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# Mother Mold: Keith Edmier's Frozen Faces

By The Paris Review October 31, 2017

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*"Mother Mold," an exhibition of sculptural portraiture by Keith Edmier, is running at the Petzel Gallery, on Sixty-Seventh Street, until November 4. The fifty masks draw inspiration from imagines, a type of wax casting that aristocratic families made of their male members' faces and displayed in their homes during the Roman Republic. "In an age before photography, imagines were considered the truest, most objective representation of a person." Unlike the Romans, Edmier makes his masks from plaster, and includes female faces. "Some of these people are famous, some are not. Some casts were made by me, others were not. Some people I knew intimately, others I knew casually or never met. Edmier's imagines is a lifeline or, possibly, a dysfunctional family tree of my own." The exhibition is accompanied by the publication of the imagines as a boxed set of fifty postcards, written by Edmier himself, shown below.*

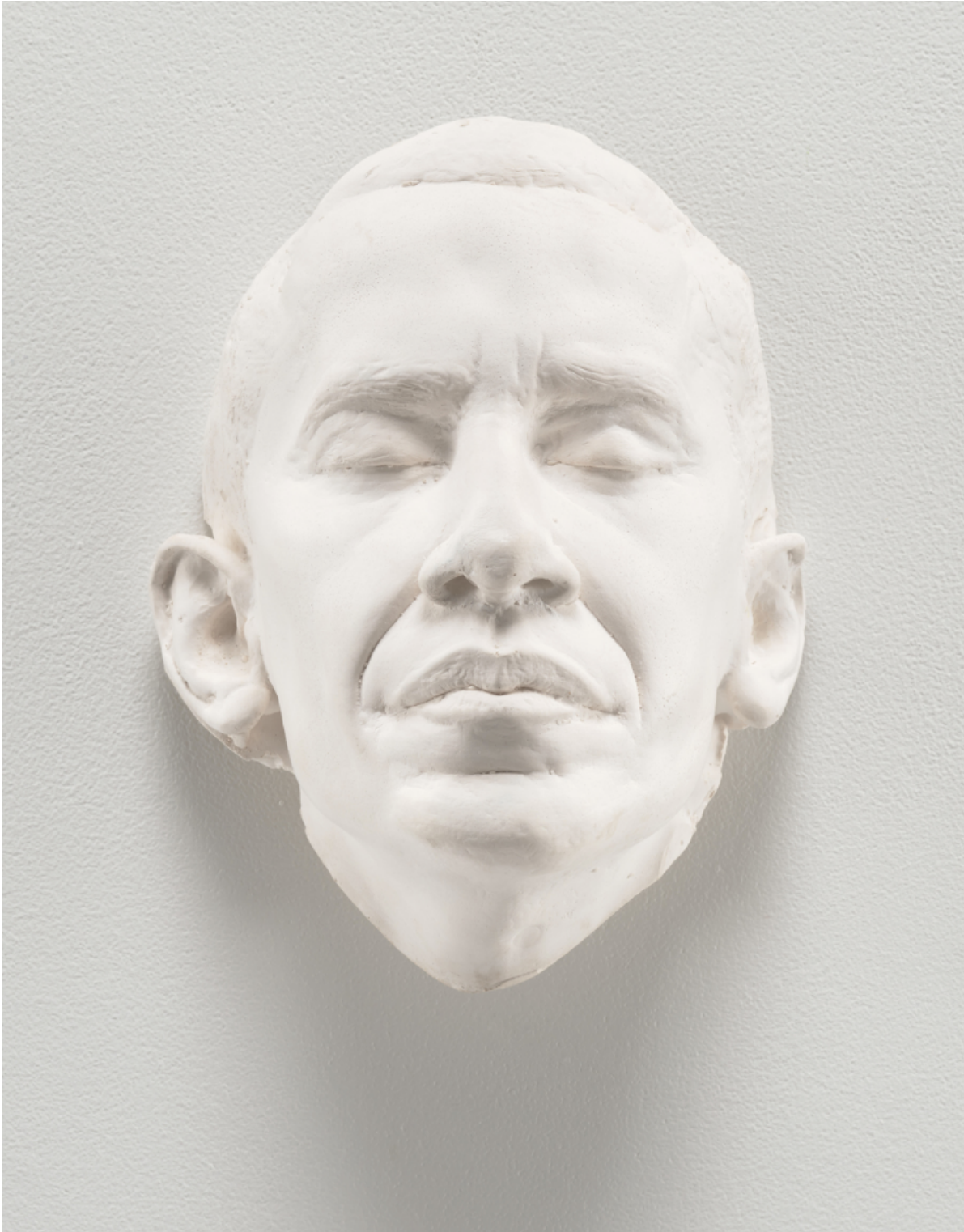


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# Petzel

The Paris Review, "Mother Mold: Keith Edmier's Frozen Faces" *the Paris Review*, October 31, 2017.



BARACK OBAMA, RECTO.

# Petzel

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Barack Obama, President

August 4, 1961

Stanley "Ann" Dunham

I GOT HIT REALLY HARD WHEN THE RECESSION HAPPENED, REALLY QUESTIONING THE WHOLE ART WORLD AND LIKE MANY FELT WE WERE HEADING INTO ANOTHER GREAT DEPRESSION. I WAS THINKING ALOT ABOUT HOW ART COULD CONTINUE. THE WPA, AMERICAN PHILANTHROPY, THE ROCKEFELLERS. INSTEAD WE WERE LIVING IN A WORLD WITH A BUNCH OF BANKERS. I REALIZED THERE WASNT A LIFE CAST AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PRESIDENT SINCE LINCOLN. I THOUGHT