Self-Portrait, My Childhood Mirror, Woodstock, August 2023
Gelatin Silver Print

SIMPLY SCINTILLATING: A RETROSPECTIVE

Five Decades of Photographs by Meryl Meisler

CLAMP

September 14 – November 4, 2023
Opening Reception, Thurs., Sept. 14, 6 – 8 PM
247 West 29th St., Ground Floor, New York, NY

Ripped Stocking and Garter Dance Trio at GG's Barnum Room, NY, NY, December 1978
Gelatin Silver Print

JJ Holding Head as Hair Flies While Dancing with JudiJupiter, Studio 54, NY, NY, July 1977
Gelatin Silver Print

CLAMP is proud to present "Meryl Meisler | Simply Scintillating: A Retrospective"—the artist's second solo exhibition with CLAMP and the first retrospective of the artist's five-decade career as a photographer, which began in 1973.

The work in "Simply Scintillating" spans from Meisler's early pictures of suburban Long Island to the frenetic clubs of 1970s Manhattan, to slices of daily life in pre-gentrification Bushwick, to the present, where Meryl has found herself back in the nightlife world documenting the contemporary party landscape through a lens informed by decades spent watching New York and its inhabitants evolve.

Regardless of whether her subject is a stranger on the Bowery, Grace Jones at a club opening, or a child in Bushwick putting on roller skates, Meisler maintains a perspective and voice as a photographer who does not shy away from the absurd and joyful. As the artist puts it, she has a "queer, quirky eye."

Mixing pictures from different eras and contexts is not a new strategy for Meisler, who once had an epiphany below a disco ball in a dance club in Bushwick. In that moment, she realized that her pictures of glamorous nightclubs and humble streetcorners in Bushwick made sense together—telling a wider and more complex story of the city. The clubs are no longer just downtown; they are now out in the neighborhood where Meisler used to teach.

A public school teacher for 31 years, Meisler only revealed her vast photographic archive upon retiring in 2010. Then, the work emerged like a bat out of hell! This exhibition offers a peek into the archive, including vintage and contemporary prints surveying the artist's entire collection of images.

Feminine Floored Hurrah (Potassa de la Fayette), NY, NY, Hurrah, March 1978 #2
Gelatin Silver Print

Guys at Christopher Street Pier, NY, NY April 1978/2021 2/5
Gelatin Silver Print

Women Embrace on Floor Near JudiJupiter's Legs
Les Mouches, NY, NY, June 1978
Gelatin Silver Print

Mom Getting her hair Teased at Besame Beauty Salon North Massapequa, NY, June 1976
Gelatin Silver Print

