

The Human Touch

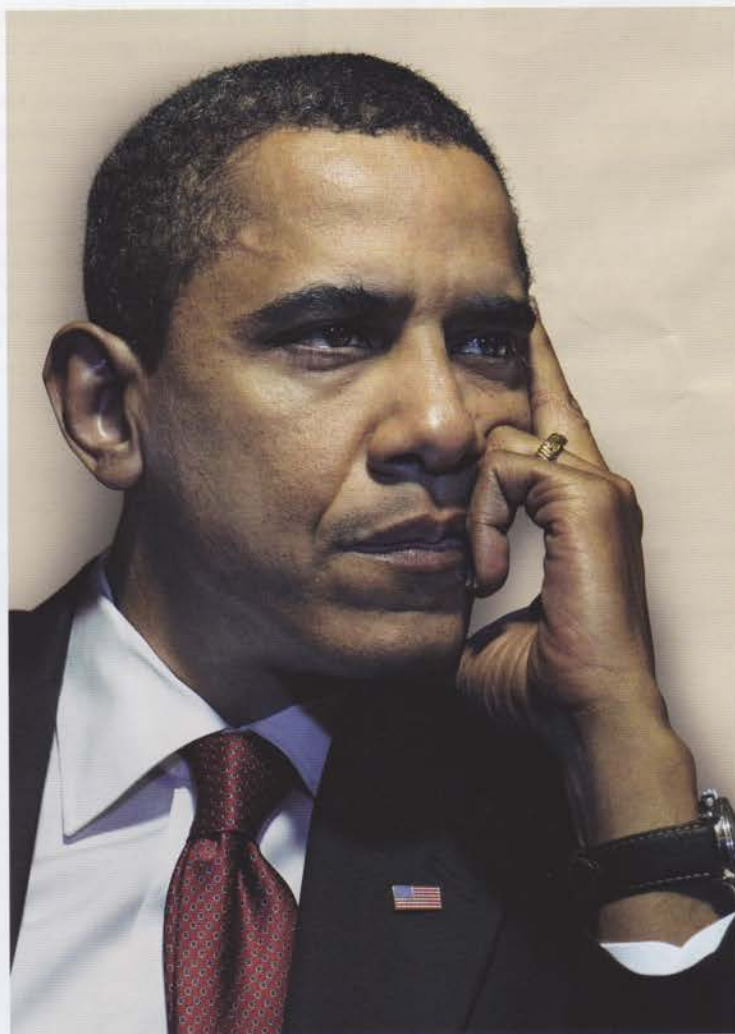
Known best for his uncompromising and revealing portraiture, photographer **NADAV KANDER** mounts his first solo show in Hong Kong

