

ROBERT FARBER

Censorship and Challenges



Robert Farber's style has influenced generations of photographers. His painterly, impressionistic style captures the essence of composition in every genre, including nudes, still life, landscapes and architecture. His fifteen photo art books have sold over half a million copies.

However, he does not always encounter such positive reception. Over the course of his career, he has faced controversy, particularly surrounding his nude photography. Despite proof that he is a legitimate and successful artist, he has encountered censorship of his images.

From shows to social media, Robert Farber has met and overcome criticism and censorship of his work. The following timeline pairs these events with the credentials that allow him to overcome these challenges.

Early 1970s

Robert took a serious turn into photography in 1970. At a famous New York outdoor art show (Washington Square/Greenwich Village), Farber was approached by the director of the show asking if his images were paintings or photographs. When responding that they were indeed photographs he was asked to leave the show because photography was not allowed nor recognized as an art form.

Late 1970s

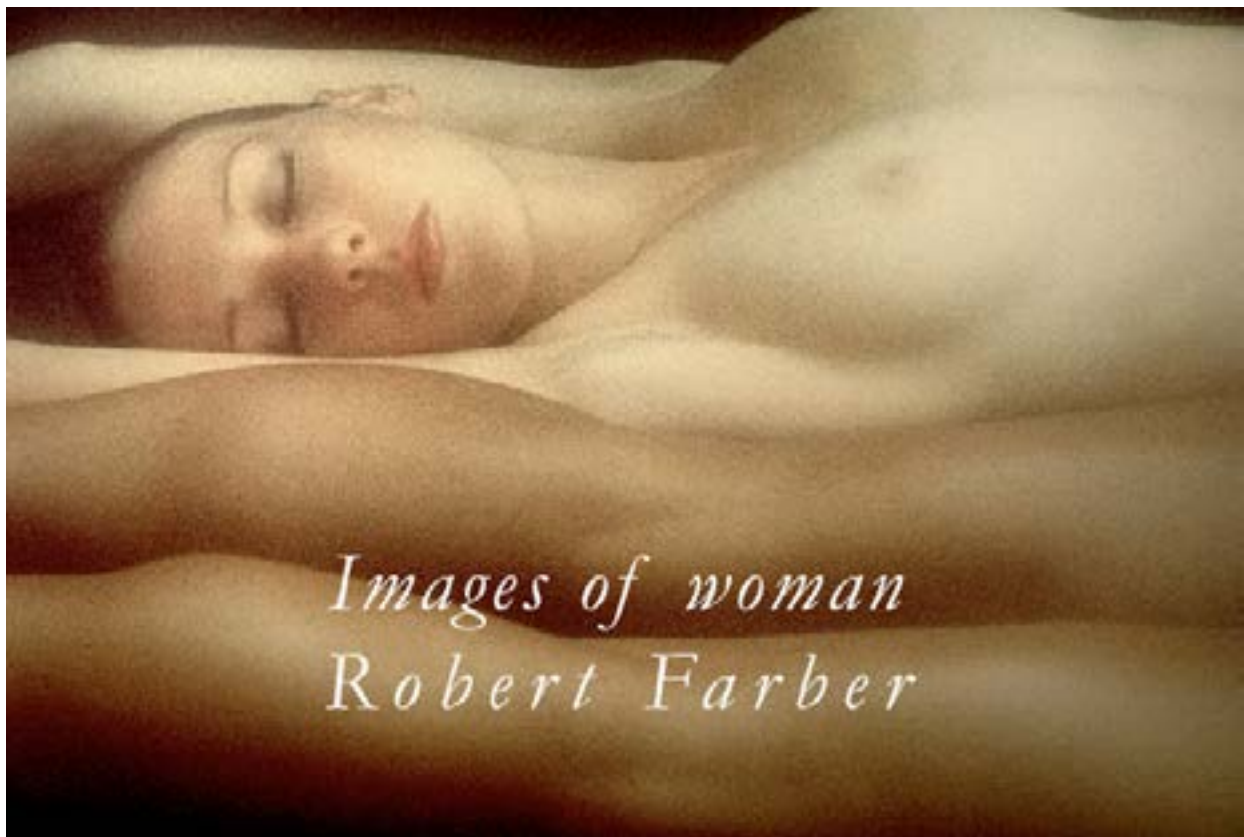
Assignments with beauty brands such as Caress Soap, Pons Skin Cream and Revlon, lead to the greater credibility using nudes in advertising campaigns (see right). Robert was asked to speak on this subject of 'Nudes in Advertising' for a group of creative directors from major advertising agencies.

