

Portrait Composites

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William Wegman



Nancy Burson



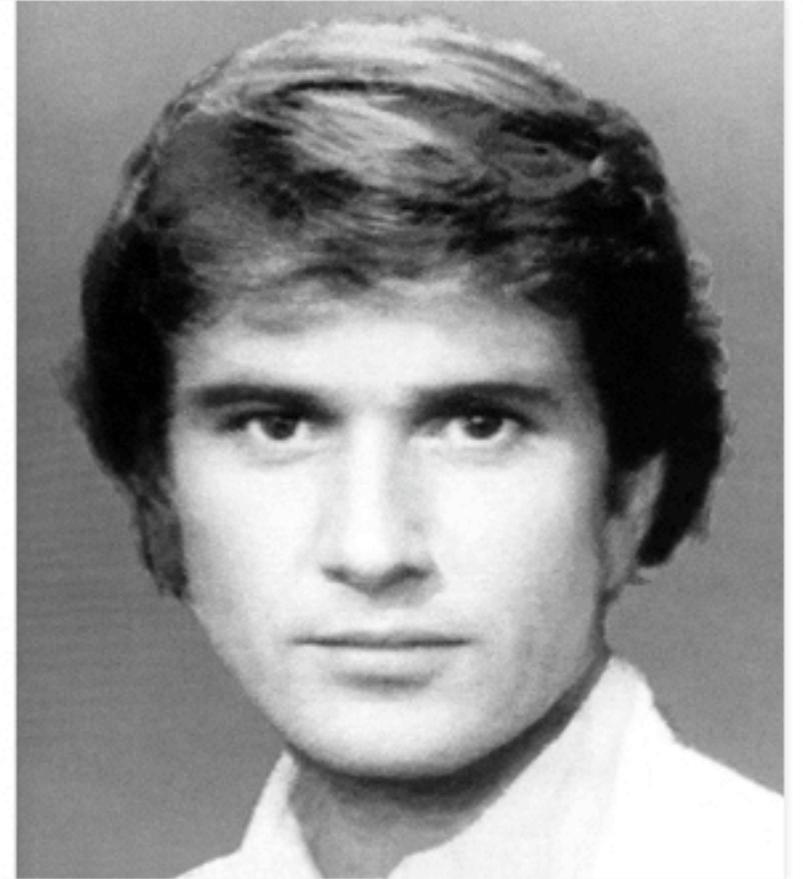
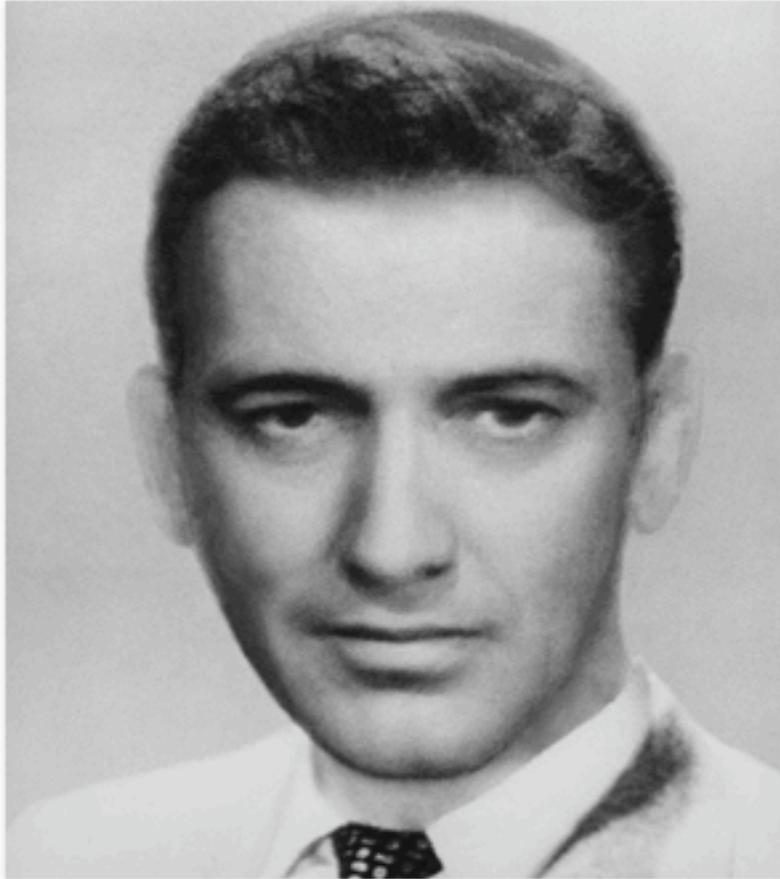
Warhead I Weighted to the number of nuclear warheads in each country's arsenal (Reagan 55%, Brezhnev 45%, Thatcher less than 1%, Mitterand less than 1%, Deng less than 1%). 1982

Nancy Burson



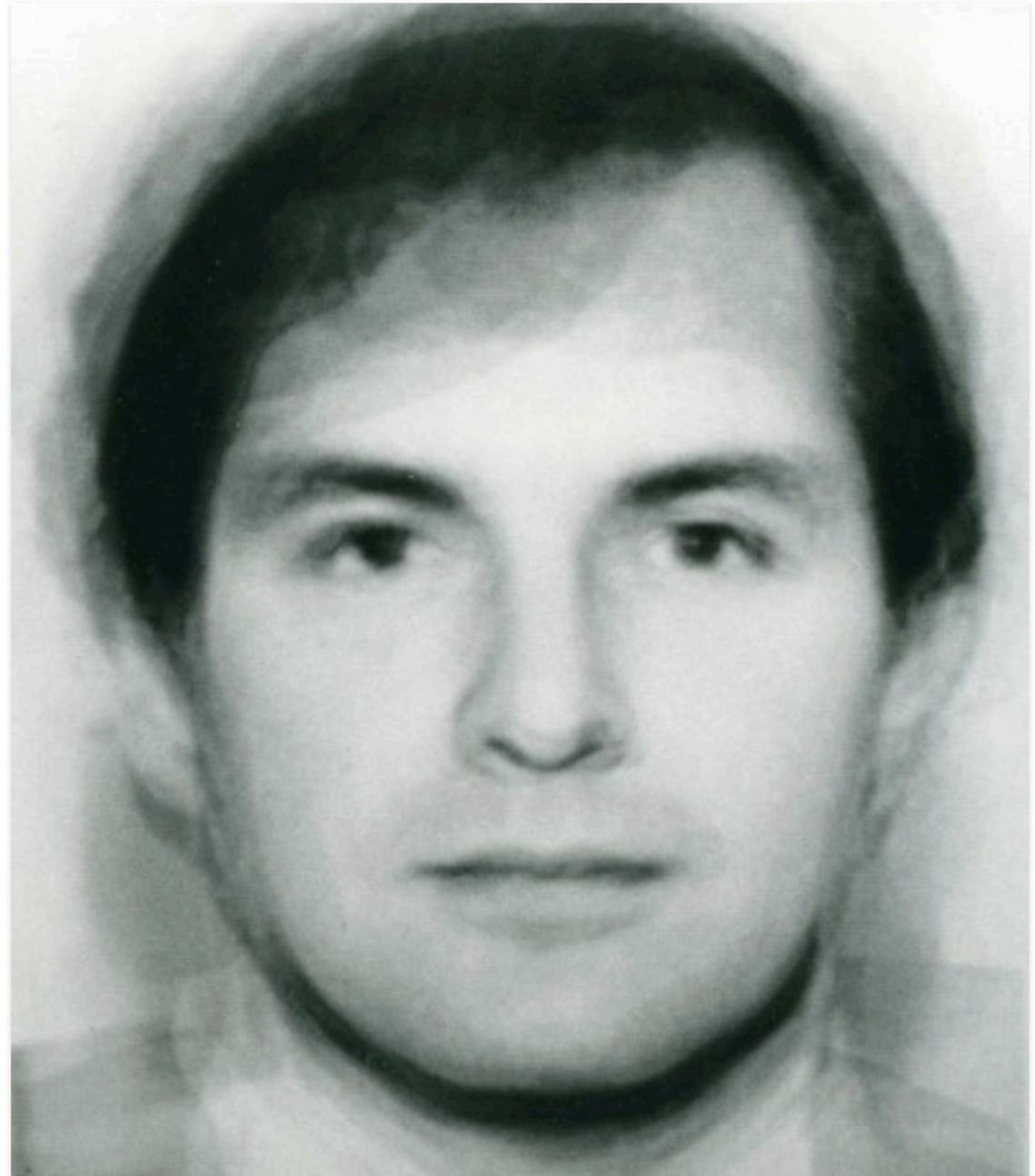
First and Second Beauty Composites (Left: Bette Davis, Audrey Hepburn, Grace Kelly, Sophia Loren, Marilyn Monroe. Right: Jane Fonda, Jacqueline Bisset, Diane Keaton, Brooke Shields, Meryl Streep) 1982

Nancy Burson



First and Second Male Movie Star Composites (First Composite: Cary Grant, Jimmy Stewart, Gary Cooper, Clarke Gable; Second Composite: Richard Gere, Christopher Reeve, Mel Gibson, Warren Beatty, Robert Redford) 1984.

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10 Businessmen from Goldman Sachs, 1982

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Androgyny (6 Men + 6 Women) 1982

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Mankind (The images used are from a 19th century book of racial stereotypes and were weighted to reflect world population statistics.) 1983-1985

Richard Prince

Untitled Girlfriend (Jerry's Girl)

2013

Pigment print on canvas

59.8" x 50"

Edition of 57

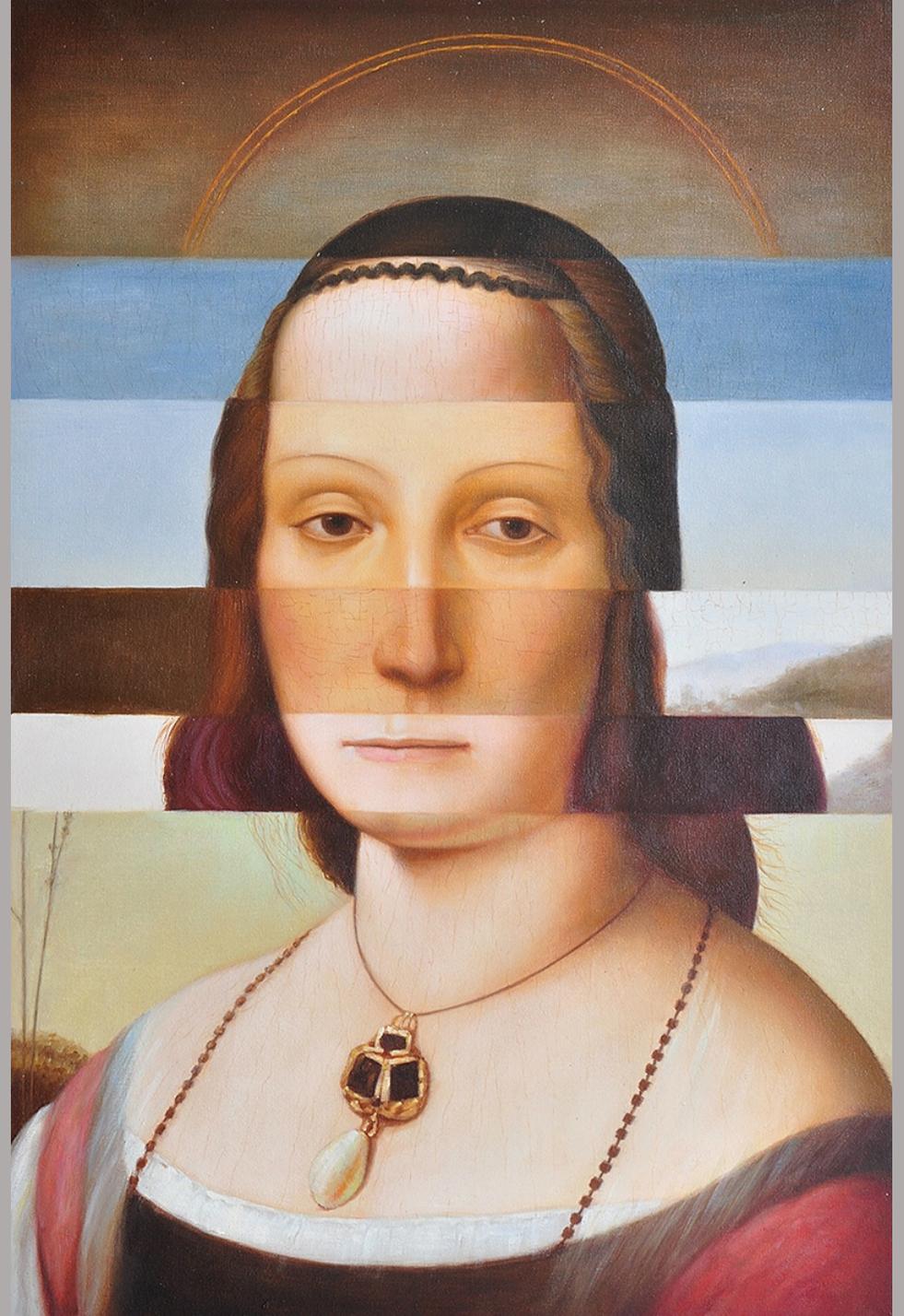


A Composite of 57 of Jerry Seinfeld's TV Girlfriends

Rob & Nick Carter

Composite Portraits

2013



Eugenics

Francis Galton first published his research as "Composite portraits," in *Nature* in 1878. Galton said, "The photographic process of which I there spoke, enables us to obtain with mechanical precision a generalised picture; one that represents no man in particular, but portrays an imaginary figure, possessing the average features of any given group of men. These ideal faces have a surprising air of reality. Nobody who glanced at one of them for the first time, would doubt its being the likeness of a living person. Yet, as I have said, it is no such thing; it is the portrait of a type, and not of an individual."

Charles Darwin was working on his concept of Natural Selection ca. 1858

SPECIMENS OF COMPOSITE PORTRAITURE
PERSONAL AND FAMILY.

 <i>Alexander the Great From 6 Different Medals.</i>	 <i>Two Sisters.</i>	 <i>From 6 Members of same Family Male & Female.</i>
HEALTH.	DISEASE.	CRIMINALITY.
 <i>23 Cases. Royal Engineers, 12 Officers, 11 Privates</i>	 6 Cases  9 Cases <i>Tubercular Disease</i>	 8 Cases  4 Cases <i>2 Of the many Criminal Types</i>
CONSUMPTION AND OTHER MALADIES		
I  20 Cases II  36 Cases <i>Consumptive Cases.</i>	 56 Cases <i>Co-composite of I & II</i>	 100 Cases  50 Cases <i>Not Consumptive.</i>

INQUIRIES
 INTO
HUMAN FACULTY
 AND ITS
 DEVELOPMENT

BY
FRANCIS GALTON, F.R.S.
 AUTHOR OF 'HEREDITARY GENIUS,' ETC.

London
 MACMILLAN AND CO.
 1883

Dr. H. P. Bowditch took photographs of himself and eleven colleagues—all members of a physician’s dining club, the Kappa Pi Eta—in 1887 and again in 1892 and then devised a composite portrait of all twelve to isolate the common characteristics of a typical physician. *“The face is distinctly intellectual in its character, and the apparent age is not far from the average age of the components.... The method of composite photography has, therefore, in this case, at any rate, produced a portrait which may be regarded as typical of the components, since its features fairly represent the group in respect to the only two qualities, namely, age and intelligence, in which the individual faces resemble each other.”*

The original of this photograph was displayed with a number of other Bowditch composites at the Second International

Exhibition of Eugenics in 1921.

- United States during the turn of the 20th Century engaged in sterilization practices.
- Nazis employed a sterilization decree in 1935



Henry Pickering Bowditch
Twelve Boston physicians and their composite portrait
1892