

# InStyle

## Martin Schoeller's Portraits: A Unique View at the World's Most Famous Faces

Mari Kasanuki, November 15, 2014



*George Clooney with Mask; Brooklyn, NY, 2008*

Recognize the man in the mask? You probably do—it's George Clooney, but he's hiding behind a mask of his own eyes. It's a portrait taken by Martin Schoeller, a photographer who is known for capturing such striking images—most often with some very recognizable faces. (One recent example is his photo of Taylor Swift that graces the cover of *Time* this week.)

In his new book titled *Portraits*, Schoeller has compiled 150 photographs from the last 15 years of his career. They range from the classically simple—like a black-and-white headshot of Cate Blanchett or a snap of a grim-faced Clint Eastwood—to the surreal and absurd—like photos of a crazed, blood-spattered Christian Bale or Steve Carell's face wrapped in plastic tape (below).

"The more conceptual pictures—that I still consider real portraits and not gimmicky or goofy—there has to be some idea to them," Schoeller tells *InStyle*. "The ideas always, hopefully, underline my subject's personality. "And then my serious, classic portraits are more honest and revealing than you would normally see in a magazine."

The cover of Schoeller's monograph features the above image of Clooney and the photographer selected it for a variety of reasons. "First of all, he's one of my favorite subjects," Schoeller says. "He's smart, you talk to him—you don't talk to a publicist. He's very professional, very funny. So I just like him personally—and obviously he's one of the most famous people [in the world]."

"I love the picture of the mask," Schoeller tells *InStyle*. "His own eyes on his face—it's like the different layers an actor has. It's a conceptual picture but it's still a portrait."

The book's publication coincides with a retrospective show, which opened this week at the Hasted Kraeutler art gallery in New York. The exhibition runs until Jan. 3, 2015; Schoeller's *Portraits* monograph (\$125; amazon.com) is out today.