Dallas Performs Near Mirrors
Gelatin Silver Print

Two Queens, One Blonde, One Brunette, COYOTE Hookers Masquerade Ball, CopaCabana, February 14, 1977
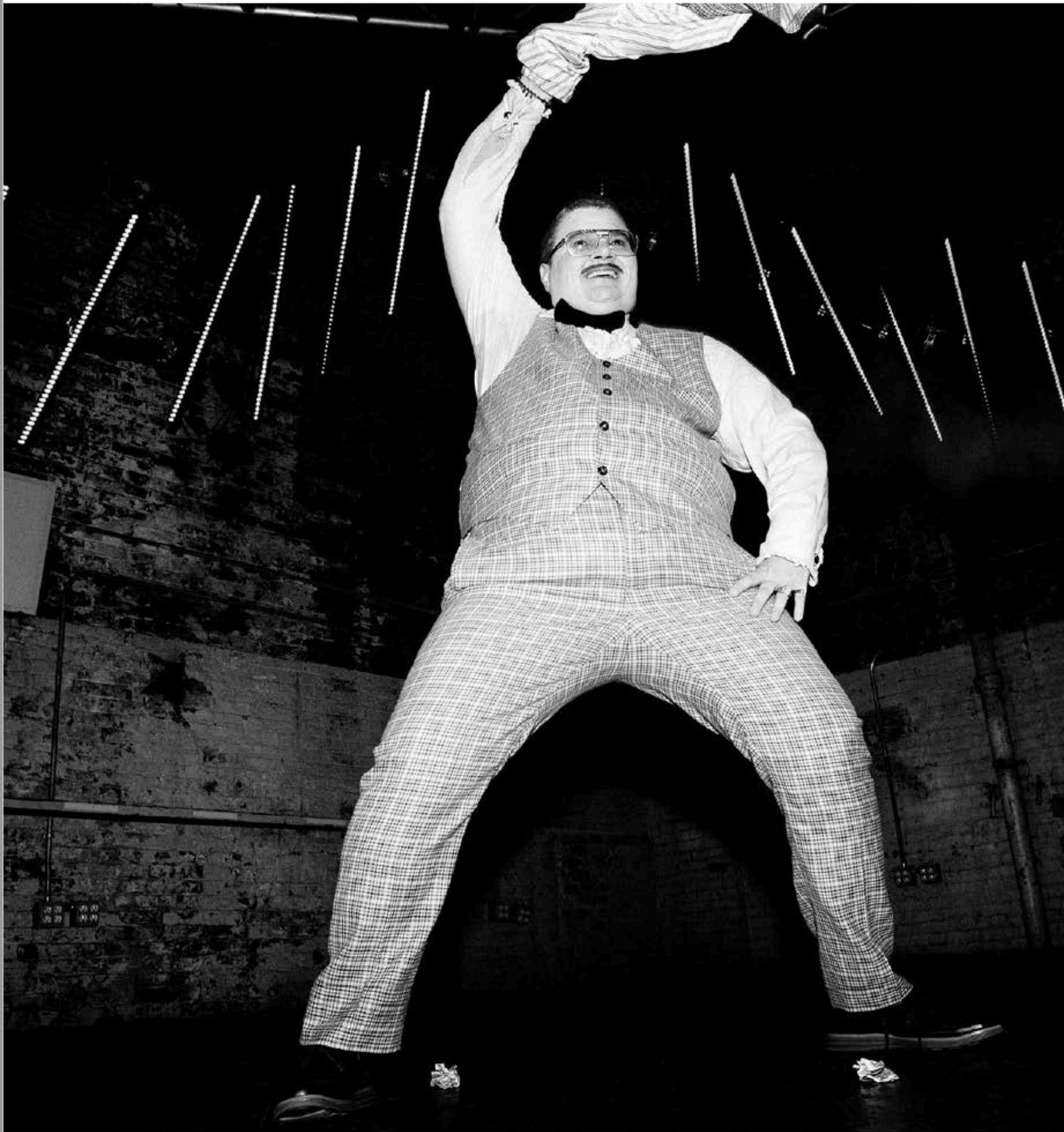Vintage Gelatin Silver Print

Jive Guy on Williamsburg Subway, March 1978
Gelatin Silver Print

Coli, Playmate Hostess, NY, NY, December 1978
Gelatin Silver Print

MC Murray Hill with Jacket Overhead, The Big Drag King Show, 3 Dollar Bill, Brooklyn, NY, June 2023
Gelatin Silver Print

Love in Bloom G-d Bless America Henry Street Settlement Good Companions Senior Center 1978
Gelatin Silver Print

Miss Malice, birthday femme, Switch n' Play, Littlefield, Brooklyn, NY, January 2023
Gelatin Silver Print

Feminine Floored Hurrah (Potassa de la Fayette), NY, NY, Hurrah, March 1978 #2
Gelatin Silver Print

My favorite Jewish Mother, Sylvia Frances Schulman Meisler reading on Thanksgiving Evening, 1978
Vintage Gelatin Silver Print

Self-Portrait, Playmate Hostess, NY, NY, December 1978
Gelatin Silver Print

Stacey Walking Down Playmate's Stairs with tips in her Stockings NY, NY, 1978
Gelatin Silver Print

The Village People Stepping Out of the Grand Ballroom New York, NY, June 1978
Gelatin Silver Print

Handshake, Bushwick, Brooklyn, NY, September 1982
archival pigment print 17 x 22 in

Gold Stars Arch (Dallas) Le Clique, NY, NY, June 1978
archival pigment print

Boy in Tire, Bushwick Brooklyn, 1984
Archival Pigment Print

Roller Skates, Bushwick, Brooklyn, NY, 1984
Archival Pigment Print

Boy in Tire, Bushwick Brooklyn, 1984
Archival Pigment Print

Roller Skates, Bushwick, Brooklyn, NY, 1984
Archival Pigment Print