

FULL THROTTLE

London's Little Black Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of supercharged images by the late, great Bob Carlos Clarke this month, and prices for this master photographer are rising all the time **WORDS:** Terry Hope

Following the sell out success of 'Wall to Wall,' the first part of a retrospective series by legendary photographer Bob Carlos Clarke which was held at the Little Black Gallery last year, part two of the series, 'Full Throttle,' has just opened and will be filling the walls of this space until June 5.

The latest show is an eclectic mix of images taken throughout Bob's 30-year career, and it marks the release for the first time by the photographer's estate of nine 'estate editions' of famous early images as 16x20in digital bromide prints in an edition of 25. These include 'Black Is My True Love's Heart', 'Dreamkeeper' and 'Courtesan.'

RIGHT: Infanta Electronica, 2004
BELOW LEFT: Whip Girl, 2000
BELOW: Mermaid, 1985

The Gallery has a genuine Bob Carlos Clarke connection, being jointly run by Bob's widow Lindsey, his agent Ghislain Pascal and Tamara Beckwith, and it specialises in shows by iconic names from photography's recent past, having recently hosted exhibitions featuring work by Terence Donovan, Patrick Lichfield, Terry O'Neill and Norman Parkinson.

"Since Bob's death there has been a massive surge in people buying his work and the value of it," says Pascal. "The prices of his signed work have rocketed by 3000%, with the unsigned work 2000%, so it has become highly collectable. His secondary market has also become strong, with his prints breaking through the £10,000 mark at auction. To ensure that the many die-hard fans of Bob's work can still buy his prints, however, the estate of Bob Carlos Clarke has for the first time released 'estate editions' for only £350 (+VAT) to coincide with Full Throttle."

Bob's vintage work is also really exciting collectors these days, with many collectors acknowledging that he was one of the most iconic photographers of his generation. With his passing there is the certainty that there is no more left to come, and it's ensured that prints that have the Bob Carlos Clarke touch are now selling at a premium.

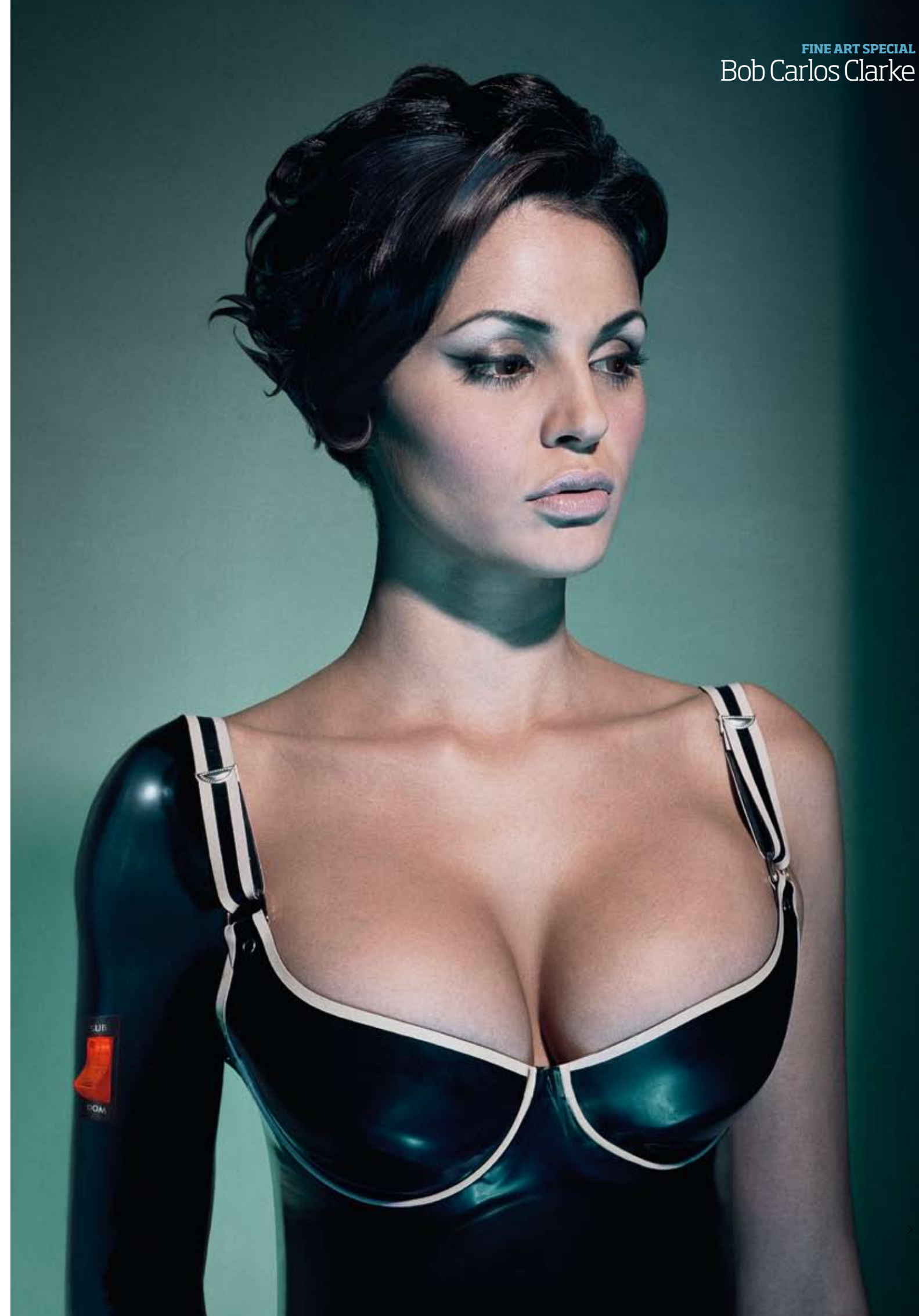
"What sets Bob aside was the fact that he was also one of the finest print makers," says Pascal. "His original gelatin or platinum prints are unique. Whether they are signed or not does not matter. You know that they were hand printed and hand toned by Bob Carlos Clarke, and that's what matters."

The Little Black Gallery is located at 13A Park Walk, London SW10 0AJ, Tel: 020-7349 9332 / 07778-788735, and opening hours are Tuesday-Friday 11am-6pm, Saturday 11am-5pm. ■

● Contact: www.thelittleblackgallery.com



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