

KIT MEDIA DECEMBER 2024

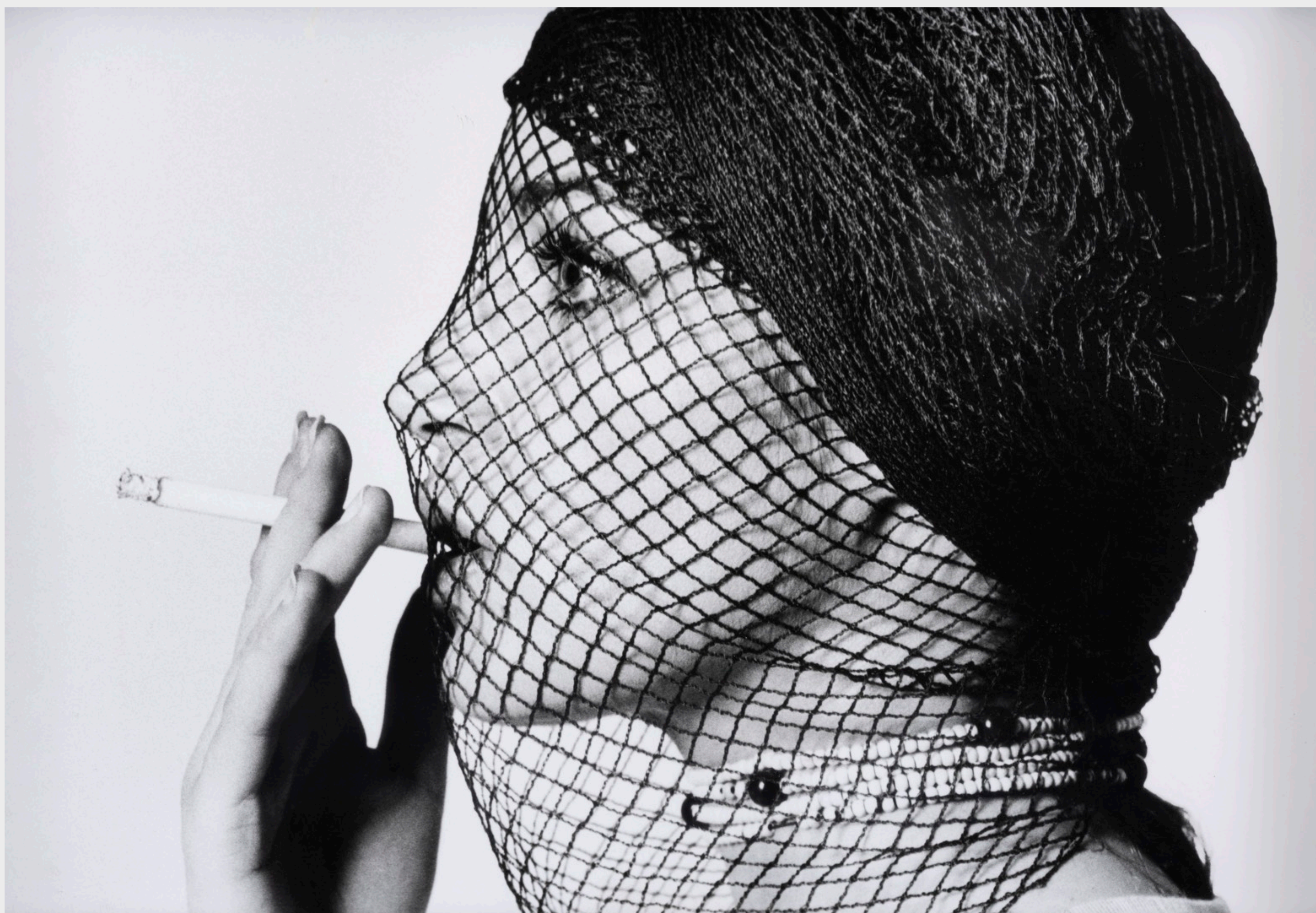
INAUGURAL EXHIBITION OF OANA IVAN GALLERY

PETER KNAPP

**COMPTE À REBOURS
2024 - 1960**

FROM JANUARY 17 TO APRIL 17, 2025
93 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, Paris 8

O.I
Oana Ivan Gallery



Françoise Fabian, 1967, Framed dimensions: 34 x 42 cm © Peter Knapp, Courtesy of the artist and Oana Ivan Gallery

For its inaugural exhibition, Oana Ivan Gallery is delighted to present an exceptional selection of photographs by the visionary artist Peter Knapp.



