



Mia Feinstein is a celebrity animal photographer whose clients include the National Gallery, RSPCA, Dog's Trust, and the Retired Greyhound Trust. She's also the author of two fabulous books: *Andy Warhound*, *Pup Art*, a fun book inspired by Andy Warhol's fabulous pop art, and *Pooches in Shades*, displaying the glam side of canine.

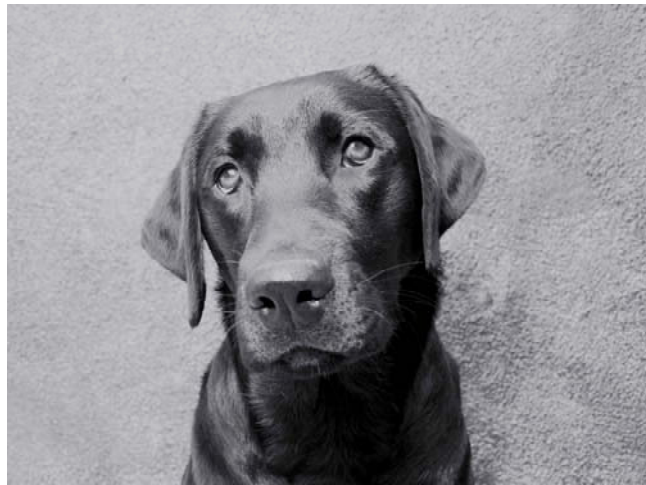
Mia, how did you become interested in photographing animals?

MF - I started photographing dogs when I was a kid. I used to have a mini Yorkie called Gucci when I was 11. He started off my passion for dog photography. Only later when I was living in London, I had a discussion with a top fashion photographer who advised me to find my niche in photography. So I found my comfort zone with dogs.



*I notice on your website that you have gorgeous photos of both dogs and cats.
Which are harder to photograph?*

MF - I think that cats are harder to photograph, you cannot really train a cat to sit and fetch. They are more aloof. Dogs respond to their owner and look at them as their provider of love, food, walks, health etc. Cats are better at fending for themselves or can be left alone for a longer period of time.



Who are some of the celebrity animals you've photographed?

MF - I have photographed celebrity dogs of Elizabeth Hurley, Jamiroquai, Simon Pegg, Annie Wersching (24), Julian McMahon (Nip Tuck), Rowland Rivron, and Perez Hilton.

Which was your favorite celeb shoot and which was the most challenging?

MF - The best shoot that I have done was with Julian McMahon in Los Angeles with his dog, puppies and family. It was also the most challenging because it was photographing two older dogs, three puppies and a few family members. The puppies were very energetic and playful.

Are there some breeds of dogs that are easier or harder to photograph?

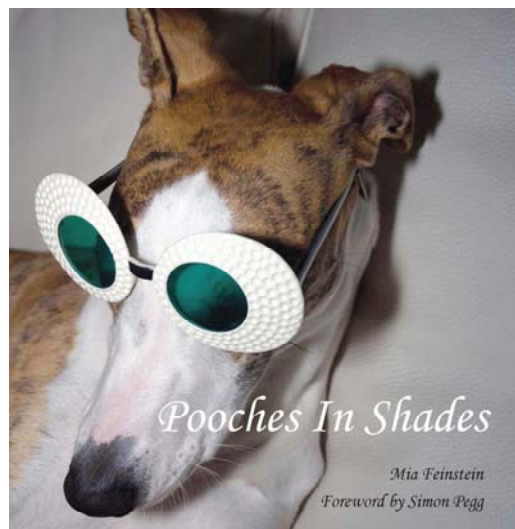
MF - Not really; dog breeds of all sizes are aware of the camera and when they are being photographed. Some times, when I have tried to photograph a dog, they turn their head to the side. Puppies can be very cute, but can be a handful when it comes to photographing.

Any tips you can share for the amateur photographer trying to capture the perfect shot of Fido or a family portrait with Fido for a holiday greeting card?

MF - First, get relaxed with your subject and then try and make the dog sit. Learn any key word phrases from the owner that the dog responds to. Distract the dog with toys, treats, cuddles, and love.

Tell us a little about the inspiration for your books.

MF - The inspiration for *Pooches in Shades* came from certain dog breeds like pugs and bulldogs wearing doggles (dog goggles). Sometimes they need to wear these in order to protect their eyes. So I thought why not use funky, fashionable, and novelty sunglasses to bring out the character of the dog. They almost look human.



MF - *Andy Warhound Pup Art* came out of my love for modern art especially pop art. I have seen over the years images of parent's kids that had been pop arted. I thought, "Why do not it with my images that I took from my photographs?" Dog owners consider their dogs to be their children. Why not invest in a piece of art of your pooch that looks fantastic on the wall?!



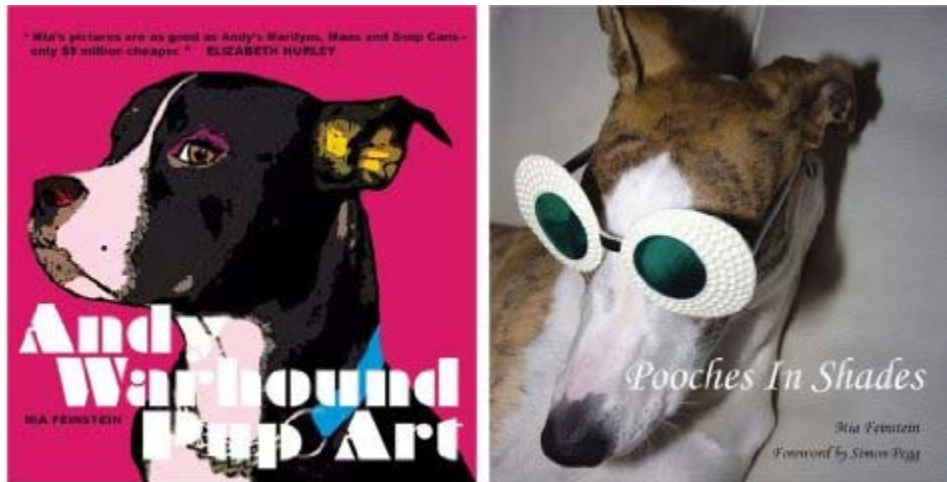
I also noticed some beautiful photos on your site that look like they've been captured from across the globe. What's their story?

MF - I love to travel and have been to many beautiful, cultural, and inspirational places in the world, ranging from Kenya, to the USA, Caribbean, Africa, UK, Poland, Sardinia, New York, London, Cape Town, Mombassa, South of France, Florence, Venice, etc.

Anything you'd like to add?

MF - I have photographed Nelson Mandela for *Make Poverty History*, the Counting Crows at Wembley and DJ Rui da Silva. I have also photographed for the National Gallery and British Council in the UK.

Check out Mia's webpage at <http://www.miafeinstein.com/>. At this site, you'll learn about Mia and her work. You can also find stunning photos of a wide variety of both dogs and cats, each one capturing the unique personality of its subject.



You'll find Mia's books on amazon.com. They make great additions to any coffee table and terrific gifts for the dog lovers in your life!