



NEW RELEASE

**The Gender Frontier**  
**Mariette Pathy Allen**

*A southern sheriff began life female, and through radical surgical procedures, over the course of many years, became a man. A street-tough teenager grew out his hair, took on a feminine name, and thus was transformed from one gender to another.*

Texts by Milton Diamond, Jamison Green, Riki Wilchins, Grady T. Turner, et al.

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For 25 years the American photographer Mariette Pathy Allen has accompanied people with her camera who live in more than one gender, or are in transition from one to another. Through the early 1990s, she increasingly developed contacts with transsexual people, and others who changed their gender presentation more permanently than crossdressers do.

»The Gender Frontier« shows us the multiple facets of the transgender community in a new and unique way. This world has been photographed by outsiders and rendered strange, monstrous, a distant other. No outsider has brought a more loving gaze and the willingness to let people define themselves to the enterprise than Mariette Pathy Allen:

»My work involves the ›defreakification‹, of the transgender community. We all search for our personal identity: the relationship of mind, body, and soul. The only difference between the ›normal‹, and the transgendered person is the intensity of the search drama. Transsexuals go the farthest in their drama in that they are the only people who actually re-birth themselves: they re-create their bodies to suit their minds and souls.«

**Mariette Pathy Allen** lives in New York City. New York State Council on the Arts grant recipient 1988; consultant and still photographer for documentary films including the award winning Southern Comfort whose protagonists are also featured in »The Gender Frontier«. Solo and group exhibitions in the US and abroad; her work is in permanent collections at the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, the Reiss-Engelhorn Museum, Mannheim, the Corcoran Museum of Art, Washington DC, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York City, et al.

Author of Transformations: Crossdressers and Those Who Love Them, (1989), publications in many international periodicals. British »Marie Claire« will feature Mariette Pathy Allen and »The Gender Frontier« in its November issue 2003.



from: »The Gender Frontier«  
by Mariette Pathy Allen



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