

PHOTOGRAPHER MERYL MEISLER



"For New York, the late 1970's was a terrible time, the moment when all the dark forces swirling in the city came together and pushed it to the brink. Yet at the edge of the crumbling city, a brilliant nightlife flowered, with clubs like Xenon and Les Mouches cropping up in offbeat, out-of-the-way spaces.

The most famous one of all was Studio 54"

"It opened in April 1977 in an old CBS theater on Manhattan's West Side. With its throbbing dance floor, infamous private rooms, and glitzy, over-the-top decor featuring theatrical lighting, a mirrored bar and the man in the moon touting cocaine from a spoon, it symbolized the excess of the era. "

-Catherine Kirkpatrick

TALE OF TWO CITIES: DISCO ERA BUSHWICK Meryl Meisler © 2014

Catherine Kirkpatrick – Introduction © 2014

image: The Dance Floor Studio 54, NY, NY, July 1979

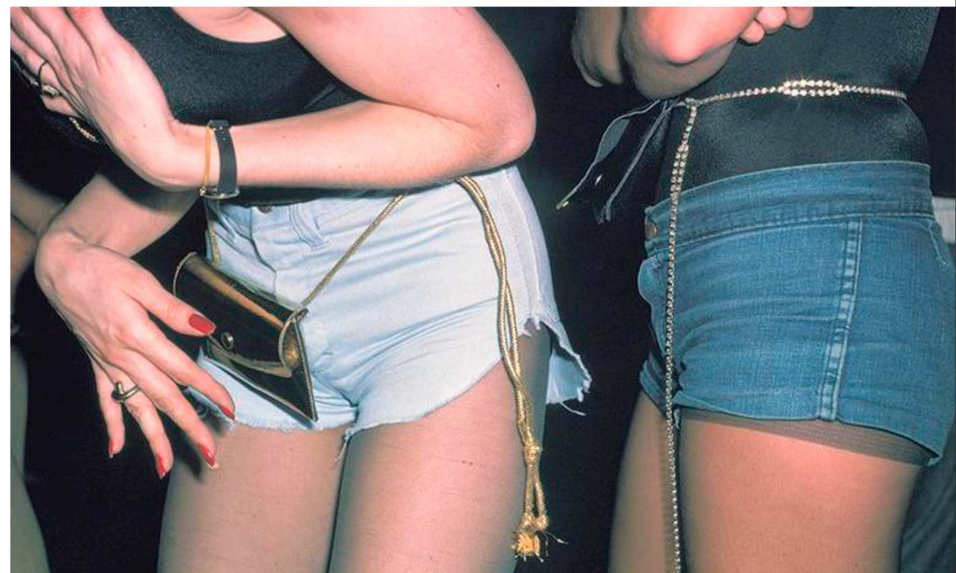


Meryl and Judi Jupiter at Black & White Party Les Mouches, NY, NY, April 1978

MERYL MEISLER



*Eyeglasses on Opening Night Xen
NY, NY, June 1978*



"Most photographers went for celebrities, trying to merge with the glittering scene, but Meisler hung back and showed things through a wider lens."

*Short Shorts, Tank Tops, Nylons,
Shiny Belts and Disco Purses
Infinity, NY, NY, February 1978*

TALE OF TWO CITIES: DISCO ERA BUSHWICK

"She took in the A-listers, but also the bit players whose stories and motivations we can only wonder at. Through wild dance moves she draws our eye to a different plane, catching offbeat dramas, which if smaller in scale, are no less compelling. Through her lens we sense a shift in values and witness the dawn of celebrity culture. We see the no-names struggling desperately hard for their fifteen minutes of fame. By standing back she gives us the full flavor of the scene, the moment when the spotlight dims and the ghost lamp kicks on, when the emptiness and desperation shine through, and the glittering stage becomes a threadbare set. **By simply recording and not imposing, she holds a mirror up to the anxieties and aspirations of the age."**

