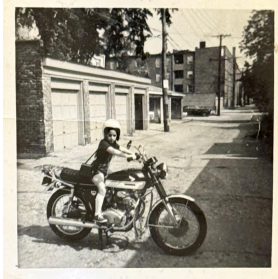


## JACQUELINE "JAX" MANHOFF: ARTIST STATEMENT



My father took this photograph of me when I was six.  
I am sitting on his Honda 350 motorcycle. I am very serious.  
I am facing forward with my square camera bag around my shoulder,  
inside is my Kodak Instamatic.

When I was young, my mother was a photographer.  
I begged her to take down the Diane Arbus book,  
the one with the twins on the cover.

In the seventh grade, I was chosen to take a special photography class. Our assignment was to take portraits of our families. I took the pictures with my father's Yashica Mat 2 ¼ camera. These are my earliest portraits.

As a young adult, I traveled to India to photograph. They say many Leica's are at the bottom of the Ganges River, the last possession before renunciation.

I have been a painter, abstract expressionist, beat poet, henna artist, cartoonist, drag king, and backup singer. But photography is my truest passion.  
I always write "passion/compassion" on the back of my camera. It's my lucky charm.  
While I am photographing, I drop away. I become only eyes.  
I am at peace, quietly witnessing the beauty and the horror of life.

Jacqueline "Jax" Manhoff was born to Russian Jewish parents in Queens, New York in 1962.

Her father was an interior designer. Her mother was a photographer.  
Her parents collected modern art in the 70s.

She attended Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York '84, and holds a BFA in photography and painting.

Her photographic work spans more than four decades.

Her bodies of work include: New York street photography, images taken in India and Nepal, "The Queer Photo Project", and "The Madrid Photo Project".

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