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Behind closed doors with Andy Warhol's right-hand man
American high life

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Throughout the late '70s and early '80s, Bob Colacello was synonymous with America's VIP culture.

As Andy Warhol's trusted right-hand man, the writer, editor and photographer was firmly embedded in high society, accompanying the pop artist to lofty parties, full of designers, politicians and film stars.

It was at these gatherings that Colacello took the photos that make up *Pictures From Another Time*, a new exhibition currently showing at New York's Vito Schnabel gallery.

Working with a Minox 35 EL - the camera favoured by spies during the Cold War - he shot some of pop culture's most significant figures, capturing them as partied together.

"I liked to be in the middle of the party, and to give that feeling to the viewer," he says.

"Many of my best photos, I think, are multilayered, with faces half-blocked by a waving hand or overly large hairdo. I often deliberately tilted the camera to create the sensation of being caught in a crush or slightly tipsy."

Pictures From Another Time features the likes of Liza Minnelli, Cher, Truman Capote and Mick Jagger - as well as Warhol himself - taken at events that range from late-night jaunts at Studio 54 to presidential inaugurations.

And, though he shared his taste in cameras with agents of espionage, Colacello - who wrote for the likes of *Village Voice* and *Vanity Fair*, and edited *Interview* from 1971 to 1983 - never saw his work as covert. ("No one seemed to care, because I was the editor of *Interview* magazine, not an invasive paparazzo.")

BOB COLACELLO



Together, the images form a candid portrait of a bygone era. As far as Colacello is concerned, it's a series that wouldn't be possible in today's age.

"Well, I'd be competing with everybody's phone," he says. "And [nowadays] people tend to mix it up a lot less, to stick with their own kind, whether that be class, race, religion, sexual preference, political party, or profession. Such a bore! And intrinsically divisive."



