

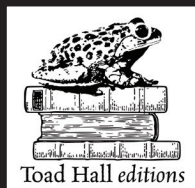
The Poser:
38 Portraits Reimagined
Media Kit

THE
POSER

38 Portraits
Reimagined

MAYA STEIN

Foreword by Danielle Krysa

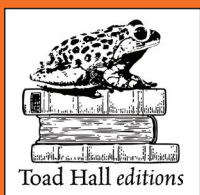
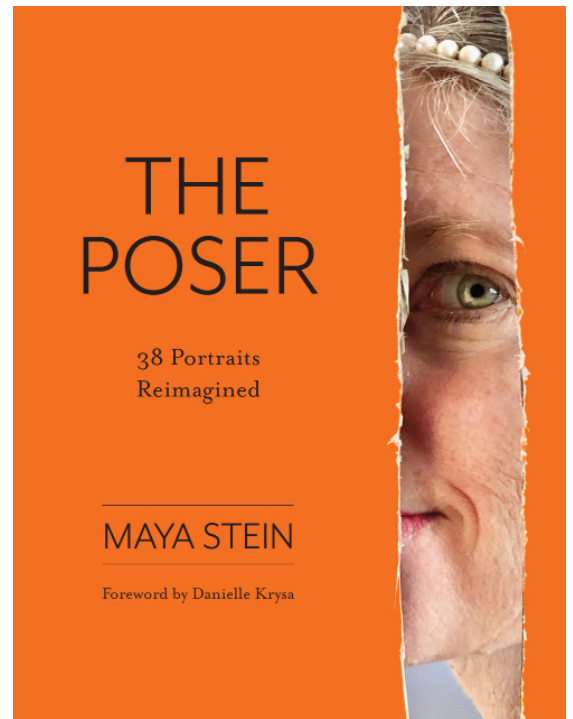


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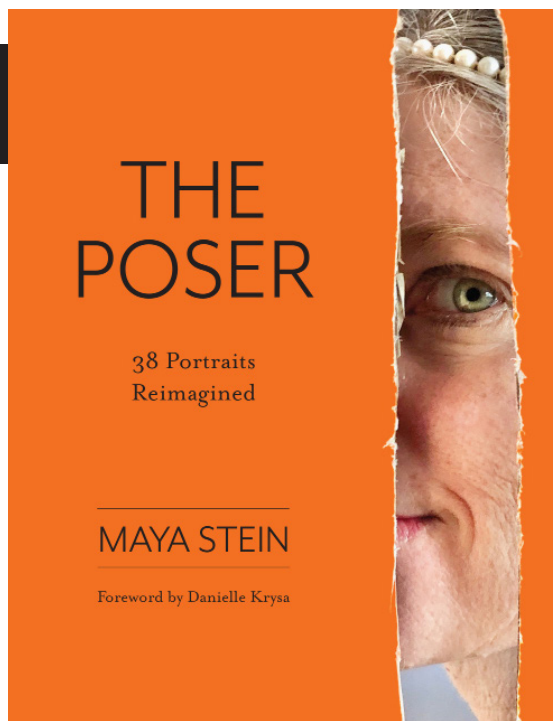
ABOUT THE BOOK

When the 2020 pandemic hit and lockdowns began, Maya Stein learned of the “museum at home” challenge launched by the Instagram account @tussenkunstenquarantaine and then made popular by the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. The invitation was to re-create a work of art using only a handful of props, and then share it online. After attempting a few classic works, she decided instead to re-create the portraits of contemporary artists. This allowed her to connect and interact with the artists themselves.

Over the next several months, Maya reenacted more than 75 portraits from modern-day artists (mostly women) from around the world; *The Poser* is a collection of 38 of these. The book includes interviews with those artists and Maya’s essays about the experience, with a foreword by The Jealous Curator’s Danielle Krysa. *The Poser* also features an essay by artist Amy Tingle, Maya’s wife and very “reluctant art director.”



