

*Who are some of your biggest creative influences?*

**Cindy Hulej:** There's just so many! In no particular order, whatsoever; Rowland S. Howard, Blixa Bargeld, Hans Bellmer, D.A.F (Deutsche Amerikanische Freundschaft), Francesca Woodman, Saul Leiter, Zdzislaw Beksinski, and my friend Jimmy Webb. Others include Nick Blinko, Sylvia Plath, J.G. Ballard, Robin Isley, Virgil Finlay, Gustave Doré, and Man Ray. I like Joseph Cornell, Jean Carpeaux Baptiste, Christine McConnell, Adam Wallacavage, Merry Alpern, Diana Slip, Dan Webb, Helmut Newton, Ellen Von Unwerth, Margaret Bourke White, Jim Jarmusch, Vivienne Westwood, Ann Demeulemeester, Wim Delvoye, Adrien Ghenie, Joshua Ellingson, Nam June Paik, and Anselm Kiefer, to name a few! Films such as *After Hours*, *Wings Of Desire*, and *The Third Man* are some of my favorites. A lot of the old masters, film noir, silent movies, *The Twilight Zone*, vintage fetish media, weird Victorian photos, old French lingerie visuals, space age retrofuturism, and Art Deco are some more things. Old machinery, trains, and New York City history too, of course.

*What are some of your favorite buildings in Manhattan?*

I'm just really into the older architecture for the most part, or anything really kind of 'out there'. Anything with stone since my grandfather was a stone setter and built a lot of buildings here in New York. I'm always looking up walking down the street here. The Woolworth Building is one of my favorites and I got to go in it on the 40th floor for an Edgar Allan Poe event some years back which was just so incredible. The Dakota, the Chrysler Building, and the American Radiator Building are some more of the well-known ones that I love. Anything Gothic, Victorian or Art Deco I'm just a sucker for. In terms of newer buildings, I think 520 West 28th Street is a favorite, along with 100 Eleventh Avenue. There's a new building in plan that I'm actually pretty excited about; it's a very sci-fi looking building going up downtown by a Turkish architecture firm named Hayri Atak. It looks very H.R. Giger or Alien-esque. It's mind-blowing to me how they'll even actually build that thing.

*If you had the ability to bring back any historical New York City buildings lost to demolition over the years, which ones would you choose?*

The first one off the top of my head would definitely be the old Penn Station. There's been a lot of things demolished. I'd say the houses of Jay Gould, Cornelius Vanderbilt II, Charles M. Schwab, William A. Clark, Jordon L. Mott, and Elbridge Gerry; the Western Union Telegraph Building, Lenox Library, the Kaskel and Kaskel Building, St. Paul Building, and the Jerome Mansion, as well as Ebbets Field and Shea Stadium. The Dodgers broke my grandfather's heart and I'm a big Mets fan. I do love Citi Field, though. For others, the Dewey Arch and Tontine Coffee House, not to mention all the theaters and other things that have gone as well. I think looking through history, those would've been really beautiful and interesting to have around still.