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Talking Heads

The Vent Haven Portraits

Matthew Rolston

ISBN	9781938461002
Publisher	Pointed Leaf Press
Binding	Hardback
Territory	USA & Canada
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Pages	224 Pages
Price	$75.00

- Featuring a series of 100 richly-colored, high resolution portraits in an oversized, deluxe, square format edition
- Enriched with several essays, including one by Rolston himself, as well as archival photographs of many of the figures in Rolston's portraits and a history of the Vent Haven Museum and its collections

Influential American celebrity photographer, director and creative director Matthew Rolston turns his eye for portraiture to a new cast of characters with the launch of *Talking Heads, The Vent Haven Portraits*. Using techniques he has honed over decades of celebrity portraiture, and marking his first foray into the world of fine arts, Rolston has captured the inherent humanity of a rarely-seen collection of unique entertainment figures: ventriloquist dummies. Unearthed from the intimate and obscure Vent Haven Museum in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, Rolston used a rigorously formal photographic approach to bring out the power in the faces of these figures through a series of 100 portraits, or “headshots”. Rolston painstakingly selected the faces he was most drawn to and, in particular, those that conveyed a sense of character through pronounced aging, exaggerated features, and ornately painted faces, drawing the eye directly to the sometimes disturbingly human quality of each dummy. Breathing new life into these inanimate figures, Rolston’s photographs channel a sustained and energetic presence that is at once commanding, totemic, and touchingly familiar.

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