WHAT IF I COULD GET PERMISSION TO CAST OBAMA'S FACE AND THEN HIRE AMERICAN ARTISTS, GIVING THEM JOBS, TO MAKE PLASTER CASTS THAT ANYONE COULD OWN. THIS IS A SCULPTURE IN THE FORM OF A LIFE-CAST THAT WAS MY PROPOSAL FOR THE PROJECT. ITWENT NOWHERE. IN 2014 A 3D SCAN WAS MADE OF OBAMA AND PRINTED AS A 20TH CENTURY LIFECAST. IT RESIDES ALONG WITH THE LINCOLN CASTS IN THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY IN DC. IN MY "REGENERATRIX" SHOW I ALSO

KEITH

OBAMA.  
MADE A SCULPTURE ABOUT MICHAEL

Keith Edmier, Mother Mold, Petzel, 35 East 67th Street, NY, September 6–November 4, 2017.

BARACK OBAMA, VERSO.

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FARRAH FAWCETT, RECTO.

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Farrah Fawcett (1970s), Actor/Artist  
February 2, 1947–June 25, 2009  
Pauline (Evans) Fawcett

FARRAH WAS MY PRIMARY  
FEMALE ICON FROM CHILDHOOD/  
ADOLESCENCE. I HAD READ  
SHE SCULPTED AND THAT  
WAS HER PRIMARY INTEREST  
IN COLLEGE BEFORE BEING  
DISCOVERED AND MOVING TO  
HOLLYWOOD. WE EVENTUALLY  
MET IN 2000 AND EMBARKED  
ON A TWO YEAR ART PROJECT  
AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP.  
THIS CAST IS FROM THE 1970'S  
AND WAS USED FOR A FARRAH  
HAIR STYLING DOLL. KEITH

FARRAH FAWCETT, VERSO.

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GRACE KELLY, RECTO.

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Grace Kelly, Actor/Princess  
November 12, 1929–September 14, 1982  
Margaret (Majer) Kelly

GRACE KELLY WAS A MAJOR  
SUBJECT IN MY 2015 SHOW  
"REGENERATRIX" AT PETZEL  
GALLERY. SHE ALSO CONNECTS  
TO HITCHCOCK - GOING BACK TO  
MY INTEREST IN HIM FROM HIGH  
SCHOOL. I TRIED TO FIND THE  
ORIGINS OF WHY THIS CAST WAS  
MADE. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN  
DONE AS REFERENCE FOR A  
PORTRAIT OF GRACE MADE BY  
FRENCH SCULPTOR LUCIEN  
GILBERT IN 1971.