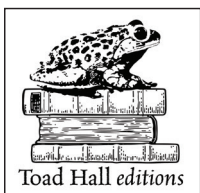
DETAILS



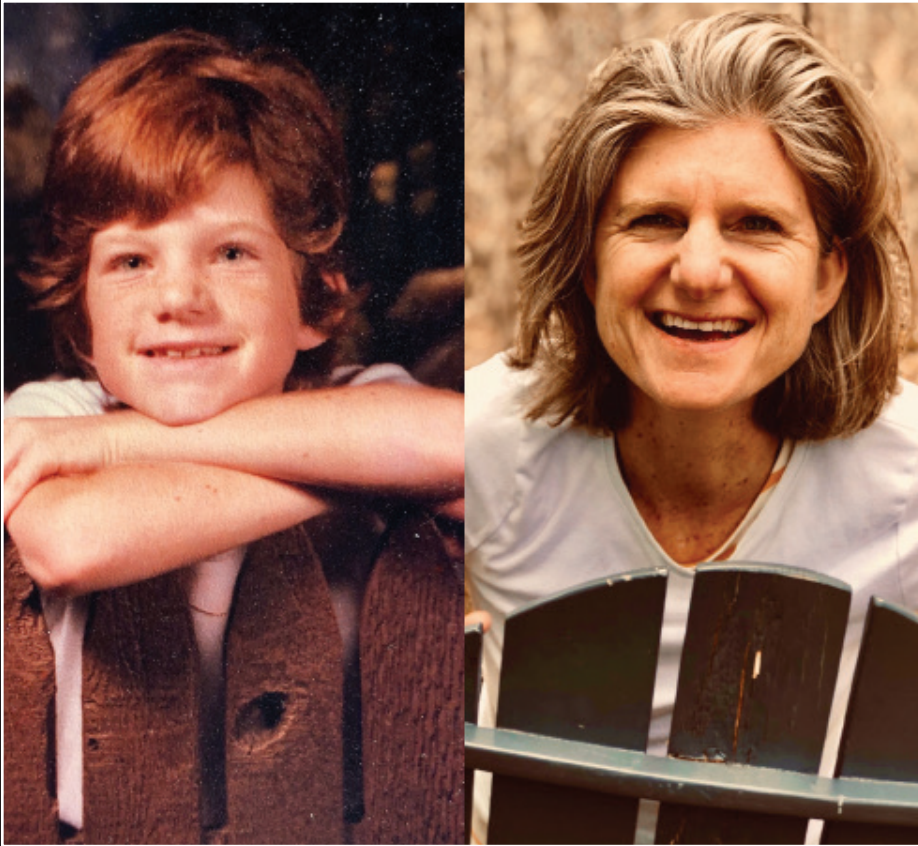
WHAT'S THIS BOOK ABOUT?

Part art book, part essay series, part something else entirely, *The Poser* is a collection of contemporary portrait reenactments completed in the spring of 2020. The book features interviews with a selection of artists whose work was the inspiration for the series. Designed by Liz Kalloch, with a foreword by Danielle Krysa of *The Jealous Curator* and an introduction by Amy Tingle (who served as “reluctant art director” for the reenactments). *The Poser* is a celebration of creativity in a time of uncertainty and the power of art to both transcend reality and respond to it with hope, joy, and connection.

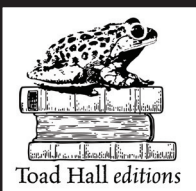
- Title:** *The Poser: 38 Portraits Reimagined*
- Author:** Maya Stein
- Page count:** 188
- Genre:** Art/Photography/Essay
- Publisher:** [Toad Hall Editions, Northport, ME](#)
- Pub Date:** Spring 2021
- ISBN:** 978-1-7369925-5-7
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- Format:** Perfect Bound
- Trim Size:** 7” x 9”
- Where to Buy:** [Toad Hall Editions website](#)



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Maya Stein is a ninja poet, writing guide, creative adventuress, and itinerant photographer. Her work has been published in *Huffington Post*, *Alimentum*, *Taproot*, *Stone Gathering*, *Prime Number*, *Little Patuxent Review*, and other print and online literary journals. She has self-published two collections of poetry, two collections of personal essays, a series of writing prompt guides, and has maintained a weekly email poetry practice, “10-Line Tuesday,” since 2005. She can be found online at mayastein.com.



