of Smith looking like the star of a Godard film of her own making. The pictures show her fully ready for a closeup that would cement her boho image just a few years later, on the iconic cover of her first album, *Horses*, shot, of course, by Mapplethorpe himself." —New York Daily News — "Here is Smith's acclaimed 2010 memoir, *Just Kids*, come to life—the shrines to Bob Dylan, the dress up—and the photos strike the same wistful note; as Smith writes in her afterword: 'once upon a time, we were young and beautiful and anyone we imagined we could be.'" —Publishers Weekly "Anticipating a new generation's excitement for Smith and Mapplethorpe, their friend Judy Linn has published a new book of her photographs, Patti Smith 1969-1976, that centers on the era covered in *Just Kids*, the time before Patti and Robert were famous. The book's a nice visual testament to their friendship, but it's also a bible of good clothing, an early record of one of the most stylish couples of all time." —The Fader.com "Linn's collection of photographs is the perfect complement to Smith's National Book Award-winning memoir, *Just Kids* . . . like Smith's memoir, the photos—uninterrupted by titles, captions, or any other text—serve two purposes: they tell the story of young artists finding their voice and style and serve as a love letter to '70s New York, four decades later." —Flavorwire.com

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Customer Reviews

Before Patti Smith became a rock star, she loved to pose as one for her friend, the photographer Judy Linn. These 100 grainy, gritty, black and white photographs of Smith working, playing, primping in the clutter of her apartment; surrounded by erstwhile lovers, the artist Robert Mapplethorpe and playwright Sam Shepard brim with bright light and the obvious affection between photographer and subject. Linn, a photography professor at Vassar College whose work is now collected in the Whitney Museum and elsewhere, recalls a summer spent poring over Alfred Stieglitz's work, including the portraits of his wife Georgia O'Keefe ("I thought I could memorize it and crack its grammar"). She describes learning from the "visual logic" and "illogical brilliance" of her own photos and it's easy to see why. The photographs vary in quality, but at their best take the nudes of Smith where a dark necktie and belt bisect and play against her long, pale body capture Mapplethorpe and Smith's youth and earnestness, their wildness and vulnerability. Here is Smith's acclaimed 2010 memoir, *Just Kids*, come to life the shrines to Bob Dylan, the dressup and the photos strike the same wistful note; as Smith writes in her afterword: "once upon a time, we were young and beautiful and anyone we imagined we could be." (Mar.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

Judy Linn is a photographer who is represented by Feature Inc., New York. Her work is in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Detroit Art Institute, and the Dallas Museum of Art. She teaches photography at Vassar College and lives in New York City.

Judy Linn's presentation of her early photographs of Patti Smith from 1969-1976, for me, was a window back in time. A magic ride with the White Rabbit to the early raw days when Patti was a struggling, very young, artist...posing to the lens of a trusted friend and fellow artist. Judy was honing her craft admittedly, but never-the-less, had an uncanny ability to get right to the heart & soul of the subject...a talent that you either have or you don't and Ms. Linn most definitely has it. Beside the sweet young images of Ms. Smith, Judy has captured wonderful images of a very young Robert Mapplethorpe, Sam Shepard, Howie Michels, Gerard Melanga, among others who were close to Ms. Smith. These incredible images put you right back into low rent New York City in the day when Patti Smith was making her bones. Some of Judy's iconic images will be recognizable to Patti fans, having appeared in other media, however, most of the presentation is a barrage of fresh, sensitive, sensual, provocative, in your face art. Frank Stefanko

Saw this book first at a friend's house. Was directly in love with the beautiful intimate pictures of Patti and Robert and some of their friends. These images illustrate the struggle of young artists in New York, the love and the joy they had. Funny to see that Patti and Robert shared fully random each others clothes and jewelry. Judy Lin portrayed everything in beautiful B/W images more as a member of the family, and not voyeuristic. A musthave for the collection of Patti Smith or Robert Mapplethorpe lovers (And i love both :-)) Beautifully printed and bound edition

As a documentary of the time, the depicted artist when very young and the photographer when very young this is a very nice book, it seems the pictures if judged outside of this framework have not yet reached the clear language and message the artist may develop at a later point, but I am happy to have it as part of my library on the topic.

Beautiful book of pictures of one of my heroines. Patti is a work of art, who makes art and has been the subject of art. What more could an artist hope for? I'm so glad I had the opportunity to meet her back in the late seventies.

Having been a fan for quite some time and having recently finished Just Kids, I bought this photo book because it had much better pictures than were included in her book. They really capture the mood and spirit of the time. If you're not interested in an art book, with little more than photos, then this book is not for you, but if you want to see Patti how she was back then, this is a great book.

Anyone with a love of Patti Smith should buy this book! Its a beautiful collection of photos and is well worth the price. She is amazing. This book is amazing.

Loved seeing the older b&w photos of Patti Smith and gang. Natural environment and no over styled studio shots.

This book is amazing ! Patti has allowed Judy Linn (her good friend) into her life so openly, it is almost uncomfortable! Patti , ever the model/pose person , does not shy away from showing her many sides. Beautifully shot , and very interesting time slice of New York in the 1970's.

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