

HELMUT NEWTON FOUNDATION

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Newton, Riviera

Press preview: Wednesday, 3 September 2025, 10:30 am (German) + 12:00 pm (English)

Opening: Thursday, 4 September 2025, 7 pm

Duration: 5 September 2025 – 15 February 2026



(L to R) Helmut Newton, Grand Hôtel du Cap, Marie Claire, Antibes 1972 | Helmut Newton, American Vogue, Monaco 2003 | Helmut Newton, Untitled, Saint-Tropez 1975 | All images: copyright Helmut Newton Foundation

On 4 September 2025, the Helmut Newton Foundation in Berlin will open its new double exhibition: *Newton, Riviera* and *Dialogues. Collection FOTOGRAFIS x Helmut Newton*.

In the summer of 2022, the Helmut Newton Foundation's director Matthias Harder and Guillaume de Sardes co-curated the exhibition ***Newton, Riviera*** for the historic Villa Sauber in Monte Carlo. For the first time, this late-life home of the Newtons – and the surrounding region where many of Helmut Newton's iconic images were created – took center stage. A selection from that exhibition will now be shown in Berlin, running in parallel with ***Dialogues. Collection FOTOGRAFIS x Helmut Newton***. This continues the foundation's focus on Newton's personal and professional environments, following acclaimed exhibitions such as *Hollywood* (2022) and *Berlin, Berlin* (2024/25).

At the turn of the year 1981/82, Helmut Newton and his wife June relocated from Paris to Monte Carlo. The move marked not only a shift in their private lives, but also a dramatic change in Newton's photographic settings and perspective. **Gone was the effortless elegance of Parisian chic**; in its place, Newton turned his lens on the Riviera's glamorous social scene – often set against the stark concrete walls of Monaco's many construction sites. Even the modest garage of their apartment building became a stage for his bold, conceptually sharp fashion stories for magazines and designers, as well as for the enigmatic black-and-white series *The Woman on Level 4*.

Newton's love for the French Riviera, however, ran deeper still. As early as 1964, he and June purchased a small stone house near Ramatuelle, not far from Saint-Tropez. It became both a summer retreat and a space for creative work, as evidenced by black-and-white images shot for *Vogue US* and vibrant color photographs for the Pentax calendar. The exhibition includes a wide range of early prints, including unique vintage and lifetime prints.

During the 1980s and '90s, Newton's unconventional fashion shoots took him to Cannes and Nice, and later to other parts of the Riviera: Cap d'Antibes, Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, Menton, and even across the Italian border to Bordighera. Across these locations, he explored his three signature genres – fashion, portrait, and nude – with the region's distinctive light playing a central role. At times, he also captured serene nocturnal seascapes from his Monaco balcony. Similarly atmospheric landscapes emerged during the mid-1990s in Berlin, culminating in his 2001 gallery show *Sex and Landscapes* at Galerie de Pury & Luxembourg in Zurich. A version of the exhibition was also presented at the opening of the Helmut Newton Foundation in Berlin in June 2004, shortly after Newton's death. Now, more than 20 years later, this new presentation of large-format original prints brings that trajectory full circle.

Photographs taken along the Riviera appear in nearly all of Newton's exhibitions and publications – from *White Women* in 1976 to *Yellow Press* in 2003. The coastline served as a backdrop in countless ways – sometimes spectacularly, sometimes subtly. His final photo shoot, a fashion series for *Vogue Italia*, also took place on the Monaco coast.



(L to R) Helmut Newton, Bernice Coppieters, Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo 1992 | Helmut Newton, Jude Law, Monaco 2001 | Helmut Newton, Italian Vogue, Monaco 1998 | All images: copyright Helmut Newton Foundation

A companion book titled *Newton, Riviera* was published for the original Monte Carlo exhibition by Gallimard, with the international edition released by Prestel. Both editions are available at the museum bookshop and in bookstores worldwide.

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