

Alec Soth's Archived Blog

January 28, 2007

La Belle Vie

Filed under: [Cat](#), [editorial photo](#), [Paris](#), [MN](#), [portraiture](#) — alecsothblog @ 4:26 pm

Some of you are getting very close to solving my [celebrity photographer quiz](#). Meanwhile, I'm busy photographing celebrities. Longtime readers of this blog will appreciate this snapshot:



Photographing [Cat Power](#), Paris

44 Comments

1. Finally!

Comment by [Shane Lavalette](#) — January 28, 2007 @ [5:04 pm](#)

2. I hope she likes your shoes.

Comment by [guybatey](#) — January 28, 2007 @ [5:17 pm](#)

3. Did she offer any hints about the presence of her, um, unmentionables?

Comment by [Andy Kochanowski](#) — January 28, 2007 @ [5:24 pm](#)

4. Oh the hotness!

Comment by [Jen Bekman](#) — January 28, 2007 @ [5:39 pm](#)

5. Looking pretty good there Alec, think you should join her band.

Congrats!

Comment by [Danny G](#) — January 28, 2007 @ [5:47 pm](#)

6. Dreams *do* come true!

Comment by [Armando](#) — January 28, 2007 @ [6:39 pm](#)

7. Alec,
Did you tell her about my guitar playing?!

Comment by [Brian Ulrich](#) — January 28, 2007 @ [8:06 pm](#)

8. This is amazing, Cat Power has become some kind of Art muse. Photographed by Richard Avadon in a disheveled state, she put William Eggleston in her video then Doug Aitkin put he in his MoMa installation currently projected at night on their building. And now your photographing her too. Congratulations on the gig I can't wait to see the results. Where is it going to be published?

Comment by [Harlan Erskine](#) — January 28, 2007 @ [8:34 pm](#)

9. Alec,

OH MY GOD!

Ryan

Comment by [Ryan](#) — January 28, 2007 @ [11:29 pm](#)

10. I just got back from Paris... Cat Power, who is that?

Comment by [Velibor Bozovic](#) — January 28, 2007 @ [11:50 pm](#)

11. CAT POWER is CHAN MARSHALL.

Comment by [robert](#) — January 29, 2007 @ [12:50 am](#)

12. This is too sharp to look at.

Comment by Shen — January 29, 2007 @ [1:11 am](#)

13. Sir, real.
Great Environment.
Jealous over here.

Comment by Chad — January 29, 2007 @ [1:51 am](#)

14. What's in those plastic bags?

Comment by Sherman — January 29, 2007 @ [4:43 am](#)

15. I can "feel" the energy between you two! Must be the alchemy of photography or something like that. Cheers, and congrats on meeting one of your muses. Hope you tried a few more intimate settings, too....

Comment by [Jim Casper](#) — January 29, 2007 @ [6:31 am](#)

16. half started poems are in the plastic bag.

Comment by [John](#) — January 29, 2007 @ [7:44 am](#)

17. amazing! amazing!

Comment by [Owen](#) — January 29, 2007 @ [8:57 am](#)

18. So who took the photo of you taking the photo? Classical! Surely it's posed.

Comment by [Joe Holmes](#) — January 29, 2007 @ [9:51 am](#)

19. Very nice glint on the wedding ring. Classic.

Comment by [William K.](#) — January 29, 2007 @ [10:44 am](#)

20. beauty!

you know Alec, this begs the question – who's the rock star?

this only underscores the fact that photography is the coolest thing on earth!

Comment by [ben](#) — January 29, 2007 @ [11:00 am](#)

21. Alec,
You've traveled about as far as is possible from when you used to shoot the local color in local the dive bars, as in this case:

<http://citypages.com/databank/24/1188/article11485.asp>.

Don't you miss those days sometimes?

Comment by [Lux Iconic](#) — January 29, 2007 @ [11:09 am](#)

22. Oops, maybe this link will work:

<http://citypages.com/databank/24/1188/article11485.asp>

Comment by [Lux Iconic](#) — January 29, 2007 @ [11:10 am](#)

23. that ebony, *cough*, i mean, that chan marshall is hot!