Loulou de la Falaise, Elle, for her own creation, 1967 © Peter Knapp, Courtesy of the artist and Oana Ivan Gallery

From January 17 to April 17, 2025, Oana Ivan Gallery opens its doors with an inaugural exhibition dedicated to Peter Knapp, one of the greatest visionaries of contemporary imagery. Featuring around thirty iconic and previously unseen works by Peter Knapp, *Compte à rebours, 2024–1960* offers a journey through time, tracing six decades of creativity, boldness, and innovation.

A master of the aesthetic revolution

Peter Knapp does not simply take photographs; he stages, reinvents, and transcends the boundaries between art and fashion. As Artistic Director of *Elle* magazine and a collaborator with some of the greatest designers – Yves Saint Laurent, André Courrèges, Thierry Mugler, and Issey Miyake – he transformed fashion photography into a visual manifesto, where each image becomes an experience. Rejecting the rigid codes of haute couture, he celebrates movement, spontaneity, and the unexpected, offering the women he photographs a new sense of freedom.

Women as the driving force of a visual imagination

Through Peter Knapp's lens, women become symbols of a modernity in full bloom. His gaze captures an energy, a vital breath, where femininity and freedom blend in an unconstrained visual choreography. With his striking black-and-white imagery and bold framing, he moves away from static poses to explore the glow of a yawn, the imbalance of a gesture, or the intensity of a glance. Each photograph invites the viewer to rediscover the body, clothing, and their relationship with the surrounding space as fields of experimentation.

A new creative era: Peter Knapp's collages

For his recent creations from 2024, four of which are featured in the exhibition, Peter Knapp explores a new collage technique. Drawing from his archives, he abandons traditional photographic paper in favor of canvas, where fashion photographs are interwoven with images of places that have inspired him, such as Salzburg, Ravenna, and Chartres. Bodies and landscapes are enriched with materials—fabric, marble, stone, or granite—that become essential elements of his compositions. Form and background merge, foreground and background blur, creating profoundly unique works.

Peter Knapp immerses us in a fictional universe where imagination reigns supreme. He invites us to transcend time alongside him, bridging the gap between the 1960s and today.

The art of capturing the moment

Peter Knapp captures more than a fleeting instant; he reveals the essence of movement and attitude. Every detail—a light grazing a silhouette, a gesture frozen in mid-air, or a shadow in motion—contributes to a composition that transcends fashion to become a work of art. This attention to visual rhythm, inspired by his passion for cinema and graphic arts, lends his images an intensity that surpasses their original function. The exhibition showcases this unique alchemy: photographs where the energy of the moment meets meticulous construction to craft an aesthetic that is timeless and radically modern.

A tribute to freedom and audacity

Through *Compte à rebours, 2024–1960*, the Oana Ivan Gallery celebrates an artist whose legacy continues to resonate in contemporary creation. The walls of 93 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré become the stage for a body of work that, from the cobblestone streets of Paris to Mediterranean shores, tells the story of women's emancipation and the liberation of the body.



Paris, Ungaro, Jakob Schläpfer, embroidery Stern, 1967
© Peter Knapp, Courtesy of the artist and Oana Ivan Gallery



Rita Scherrer, Dior haute couture, 1967
© Peter Knapp, Courtesy of the artist and Oana Ivan Gallery

ABOUT OANA IVAN GALLERY



Oana Ivan & Peter Knapp; Courtesy of Oana Ivan Gallery

At 93 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré in Paris, a space dedicated to art and its creators will open its doors on January 17, 2025: Oana Ivan Gallery.

