Albert Watson is the master of transforming sleek celebrity, editorial, and fashion subjects into objects of fine art and beauty. During a phone interview conducted before the release of 20+20, Watson recalled the tremendous pressure surrounding his photo shoot with cinema legend Alfred Hitchcock. He recalled that “New York was always demanding perfection. It just had to be dead right. The very first shot that I did for a New York magazine was of Alfred Hitchcock. I was very nervous because I had never photographed anybody famous before, but I knew that if I screwed up that shooting I knew that it would be another four years before they would give me another crack at something.” Of course Watson captured the shot perfectly and suggested that Hitchcock hold the plucked goose by the neck rather than present it on a platter, as the photograph was meant to accompany a holiday recipe. If you look closely you will find a strand of Christmas lights tied around the bird’s neck. It’s those nuances that make Watson’s compositions dead-on.

Albert Watson is featured within Installation Magazine’s special 20+20 Photography Issue, which highlighted 20 Los Angeles and 20 New York City photographers. Download the full issue on your iPad and iPhone.

By A. Moret & Garet Field-Sells

Images courtesy of the artist and Hasted Kraeutler Gallery

THE 20+20 PHOTOGRAPHY ISSUE
Albert Watson