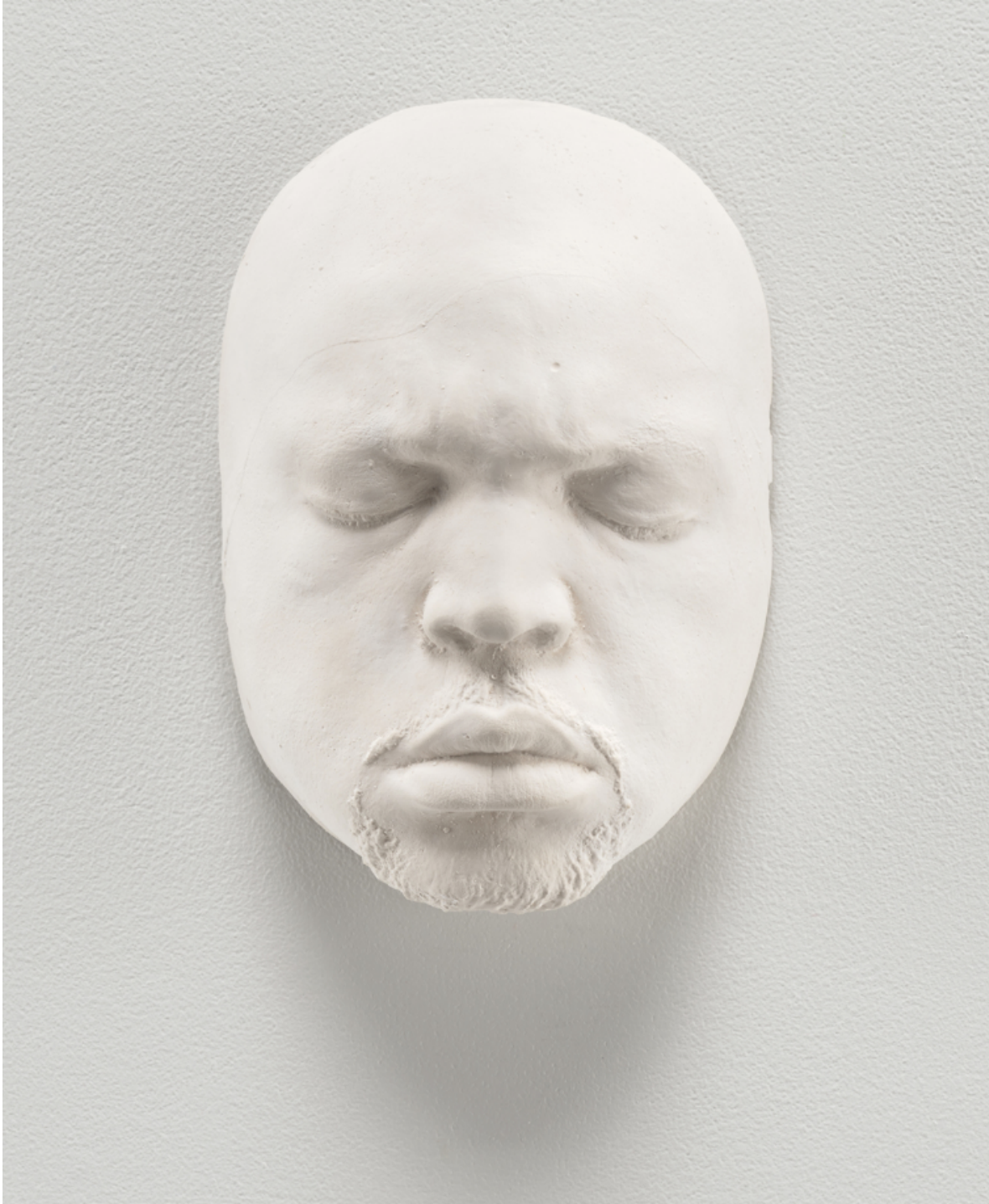
KEITH

Keith Edmier, *Mother Mold*, Petzel, 35 East 67th Street, NY, September 6–November 4, 2017.

GRACE KELLY, VERSO.

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ICE CUBE, RECTO.