Following the controversial support of a Robert Mapplethorpe retrospective funded by National Endowment for the Arts, Robert was asked if his images could be used as an example of good taste in nude photography to fight the de-funding of the National Endowment of the Arts.

1976

When Robert's first book of fine art nudes, *Images of Woman*, is published, Larry Flynt personally writes a review in his famed *Hustler* magazine:

"Artsy fartsy... show me the pink."





In fact, following this, Robert also takes photographs for 1970s magazines such as Playboy, Penthouse, Hustler, Viva, and Club (see above).

He uses a pseudonym, Rupert Danes, to avoid tarnishing the reputation he was trying to build after publishing *Images of Woman*. He does not exhibit his more provocative images under his real name until 2017's "Unseen / Midnight Studio."

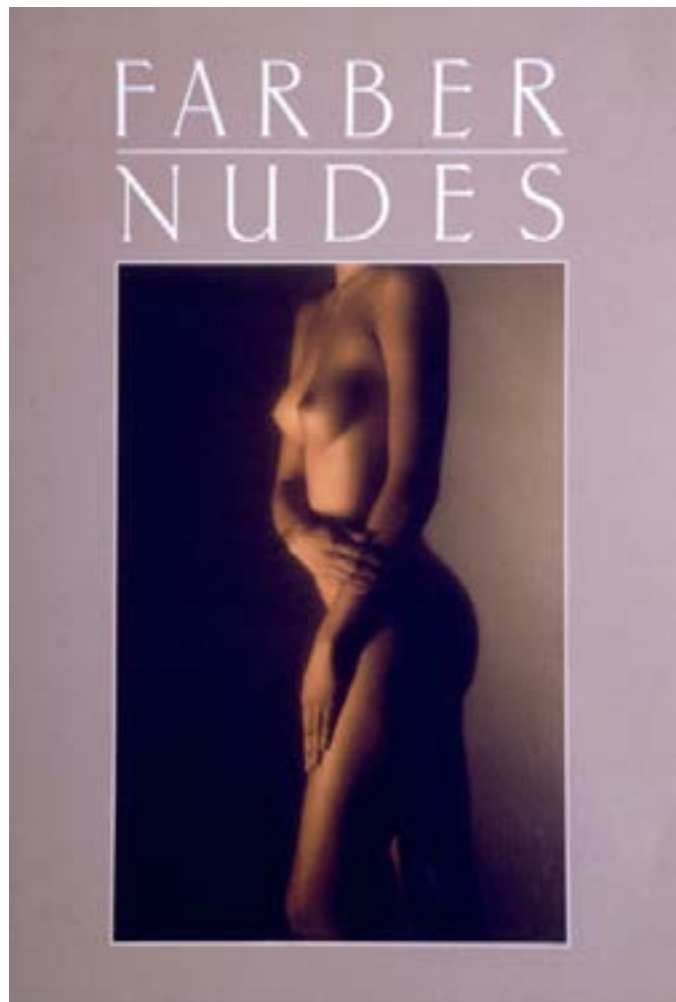
1994

Newsweek commissions a Farber nude for its breast cancer issue, marking the beginning of Robert's ongoing partnership with breast cancer awareness to this day. [Learn More.](#)



1996

An autographed copy of *Farber Nudes* is included in the Jacqueline Onassis Kennedy estate auction. Expected to fetch \$500, the book sells for \$4,877.



“Jackie- Thank you for the support & the great interest you have shown in my work.

-Robert”

2013

Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art Kansas City acquires Farber Moonscape print for their collection.



