



MARK LEIBOWITZ

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A native of the San Francisco Bay area, Mark graduated from Stanford University and lived in Spain and Brazil prior to making his move to Los Angeles. His work blends lifestyle, fashion, travel and portraiture. Recent projects include backstage coverage of the fashion shows in New York, Milan and Paris as well as 30 days of shooting for a coffee table book on South Africa. The book was published by luxury brand Well Souled. Selected editorial clients include Glamour, Cosmopolitan, Wired, Men's Health, InStyle, Max Germany and Teen Vogue. Mark's photographs have appeared in advertisements for dozens of companies including American Express, Bank of America, Proctor & Gamble Beauty (Clairol, Crest, Oil of Olay), Verizon, Colgate, NBC, Amtrak, Lava Life, the Canadian Tourism Commission, Chase Bank and IBM.

STATEMENT

The images of the Backstage series are an invitation to enter a world of reverie where models dance and drift. Invited into the dream, we depart the rhythm of a self-aware state of mind that all too often purveys the gloom and doom of the 24-hour news cycle. If only for a moment, we move into the collective consciousness of beauty, where a world of fantasy paints a delicate picture over the unease of normal human existence.

Entering my fifteenth season photographing backstage at the New York, Milan and Paris fashion shows, I search for grace within the chaos of the industry of haute couture. I am a discreet observer of the complex reality behind the scenes—all the work that realizes the world of high fashion—and play witness to spectacular moments developing from the self-aware frenzy. The mystique of the fashion world requires an unbelievably talented army of makeup artists, hair stylists, models, and of course, the singular designers whose names resonate in this particular world.

Backstage, I am out of the way but hyper-present, and begin my work. Cramped quarters, poor lighting and frantic atmosphere become opportunities to record a secret moment of this special tumult. The varied colors and layers evolve before my lens, as I move with the choreographed rhythm to capture a moment of fantastic reverie.