

# ROSE ATHENA

Samantha Henman



*His Daughter Abides*  
Rose Athena, 2011  
74 photographs

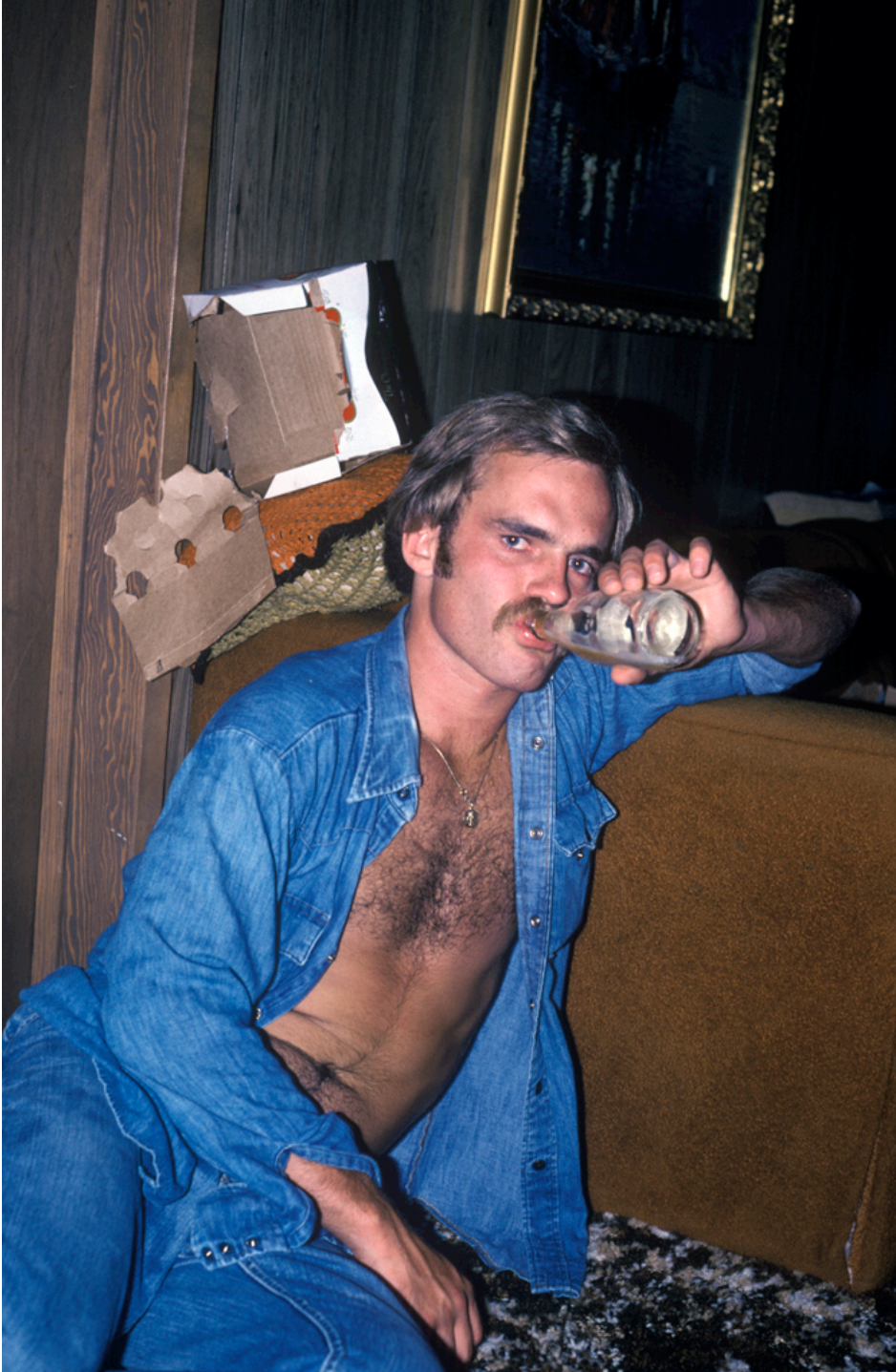


From *His Daughter Abides*  
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Photograph



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Born in Calgary, photographer Rose Athena has lived across the west coast, in Europe, and currently makes her home in Montreal, studying photography at Concordia University. She is primarily interested in forging connections with her subjects through photographs, and capturing what she calls “the vibrancy of youth.” Her work is very personal, and often candid, primarily portraying herself and her friends in situations and settings that reflect where they locate themselves culturally and how they self-identify.

In *His Daughter Abides*, Rose has juxtaposed her own recent photographs of herself and her friends with photos taken by her father when he was her age in a salon-style presentation that emphasizes the shared and similar experience of youth across generations. From the photos mounted for this project, I have chosen four in particular. The first photo, taken by Rose’s father is of a female, bathed in sunlight, sitting up reading with a blanket wrapped around her presumably semi-nude body. The low set chair in the background, as well as the floral upholstery and the avocado colored shag carpeting all indicate that the photo was taken in the 1970s. The next photo is a self-portrait of Rose, in which she is shown wearing all-black undergarments and shoes, her face obscured by the wind blowing her hair, in a desolate and isolated landscape, typical of highway travel in North America. They both depict seemingly private moments between the photographer and the subject. The third photo, another of her father’s, is similar to the first. The subject is in a comfortable mode, reclining with his shirt open. Like the first photo, the wood-paneled walls and shag carpet suggests that the photo is straight from the 1970s. However, this seems like less of a private and candid moment, as the subject stares defiantly into the camera with a beer to his lips. The last photograph, taken by Athena shows a similarly clad man, also drinking a beer and also making a face, this time in a camping setting. In this set of photos, the similarities between the older versus the contemporary photos are just as significant as the differences. The parallel visual motifs like clothing and pose signal the common experience of youth. The shift from interior shots to exterior shots brings in the idea of

travel and adventure as an experience that is more unique to the photographer. The photos in *His Daughter Abides* are both timeless and universal, while still remaining personal and specific to the common experience of youth.