Farber Exhibition opens at The Museum of Modern Art in Dubrovnik, Croatia, which includes 30 Farber nudes. [View the Exhibition Catalogue.](#)

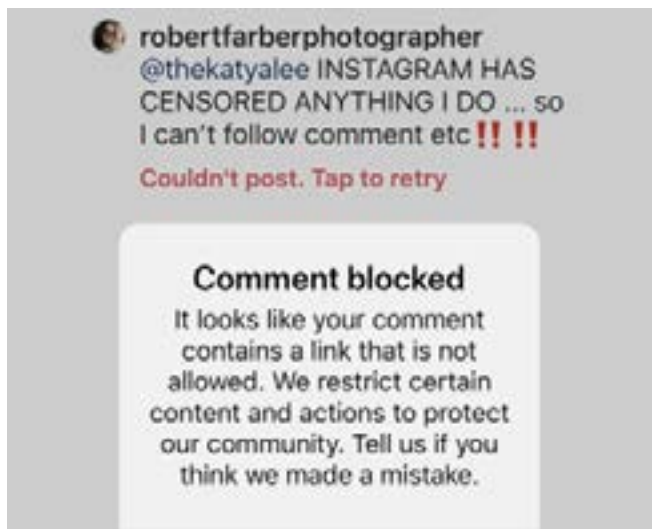


First of multiple instances that Instagram and Facebook close down Farber's account for the same images acquired by the Museums.

Your Post Goes Against Our Community Guidelines

Robert loses access to his original Instagram account, along with its 80,000 followers, as the platform claims that his fine art nudes are a violation of the Community Guidelines. Photographers known for nude images have been struggling with social media censorship.

Without access to his former account, Farber has had to start again with a new profile, which still faces persistent censorship. His Iconic Nudes are often removed from the platform, and direct links to his website are banned.



ARTnews

In October 2019, Instagram holds a closed-door meeting with several artists, museum professionals, and anti-censorship representatives to discuss the platform's nudity policies and work on reform. Many artists have encountered difficulties with the Community Guidelines, particularly those regarding nudity.

Read more about the meeting from [Artnews](#).



For more updates on censorship in his work, follow Robert's new Instagram account, [@robertfarberphotographer](#).

2017

The “Unseen / Midnight Studio” exhibition opens at White Box NYC, featuring many of Robert’s more provocative images from the past several decades that he had previously shared under a pseudonym.



UNSEEN / MIDNIGHT STUDIO reveals a side of **ROBERT FARBER** hibernating for the past 42 years.

The story behind my 1977 image, “NY Taxi Driver” reveals an unseen side of Robert Farber’s career.

“This image was part of an assignment for a European magazine editorial in 1977 published under a different name. I used a pseudonym because my first book of fine art nudes, “Images of Woman” (1976) had been published and I didn’t want to tarnish the reputation I was trying to build. This was because of a mindset guided by my formative years growing up in a traditional American household. Liberal enough where it would be acceptable to publish a book of nudes, but not without some self-restraint. Over time I became less inhibited, eventually no longer feeling a need to hide behind a pseudonym. Now I’m provocative and proud of it.”

WhiteBox presents an exhibit of my ever-evolving inhibitions, previously unseen.

2020 and Beyond

Despite repeated attempts at censorship by shows, publications, and social media, Robert Farber photographs have contributed to an extensive client list and can be found in galleries and collections around the world.



CLIENT LIST INCLUDES:

ABC	InterContinental Hotels	Revlon
Almay	Ivory	R.J. Reynolds
Avon	JVC	Phillip Morris
Bill Blass	Johnson and Johnson	Redken
Bloomingdales	Kraft	Rothman Tobacco
Canadian Club	Lipton Tea	Saks Fifth Avenue
Caress	Loden Fry	Schick
Cheeseborough Ponds	L'Oreal	Seagrams
Cheerios	Marshall Fields	Sheraton Hotel
CitiBank	Macys	Sony Electronics
Courvoisier	Monet Jewlery	Sony Pictures
Cutex	Ortho	Vaseline
Cunard	Paco Rabanne	Weston
DeBeers Diamonds	Paramount	Wenon
Geoffrey Beene	Peugeot	Wrangler Jeans
Gillette	Platex	20th Century Fox



Farber.com/Press-Media