# Petzel

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Ice Cube, Musician/Actor

June 15, 1969

Doris (Benjamin) Jackson

ALEX WINTER AND TOM STERN ASKED ME TO WORK ON ANOTHER PROJECT. A MUSIC VIDEO FOR ICE CUBE'S FIRST SOLO ALBUM "AMERIKKKKQ'S MOST WANTED. A SONG CALLED "WHO'S THE MACK?" I HAD TO MAKE A DIAMOND STUDDED GOLD TOOTH ON RAP PRODUCER DJ POOH. ALEX AND TOM HAD TO SHOOT SOME ADDITIONAL FOOTAGE AND ASKED ME TO MEET UP WITH CUBE BEFOREHAND IN DOWNTOWN LA AND KEEP HIM ENTERTAINED. I WAS BASICALLY THE ONLY WHITE PERSON IN SIGHT. CUBE AND HIS CREW SHOWED UP WITH HIS CREW IN FULL ON RAIDERS FOOTBALL GEAR. A COUPLE OF THE GUYS WERE THE REAL DEAL - LA GANGSTAS -

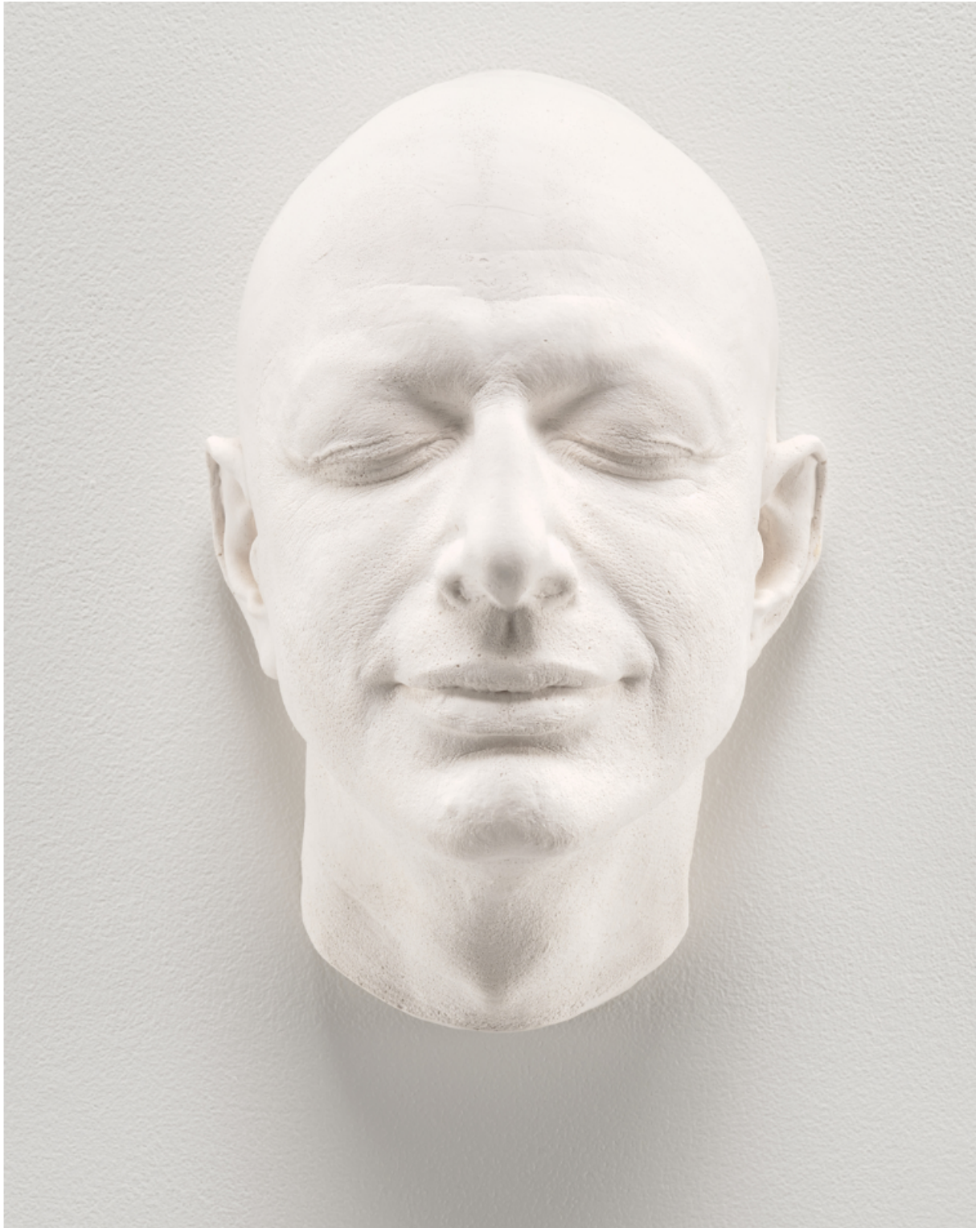
40 OUNCERS, CRACK, MESSING WITH THEIR GUNS. INITIALLY I WAS SCARED SHITLESS, BUT IT ENDED UP BEING FUN. CUBE HAD A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR. KEITH