At 93 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, a prestigious address in Paris, a unique space opens its doors on January 17, 2025: Oana Ivan Gallery. This venue invites you to engage in conversations and encounters centered on art in its many forms. A place to reinvent the codes, to showcase and discuss art differently, in an intimate and elegant setting that is both exacting and welcoming.

A cocoon in the heart of Paris for artists and creators, fashion connoisseurs, and curious enthusiasts alike, Oana Ivan Gallery distinguishes itself through its dedication to excellence and elegance, offering an emotional, sensory, and intellectual experience at the crossroads of art, refinement, and fashion.

An atypical space that honors both the past and present, it presents iconic works alongside rare and previously unseen pieces. It is a haven for relaxation and renewal, inviting visitors to be captivated by the warmth and interplay of light and art.

Constantly seeking to go further, the gallery showcases personalities and artists who have devoted their lives to their dreams. Their pioneering, distinctive, and sometimes revolutionary work redefines the very concept of art, transforming and enriching the world we live in. Through narratives crafted across exhibitions and events, Oana Ivan Gallery paints captivating portraits and reveals eloquent images, creating a collection of moments designed to bring audiences closer to the heart of emotion and discovery.

For its inaugural exhibition, from January 17 to April 17, 2025, Oana Ivan Gallery is delighted to present an exceptional selection of photographs by the visionary artist Peter Knapp. Featuring both iconic and never-before-seen works, the exhibition promises an enchanting experience in the heart of Paris.

"This gallery was born from the desire to offer our visitors a moment of inspiration and respite in their day. Join us for an escape, for the luxury of (re)discovering the inspiration to create your own fairy tale." - Oana Ivan

OANA IVAN HAPPINESS OR NOTHING



Portrait of Oana Ivan © Peter Knapp, Courtesy of the artist and Oana Ivan Gallery

Born in Romania under Ceausescu's totalitarian regime, **Oana Ivan** initially pursued a path far removed from the art world, studying law in Bucharest and beginning her early professional life as a lawyer. Her legal background gave no hint of her passion for the creative realm; yet her fascination with beauty and artistry infused her daily life.

It was in the glossy pages of magazines that she discovered and nurtured her love for international fashion, particularly French. From these ethereal visions of magazine models, she retained a lifelong devotion to elegance.

In the 2000s, Oana Ivan made a radical life change, leaving her country to explore a new world, seeking freedom, novelty, and artistic fulfillment. She first settled in Paris, where she instantly fell in love with the city. *"There, she promised herself she would one day open a gallery of her own, a space where she could create and shape her unique universe."*

She pursued further studies in Luxury Brand Management in Paris before moving to Monaco, where she earned an MBA at the International University. These years were marked by exploration, travel, and countless encounters. Eventually, she relocated between New York and Los Angeles, where she quickly immersed herself in the heart of the artistic and creative scene.

There, she encountered extraordinary artists and personalities such as Setsuko Nagawasa, Abdel Abdessemed, Alexandra Nechita, Aki Kuroda, Yoyo Maeght, Alexandre Allart, and Giampiero Bodino, sharpening her eye for both fashion and art. Her relentless pursuit of the perfect form led her to create *Frame/Book/Magazine* in 2014. More than a book, more than a magazine, it became an exceptional object, both for its editorial content and its design.

