

MARK SELIGER'S **401 PROJECTS** to present
photographer and beauty industry expert
MICHAEL ANGELO's "**THE LIPSTICK PORTRAITS**"
a photo exhibition featuring influential personalities in fashion, film, and philanthropy
to benefit **THE SOMALY MAM FOUNDATION**
on view May 8 through May 23, 2010, Tuesday through Sunday, 12 to 6 PM

"When they first arrive they don't feel like children. If they were in a brothel they had to have a lot of make-up on. When you take all of the make-up off they smile. They become children again."

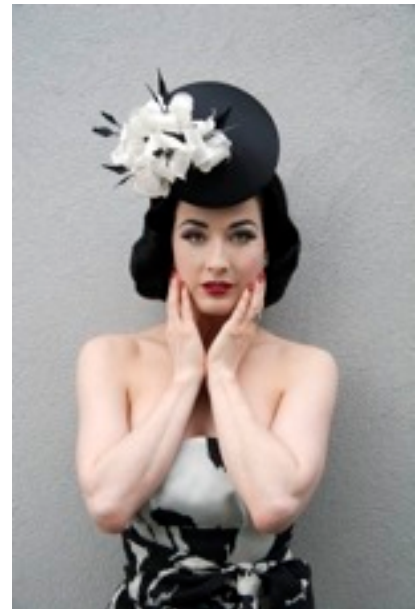
Somaly Mam

Overview



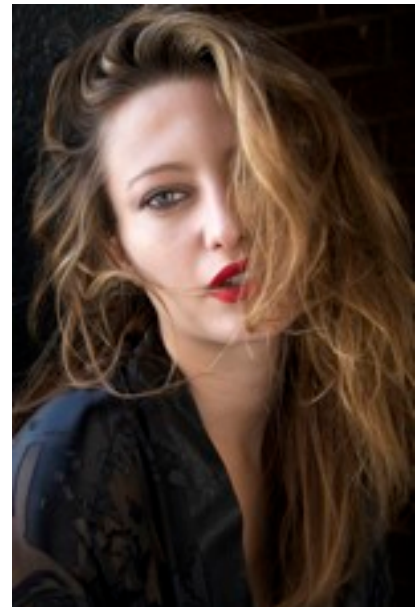
Lipstick—and the tools of beauty in general—have been used throughout history to enslave and to liberate.

Many are able to embrace the worlds of beauty and fashion without becoming enslaved by them—they use the tools of beauty to cultivate their individuality, to enhance their own style and spirit, to inspire, embolden, and uplift. For many others, however, the tools of beauty and the vicissitudes of fashion are daily shackles: they mindlessly follow trends and social norms, denying their own individuality and spirit.



At the extreme, the tools of beauty can be used as literal shackles. In countries like Cambodia, young girls are forced to wear red lipstick while being sold as slaves in brothels. The same red lipstick that offers a means of self-expression in one context can function as a marker of sexual slavery in another.

The Lipstick Portraits, by photographer and beauty industry leader Michael Angelo, is a provocative collection of portraits celebrating freedom. Using red lipstick as a unifying motif and a metaphor for freedom, Michael captures the individuality, beauty, and free spirit of 60 truly unique and inspiring women and men,



including Susan Sarandon, Alan Cumming, Daryl Hannah, Dita von Teese, and Simon Doonan. These people make an indelible mark on the world by finding their own paths and walking them boldly—by allowing their style to emanate from within, by using beauty and fashion to enrich the lives of others.

“After 20 years of collaborating with people in the realm of appearance, I have had a unique opportunity to explore the role of beauty in our culture and learn some deep truths about it,” says Michael. “I have worked with people who are considered to be amongst the most beautiful in the world and found them to be significantly less so, and I have worked with some exceptionally unusual looking characters who have awed me with the beauty of their substance.”

The Lipstick Portraits were inspired by Mariane Pearl’s description, in a *Glamour* “Global Diary,” of sex trafficking in Cambodia, where red lipstick can be understood as a symbol of a young woman’s enslavement; in **The Lipstick Portraits** red lipstick is a symbol for empowerment.

Proceeds will benefit the **Somaly Mam Foundation**, a non-profit organization working to abolish the trafficking of women and girls for sex work. Driven by world-renowned Cambodian activist Somaly Mam, the foundation raises awareness about global human enslavement while caring for and assisting those rescued. Through occupational training, health care education, and rehabilitation, the foundation frees those yoked to this industry, striving to provide them with a viable future and foothold in society. One of the vocations that serve the women rescued is the business of beauty. Hairdressing, make-up artistry, and skin and nail care all offer a haven from enslavement in brothels and a chance to define beauty—and freedom—for themselves.

In 2006, Somaly was named ***Glamour Magazine’s* Woman of the Year** and a **CNN Hero**, honored for her tireless commitment to aiding those in crisis. In 2009 Somaly was named by **Time Magazine** as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Michael Angelo is the founder of **Michael Angelo’s Wonderland Beauty Parlor** in New York City. Also a visual artist, Michael’s recent design endeavor, *The Fruit Cocktail Collection* of scratch-n-sniff wallpaper, which benefitted the Human Rights Campaign, was recently inducted into the permanent collection of the **Smithsonian’s Cooper- Hewitt National Design Museum**. In 2007, at the invitation of Madame Mu Sochua, Michael toured Cambodia, documenting the cultural and political landscape of the country. The subsequent photography exhibit, *Portrait of Cambodia*, debuted in New York in December of 2007.