ICE CUBE, VERSO.

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JEFF GOLDBLUM, RECTO.

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Kevin Bacon, Actor

July 8, 1958

Ruth Hilda Holmes

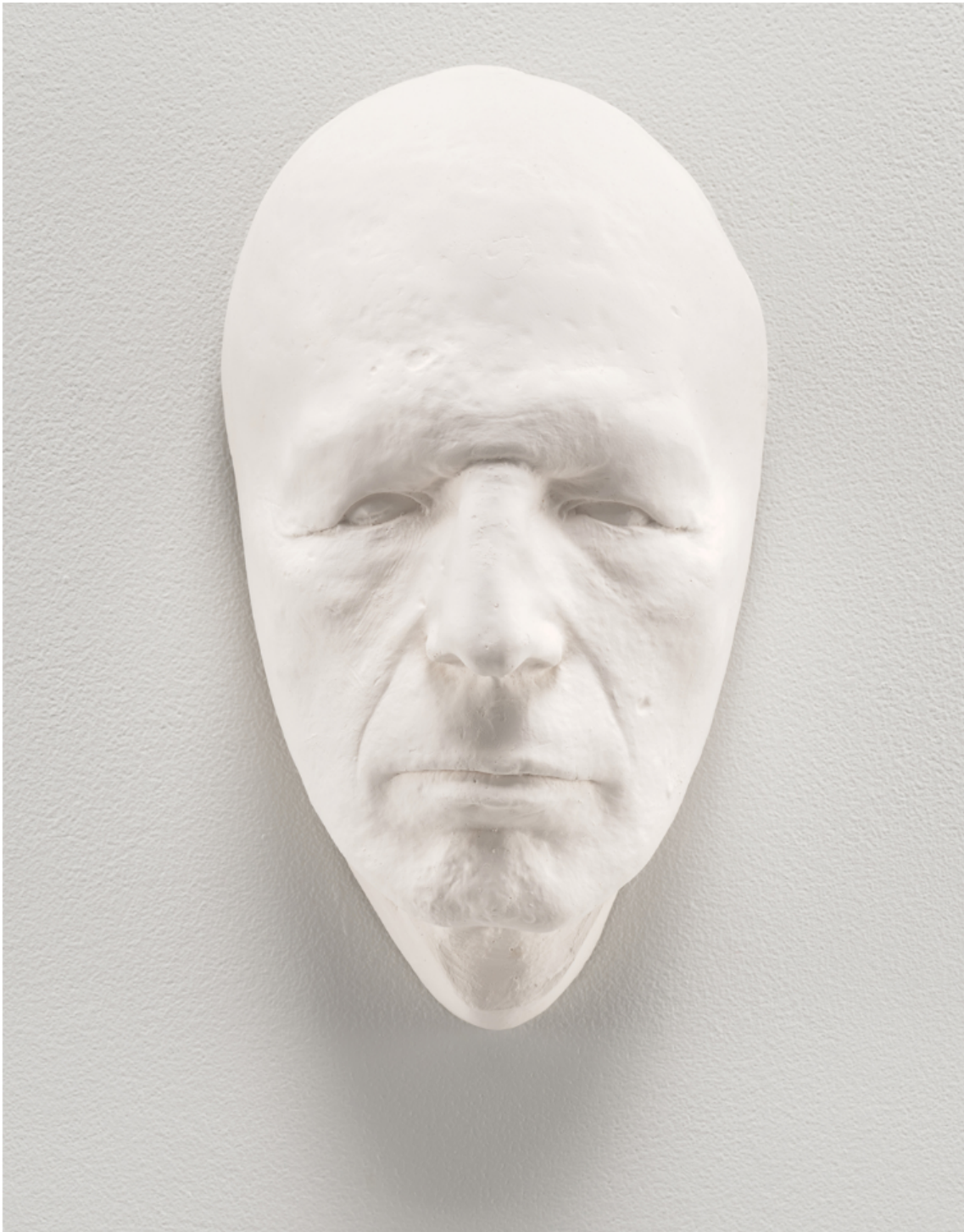
I HAD READ SOMEWHERE THAT KEVIN BACON COMMUTES VIA THE NYC SUBWAY.. ONE MORNING IN 2015 DURING RUSH HOUR I NOTICED HIM. I WAS ACTUALLY CARRYING A BINDER OF PHOTOS OF LIFE MASKS FOR THIS PROJECT. I WAS ALREADY DESCRIBING IT LIKE MY VERSION OF THE SIX DEGREES OF KEVIN BACON. I SEARCHED MY IPHONE AND REALIZED KEVIN WORKED WITH KIEFER SUTHERLAND IN THE MOVIE FLATLINERS 1990. I GOT OFF THE C TRAIN WITH KEVIN AT 54th ST. I BUM-RUSHED HIM AND ASKED HIM TO SIGN A PHOTO OF KIEFER'S LIFE MASK. HE JUST DID IT WITHOUT HESITATION. SINCE I WORKED WITH KIEFER ON "THE LOST BOYS" AND HAVE HAD SOME BIT PARTS IN MOVIES & TV I GUESS I HAVE A BACON NUMBER OF 2. KEITH