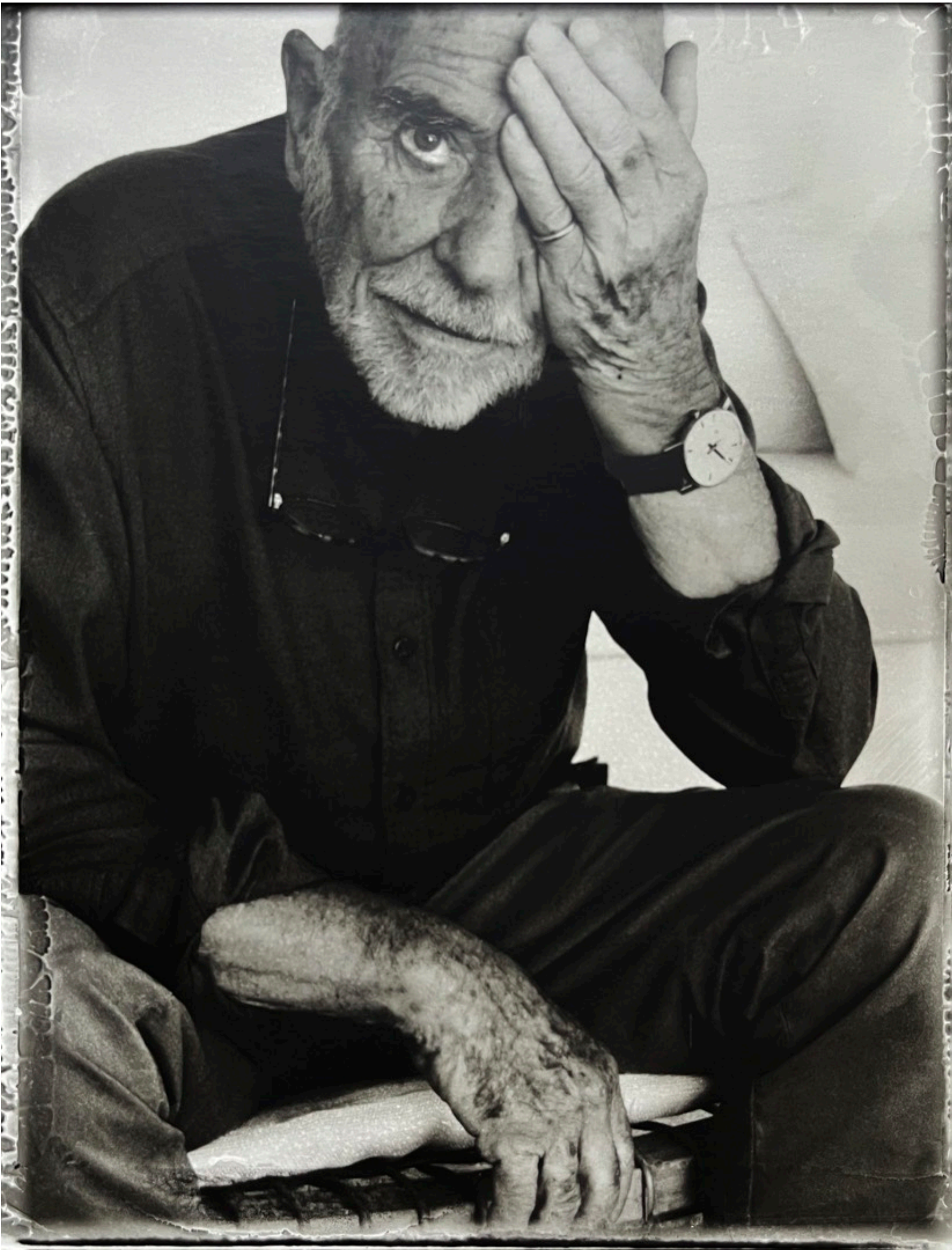
For Oana, books are as essential as the air we breathe; the pleasure of touching and reading on paper becomes a necessity. Many renowned figures, such as Gilles Bensimon, contributed to the success of these works. The content, rooted in elegance and an uncompromising search for excellence, reflected a deeply personal universe and always started from an intimate perspective. For Oana, no image is ever silent. Every work observed is a source of emotion and reflection.

In 2020, as the COVID pandemic brought the world to a standstill, Oana Ivan experienced a turning point: she decided it was time to open her own space in Paris to develop her visual, aesthetic, and artistic vision. She chose to be at the heart of the capital, securing the magical location of rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré.

