**Herb Ritts**

(1952 - 2002, United States)

He moved from Los Angeles to New York to attend the Bard College. Here he obtained a diploma in economy and history of art. He came back in Los Angeles where he started to be interested in photography. In 1978 he took a photo of his friend Richard Gere, still young actor to his first debut as film actor. These photos were published on *Vogue*, *Esquire* and *Mademoiselle*. This first success marked his decision to work with photography. In Eighty and Ninety he realised his VIP portraits: George Clooney, Mel Gibson, Elizabeth Taylor, Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts, Nicole Kidman, Cher, Madonna, Francesco Clemente, Elton John, Dalai Lama, Mikhail Gorbachev and so many others. He collaborated with so many magazines: *Interview*, *Esquire*, *Mademoiselle*, *Glamour*, *GQ*, *Newsweek*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Rolling Stone*, *Time*, *Vogue*, *Allure*, *Vanity Fair*, *Details*, *Elle*. Herb Ritts also curated some advertising campaigns for Giorgio Armani, Revlon, Ralph Lauren, Chanel, Gianni Versace, Calvin Klein, Elizabeth Arden, Donna Karan, Cartier, Guess, Maybelline, TAG Heuer, Lacoste, Levi's, Victoria's Secret, Gap, Lancôme, e Valentino. HIV-infected, he died of pneumonia.