KEVIN BACON, VERSO.

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LEONARD NIMOY, RECTO.

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Leonard Nimoy, Actor  
March 26, 1931–February 27, 2015  
Dora (Spinner) Nimoy

WHILE WORKING WITH FARRAH IN  
LA WE WOULD GET INVITED TO  
PARTIES AT ANGELIKA AND BENEDIKT  
TASCHEN'S CHEMOSPHERE HOUSE  
DESIGNED BY JOHN LAUTNER. THERE  
WOULD ALWAYS BE A CRAZY  
ASSORTMENT OF GUESTS - ARTISTS, WRITERS,  
ACTORS, MUSICIANS, PORN STARS, ETC.  
AT ONE PARTY THE FIRST PERSON WE  
RAN INTO WAS LEONARD NIMOY. IT  
WAS REALLY AWKWARD. NIMOY DIRECTED  
A FILM CALLED "FUNNY ABOUT LOVE"  
STARRING GENE WILDER. HE CAST  
FARRAH IN THE MOVIE BUT EVENTUALLY  
CUT HER OUT OF IT. ALTHOUGH TEST  
SCREENINGS WERE SUPER POSITIVE  
HE BLAMED IT ON HER PERFORMANCE.  
SHE SAID THE REAL REASON WAS BECAUSE  
HE WANTED TO SLEEP WITH HER BUT  
SHE REFUSED. REGARDLESS IT WAS  
SURREAL MEETING SPOCK IN A HOUSE  
THE RESEMBLED A FLYING SAUCER. KEITH

LEONARD NIMOY, VERSO

## TAGS

[Barack Obama](#), [Farah Fawcett](#), [Grace Kelly](#), [Ice Cube](#), [Jeff Goldblum](#), [Keanu Reeves](#), [Keith Edmier](#), [Kevin Bacon](#),  
[Leonard Nimoy](#), [Michael Jackson](#), [Mother Mold](#), [Petzel Gallery](#)

<https://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2017/10/31/mother-mold-keith-edmiers-frozen-faces/>

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