PETER KNAPP BIOGRAPHY

Peter Knapp, born on **June 5, 1931** in Bäretswil, is a Swiss German photographer, graphic designer, painter, filmmaker, and videographer. His first photographs date back to **1945**. From **1947 to 1950**, he studied at the School of Applied Arts in Zurich. He initially pursued painting and joined the workshops of Monticelli and Otto Bachmann. In **1951**, he moved to Paris and studied at the École des Beaux-Arts, where he befriended César and Pierre Dmitrienko, friendships that would last a lifetime. He then worked as a graphic designer in Paul Marquet's studio, where he redesigned the logos for *La NRF* and *Gallimard*.

As Artistic Director for *Nouveau Fémina* and Galeries Lafayette, he collaborated with Jean Widmer, Pierre Pothier, and Slavik. In **1954**, Slavik joined the Publicis agency, and with Peter Knapp's help, they created the innovative decoration for the Drugstore on the Champs-Élysées. Peter Knapp caught the attention of Hélène Lazareff, who was overseeing the visual identity of *Nouveau Fémina*. Between **1955 and 1959**, he served as Artistic Director for Galeries Lafayette, where he led the design of posters and advertisements, working alongside Jean Widmer (graphic designer), Slavik (designer), and William Klein (photographer).



Portrait of Peter Knapp by Sarah Moon

From **1959 to 1966**, Peter Knapp served as the artistic director of *Elle* magazine, which he modernized by embracing the democratization of fashion and its new visual language. He built an international reputation for his fashion photography and layouts. Renowned photographers such as Robert Frank, Sarah Moon, Frank Horvat, and Jeanloup Sieff worked alongside him, and he played a pivotal role in launching Paolo Roversi's Parisian career in the early 1970s. He also collaborated with artists such as Jean-Michel Folon, Roland Topor, and Roman Cieslewicz...

In **1960**, he traveled to New York, where he met Robert Rauschenberg and Barnett Newman, who encouraged him to paint on a larger scale. Knapp also embarked on trips to Asia and produced reports from around the world. Between **1965 and 1968**, he directed and created the visuals for around 40 episodes of the television series *Dim, Dam, Dom*. From **1966**, he abandoned painting to focus on photography and diversified his activities, working as a theater set designer for plays by Max Frisch and Eugène Ionesco.

In **1967**, he collaborated with Oliviero Toscani to establish *Vogue* in Italy.

In **1969**, Peter Knapp was awarded the first Nikon International Prize. From **1974 to 1977**, he returned to lead *Elle* magazine, collaborating with Thierry Mugler and Claude Montana on surrealist-themed photo series. He also worked with numerous magazines and journals, including *Stern*, *Sunday Times*, *Vogue*, *Fortune*, *Histoire*, and *La Recherche*.

In **1981**, his interest in contemporary art led him to design the layout for a collection of books titled *Contemporains*, published by the Centre Pompidou. Peter Knapp maintained several studios in Paris over the years, including ones at Passage Choiseul, Studio Moulin-Rouge, and Rue de Bruxelles.

He frequently traveled between Paris and Switzerland, where he lived in Klosters. Alongside his artistic work, he was involved in education: he taught at ESAG (formerly the Académie Julian) from **1983 to 1994** and was a lecturer at Sciences Po.

In **1989**, he received the Best Art Book Award for *Lumières de Chartres*, illustrated with photographs by Eustachy Kossakowski, and again in **1991** for the book *Giacometti*, illustrated with his own photographs. In 2001, he created seven portraits of graphic designers for the International Graphic Alliance Congress at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

In **2003**, he directed *Ces appareils qui nous ont vus*, a series of three films on the history of photography for TV5, and in 2006, he made the documentary film *Van Gogh: The Last Days in Antwerp*.

Knapp's passion for contemporary art also led him, in **1981**, to oversee the layout of *Contemporains*, a book series published by the Centre Georges Pompidou. Throughout his career, he worked out of several Paris studios and maintained a home in Klosters, Switzerland, regularly traveling between the two.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Oana Ivan Gallery

93 rue du Fbg Saint-Honoré, Paris 8

Tuesday–Saturday: 11 AM–7 PM

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