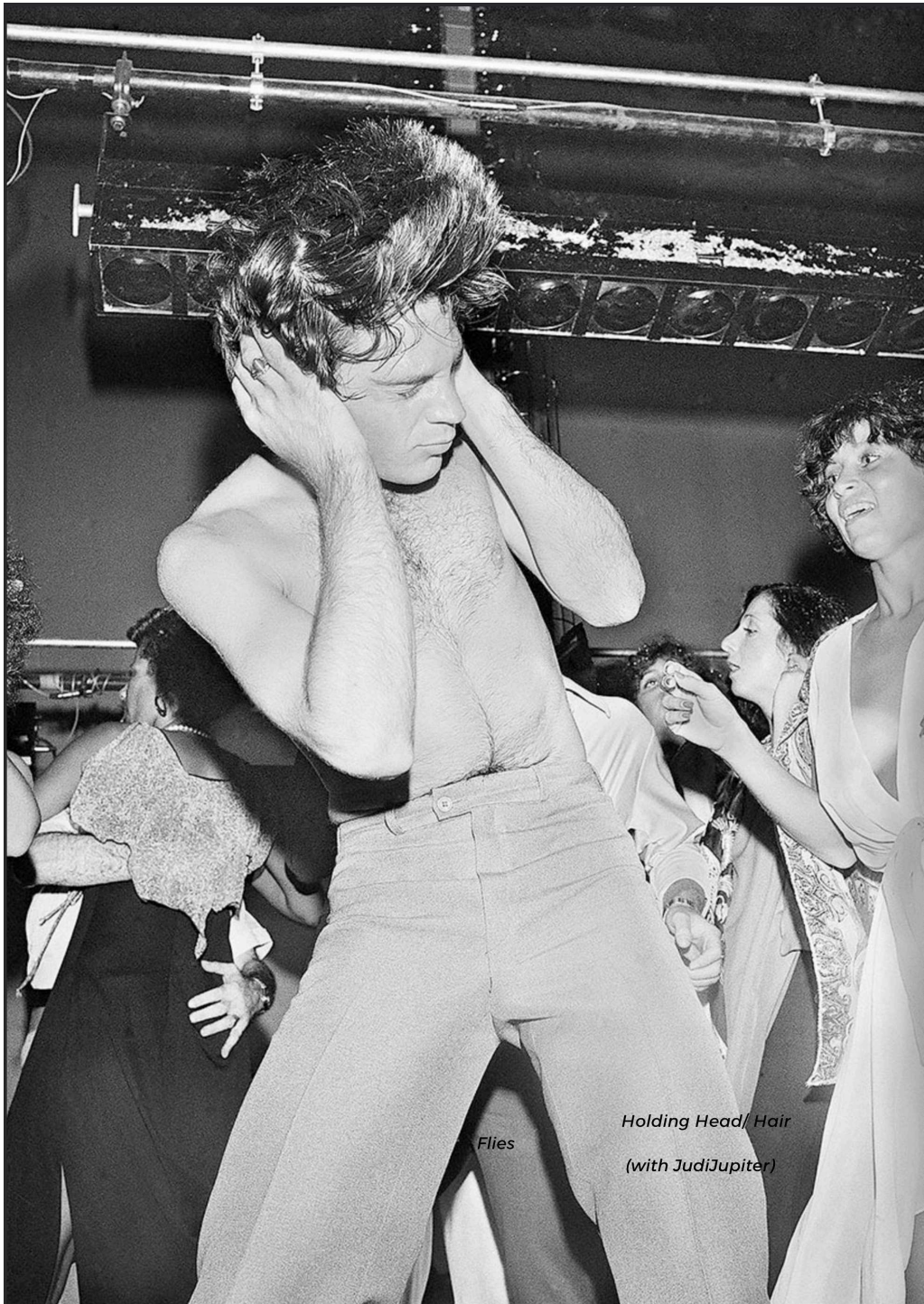
Catherine Kirkpatrick - Introduction TALE OF TWO CITIES © 2014