FEATURED ARTISTS

The artists featured in *The Poser* are:

Alexandra Becker-Black, Ali Cavanaugh, Amanda Blake, Anne Siems, Arina Gordienko, Aris Moore, Cathy Daley, Daisy Patton, Donna Festa, Erin Cone, Henrietta Dubrey, Ilona Niemi, Janet Hill, Katherine Fraser, Kathrin Longhurst, Katinka Lampe, Kevin Yaun, Kirsti Tuokko, Kris Knight, Kristy Blackwell, Lara Hawthorne, Larissa Martin, Libby Schoettle, Lino Lago, Sara Strand, Martha Rich, Miriam Escofet, Naomi Devil, Pippa Young, Prudence Flint, Sarah Detweiler, Serena Cole, Shana Levenson, Sharon Sprung, Stefanie Renee, Tara Lewis, Terry Runyan, and Toni Hamel.

NAOMI DEVIL

Yakob, 2018



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I'm rarely Baroque anymore when contemporary elements. In the case of Yakob, I took a Bladenale corset and transformed it into a full BDSM mouse. The inspiration for this came from watching a YouTuber do the same on the Ardena.

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"I am good at seeing through people."

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*There were a few weeks in March, when as I had been in my
gripping the nation, that I barely wanted to go outside for fear of accidental contagion.
Instead, I spent many hours using myself in a website, looking for portraits to re-
create. Naomi was one of the first artists whose work I'd dared me to re-
create, and when I'd started on 'Island', I was gripped by an urgency I can't quite describe.*

There was such a rush to the portrait, carrying his anxious aura of conviction and
clan and down. The painting was boldly unabashed in its strangeness. There was a
confidence in it, a swagger. I was disarmed, frightened, intrigued, horrified, and amused at
once. As I confronted by the subject, dared, perhaps in the same way I'd
dared me.

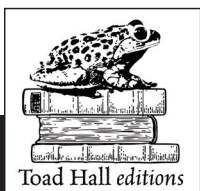
The opportunities for a more revealing were plenty here. There were so many
accessories to try and dump. I filled upstair in the corner where all of the off-
wrapping was. Meanwhile, Amy was rooting around in her parent's laundry room and came back
with a bundle of fabric. I was sitting in a chair, while I was in the perfect 11.5 down to the
circumference. And then I had this photo in front of me: I'd had to look at it all day.

Aside from the elaborate pinning of fabric and the challenge of keeping in place, one of
the most difficult was trying to get the eyes just right. This involved a
lot of pins of an anatomy book and a lot of pins in the middle. The paper
mask kept slipping so that my eyes were becoming obscured. The bobby pins
holding up the ears couldn't manage the weight of it. The whole ensemble was precarious
and it was exceedingly difficult to keep a straight face. We had disassembled it in fits of
laughter that wouldn't stop. Tears streaming down our cheeks. It was a welcome respite to
unleashed hilarity of a woman when we needed it most. It was enough, even to nudge me
outdoors the next day as the wind had turned warm, when it became clear that spring had
officially arrived. Was it my high school or did the darkness look especially distant? As if
calling me to be entirely myself, in spite of the strangeness of it. I was now living in it.

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Reviews for *prayers not meant for heaven*

“This book entranced me, amazed me, made me laugh out loud with delight. A celebration of human resilience and the power of the imagination, Maya’s lockdown recreations of contemporary art portraits became a sustaining project for her during 2020, and this extraordinary book is the result.”

— Diana Whitney, editor of *You Don’t Have To be Everything: Poems for Girls Becoming Themselves*, and author of *Girl Trouble*

“The Poser... is the perfect post-pandemic read/coffee-table companion that ultimately reminds us about the importance of humor, community, family, artistic expression, and, above all, connection, even in the strange stay-at-home world in which it was conceived.”

— Brenna O’Hara, Reedsy