Comment by [aizan](#) — January 29, 2007 @ [11:23 am](#)

24. "Longtime readers of this blog will appreciate this snapshot"

ahahah, yes they will

Comment by [nelson d'aires](#) — January 29, 2007 @ [11:57 am](#)

25. that glass to the right contains equal parts water from the mississippi river and niagara falls flown in for the shoot on miss marshall's solid gold g5.

Comment by [bill](#) — January 29, 2007 @ [5:25 pm](#)

26. and by right, i mean left

Comment by [bill](#) — January 29, 2007 @ [5:28 pm](#)

27. Great! Plus, the shoes are perfect!

Comment by [Karolina](#) — January 29, 2007 @ [5:32 pm](#)

28. I've loved your work but now you are my hero. Please let us know where and when this will be publish.

BTW are you really working with no assistants and no lighting? Que macho!

Comment by [Carlos Loret de Mola](#) — January 29, 2007 @ [8:58 pm](#)

29. i've a bone to pick with cat power...she walked off stage two songs into a gig because she was pissed and had a hissy fit with the sound engineer! can you ask her for my \$30 dollars back?

is that you dressed in black alec?

Comment by [pj](#) — January 29, 2007 @ [10:19 pm](#)

30. good shot Phil, good shot Alec, nice cuffs Chan

Comment by [Mimsy](#) — January 30, 2007 @ [3:00 pm](#)

31. the cuffs are like mittens or pom poms maybe mickey mouse gloves.

Comment by [JOhn](#) — January 30, 2007 @ [10:52 pm](#)

32. I like the lady in the red trousers, her unequivocal SMS position.

Comment by [federico](#) — January 31, 2007 @ [11:55 am](#)

33. The whole shot is a masterpiece: Cat proving she most definitely has matching cuffs and collar; the nonchalantly texting cigarette lady; the mysterious trio posed Peter Greenaway-like in the background; and Alec head-butting his camera in joy. These will be written decoding the layers of meaning contained within.

Comment by [guybatey](#) — January 31, 2007 @ [12:34 pm](#)

34. i agree—this is a really interesting image and scenario in many different ways. maybe that will be the new thing. photos of photographers at work in cool places.

Comment by [bradford](#) — January 31, 2007 @ [4:44 pm](#)

35. reminds me of “Blow Up”, or is it Austin Powers?

Comment by [john k.](#) — January 31, 2007 @ [9:02 pm](#)

36. hi alec, did you ask chan to write her dream down on a piece of paper? if so, will you share? just curious..

Comment by [david](#) — February 1, 2007 @ [5:39 pm](#)

37. I see the Nautilus.....

Comment by [greta](#) — February 2, 2007 @ [12:00 am](#)

38. haha, I thought about Blow Up as well

Comment by [danotranto](#) — February 2, 2007 @ [12:18 am](#)

39. Are those the pearly gates in the background?

Comment by [J Ake](#) — February 9, 2007 @ [10:13 am](#)

40. Which Catpower video was William Eggleston in?

Comment by [Simon](#) — February 10, 2007 @ [8:46 pm](#)

41. this picture reminds me a painting of Gustave Courbet called “l’atelier de l’artiste”

Comment by [edouard](#) — February 11, 2007 @ [11:16 am](#)

42. Funny how it seems that the only 2 people interested in what’s going on are you and the person taking the photograph of you. Even CP seems to have her eyes closed...

Comment by [h.linton](#) — February 12, 2007 @ [3:58 am](#)

43. I fainted when I saw that you are using a ballhead with your view

camera...must..screw..that..Holga..tighter..on..Majestic

Comment by [RJ](#) — February 19, 2007 @ [4:20 pm](#)

44. [...] I can’t stand the idea of sitting for a formal portrait, all that sitting still is hell on my insecurities and anxieties. Every time someone’s shooting installation shots at the gallery I hide in the back room. Someone like Eliot might be good – he’s got the stealth snapping thing down. Even when he uses a flash (which he uses well and often) he manages to surprise people without

creating shots of people who look surprised. But all that flash and my pasty white skin and the Winter insulation. Oy. I'd love to corral Alec, but really who wouldn't? He's too busy sipping champagne and snapping Cat Power to be bothered with the likes of me, anyhow. [...]

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