*Dance Trio (with Judi Jupiter)
Studio 54, NY, NY, July 1977*

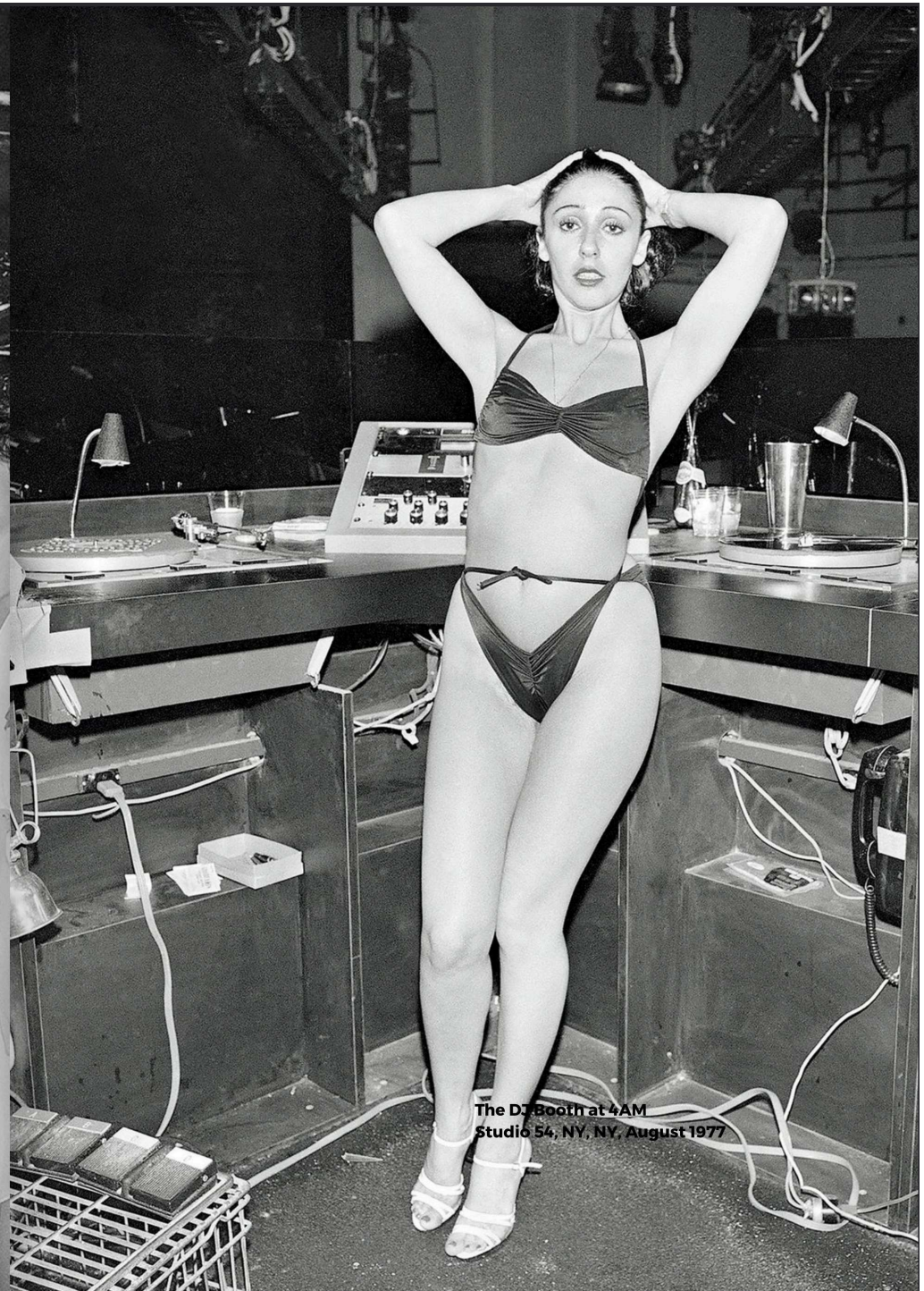


**Steve Rubell and
Halston**
on Easter Monday
Hurrah, NY, NY, March 1978



Flies

Holding Head/ Hair
(with JudiJupiter)



The DJ Booth at 4AM
Studio 54, NY, NY, August 1977



*Man In The Moon
With an Animated Spoon
Studio 54, NY, NY
August 1977*



*White Outfit and Black Boots
Infinity, NY, NY, May 1978*

MERYL MEISLER

TALE OF TWO CITIES: DISCO ERA BUSHWICK

New York City in the late 1970's was a wild place and time, the site of my own roaring twenties. I was madly in love with the city and carried my medium format camera everywhere.

In 1977, I met JudiJupiter, an outrageous firecracker, and proposed a photo shoot for a magazine I freelanced for. She accepted, and we began photographing the volcanic club scene that was exploding all around us.

DECADENCE, DECAY AND DETERMINATION Meryl Meisler

When Studio 54 opened in April, there were always throngs waiting and wanting in. To stand out from the crowd, we'd design flamboyant costumes for Judith - a different one every night.

We'd sashay up and she'd call out to the doorman, "Marc! Marc!" Then, as if by magic, the red velvet rope would part the crowd, and in we'd go to dance and photograph the night away.

Every week a new disco popped up, and we'd hit the hottest ones, especially on opening night



*Open Mouthed (JudiJupiter),
Andy Warhol and His Friend Studio 54,
NY, NY, July 1979*

photographer MERYL MEISLER



Peter Beard Smoking
Hurrah, NY, NY, March 1979

TALE OF TWO CITIES: DISCO ERA BUSHWICK is currently **sold out**
To purchase: PARADISE LOST BUSHWICK ERA DISCO
(USA and abroad) visit www.strandbooks.com

MERYL MEISLER is represented by CLAMP ART

Current Exhibitions:

Paradise Lost Bushwick Era Disco
at Center for Photography at Woodstock, NY through August 15, 2021
STUDIO 54: NIGHT MAGIC

Dormunder U - Dortmund, Germany, through October 17, 2021

SPLASH - Griffin Museum Satellite Gallery
at Lafayette City Center, through August 29th, 2021

For more information re: Meryl Meisler and her other works- view p.150
or the Fluid Culture Contact page.



Grace Jones Arrives on Opening Night
La Farfalle, NY, NY, June 1978