Subjects include:

- **Susan Sarandon**, Academy Award-winning actress and social activist
- **Dita von Teese**, burlesque star, model, actress, and *MAC VIVA GLAM* spokeswoman
- **Daryl Hannah**, actress and environmentalist
- **Alan Cumming**, Tony Award-winning actor
- **Simon Doonan**, writer and Barneys’ Creative Director
- **Dan Zanes**, Grammy Award-winning family music man
- **Julia Murney**, as Elphaba, *Wicked’s* Witch of the West
- **Annie Morton**, model and organic perfumer
- **Noot Seear**, model and *Twilight: New Moon* vampire
- **Filippa Palmstierna Hamilton**, model
- **Brooklyn Decker**, model
- **Selita Ebanks**, model
- **Veronica Varekova**, model
- **Lydia Hearst**, model
- **Alexandra Richards**, DJ, model, and painter
- **Mickey Sumner**, actress and multimedia artist

- **Amanda Lepore**, transexual icon
- **Lady Bunny**, drag legend
- **Poppy King**, entrepreneur and founder of the Lipstick Queen cosmetic line
- **Jami Heidegger**, final family owner of Kiehl's Since 1851
- **Abigail Disney**, filmmaker and philanthropist
- **Helen Rockefeller Armide**, as Snow White
- **Elizabeth H. Gates**, fashion correspondant
- **Dina Dublon**, former CFO, JP Morgan Chase, board member of Microsoft, Accenture, and PepsiCo, as well the Global Fund for Women
- **Leymah Gbowee**, Liberian peace activist and executive director of the Women Peace and Security Network Africa
- **Mu Sochua**, Cambodian Parliamentarian and former Minister of Women's Affairs

100 % of the profits from the sale of exhibition prints, catalogue and tee shirt will benefit the Somaly Mam Foundation.

For more information please visit:
www.somaly.org www.401projects.com
www.wonderlandbeautyparlor.com web.mac.com/michael_angelo
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Michael Angelo

As the founder of Michael Angelo's Wonderland, Michael Angelo is one of the most talked about names in beauty today. Michael is in constant demand to shape the images of many of the world's top models for agencies such as Women, Marilyn, Ford, 1 Model Management, and Next. Carmen Kass, Anja Rubik, Devon Aioki, Agyness Deyn, Valentina, Lydia Hearst, Heather Marks, Angela Lindvall, and Helena Christensen are just a few of the women who have all been entrusted to his discerning eye and extraordinary talent. Michael has an expansive roster of devotees that - in addition to the supermodels - includes prominent social and business leaders, pop divas, and stars of the large and small screens. Michael's work has appeared on the covers and editorial spreads of nearly every major American and international fashion magazine, including *Vogue*, *Elle*, *V*, *Allure*, and *Numero*. Ad campaigns include Pantene, L'Oreal, and Revlon. Photographers Michael has worked with include Russell James, Markus Klinko & Indrani, and Mark Seliger.



Michael's press accolades have been continuous and far-reaching: In 2001, *Manhattan File* magazine recognized Michael as the creator of the "Best Highlights" in New York City. In 2005, Daily Candy declared Michael "white hot." In 2006, *T* the *New York Times* style magazine named Michael to its list of top 50 stylists nationwide who can make your hair a work of art! Michael Angelo was also cited as "the colorist of choice...for his magical highlights." In 2007, the JC Report featured Michael as one of its trendsetters for the year while *Elle UK* raved that time spent with Michael was "perfection." In 2008, Michael caught fire in Asia with Korea's *Anan* and Japan's *Bob*, *Madame Figaro*, and *Maquia* all featuring him as one of the best stylists in the world. In 2010 *Vogue Brazil* and *Tatler Russia* both featured Wonderland as a star destination in New York City.

This year, Michael was contracted by L'Oreal to take on the role of Atelier Director, for their Shu Uemura, Art of Hair brand.

Michael's artistic eye goes beyond hair: He can often be found behind the lens of a camera, indulging in his life-long passion for photography. This Mother's Day, Michael will present "The Lipstick Portraits," the proceeds of which will benefit The Somaly Mam Foundation. Subjects include actress Susan Sarandon, supermodel Veronica Verakova, tastemaker Simon Doonan, philanthropist Abigail Disney, and burlesque queen Dita von Teese.

Michael is also gaining international acclaim within the design world for his creation of Wonderland: His work to this end has been featured in books and magazines such as *Elle Décor* (Hong Kong); *Elle Decoration* (U.K.); *Spas* by Loft Publications (Italy); and:guide New York - architecture & design by Fusion Publishing (USA); and an eight-page profile in *Case da Abitare* (Italy). Michael's recent design project, a collection of the world's first scratch-n-sniff wallcoverings for Flavor Paper called "The Fruit Cocktail Collection", benefited the Human Rights Campaign and has been included in the permanent collection of the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum.