



From left: Cecil Beaton at Ashcombe in England in the 1930s; Debi Wisch and Jennifer Blei Stockman.



Sunny Side Up

HOT & SUNNY PRODUCTIONS PULLS BACK THE CURTAIN ON THE NOTORIOUSLY OPAQUE ART WORLD.

BY ALLISON BERG

The idea behind Hot & Sunny Productions, an art-centric film hub, was sparked on a casual summer hike back in 2014. With 50 years of art collecting experience between them, East Ender Debi Wisch and former Guggenheim Foundation president Jennifer Blei Stockman dove into their arty Rolodexes to create a vehicle that would challenge the contemporary art landscape and make it more accessible through inspiring movies.

Fast-forward less than four years later, and their cinematic offerings are impressive. Recently HBO has purchased and is theatrically releasing Hot & Sunny's *The Price of Everything*, a documentary featuring 4,300 works of art and interviews with artists like Jeff Koons and Njideka Akunyili Crosby, collector Stefan Edlis, and major museum curators, gallerists and top auction house executives. The film probes questions about art as an asset, the relationship between commercial success and artists' value, and the art world's relationship to the society at large. The duo's second film, *Love, Cecil*, premieres at the Telluride Film Festival in August. Directed by Lisa Immordino Vreeland, it investigates Cecil Beaton's life and highlights David Hockney, Hamish Bowles and Manolo Blahnik, among others.

"We want to provide access and opportunities," says Wisch. "There is a fearlessness in our 50s or 60s because we've had other careers. Look at the reward! I hope in some way it's inspiring other people in the arts. There will be things that won't work out, but we have to remain unafraid of taking risks."

CECIL BEATON PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CECIL BEATON STUDIO ARCHIVE AT SOTHEBY'S; DEBI WISCH AND JENNIFER BLEI STOCKMAN PHOTO BY GUSTAVO CAMPOS