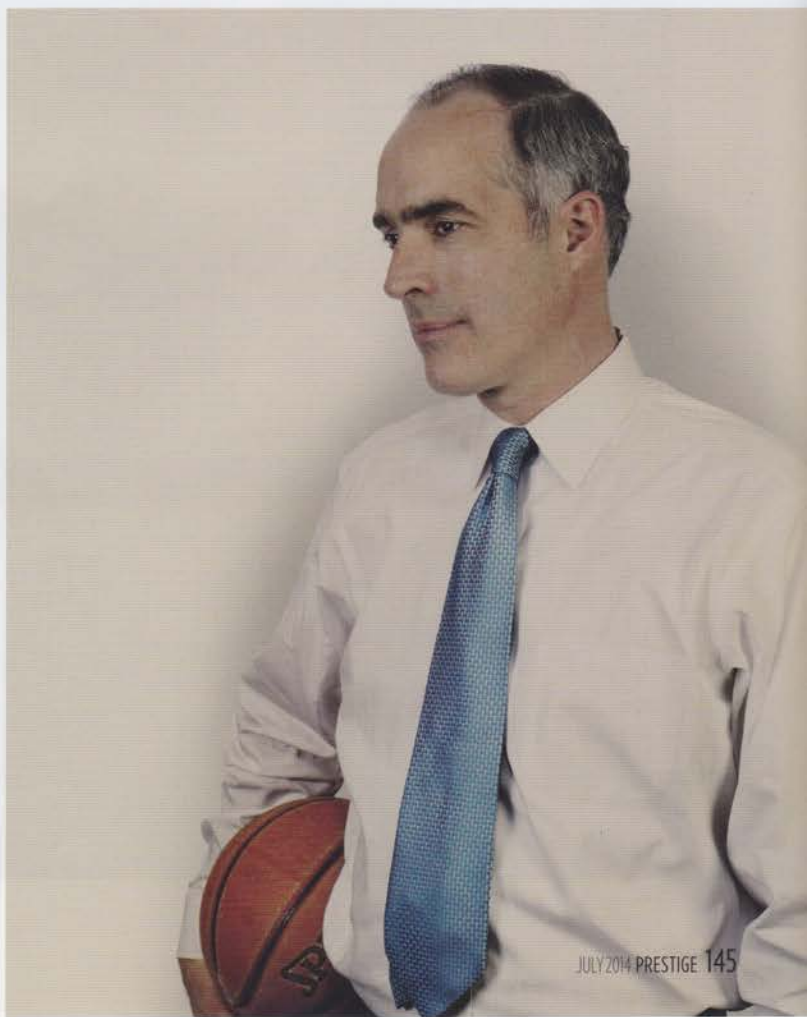
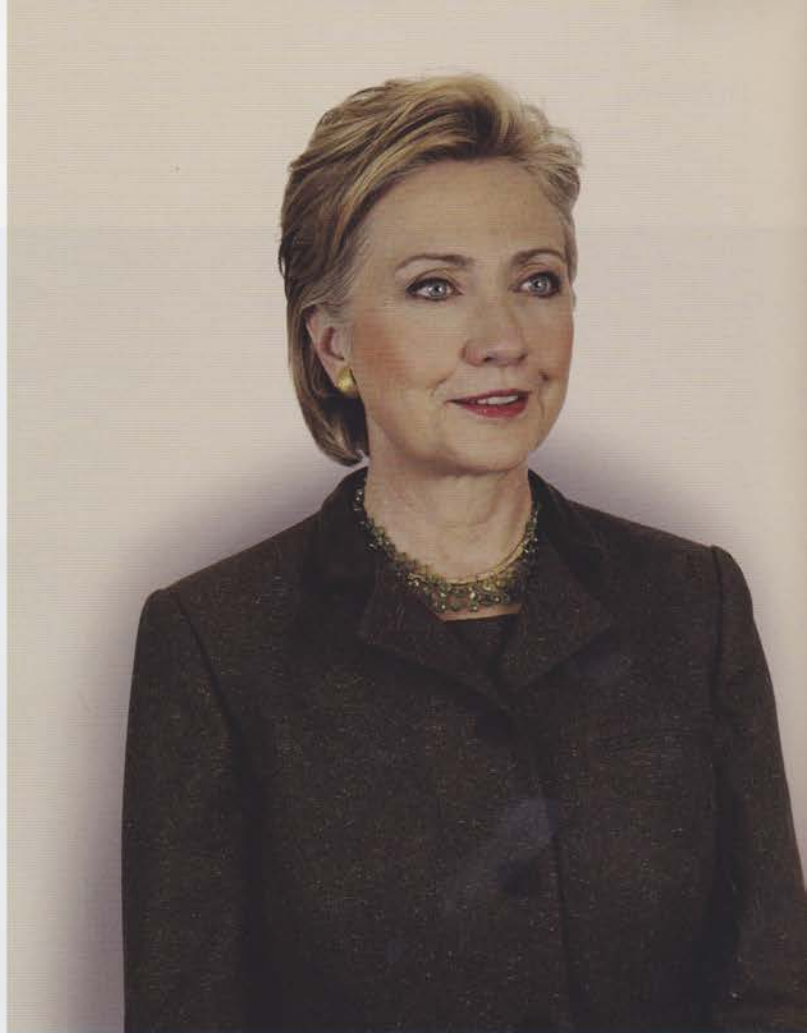
IN 2008, THE YEAR Barack Obama was elected to office, the *New York Times* magazine commissioned photographer Nadav Kander to shoot a series of 52 portraits that came to be titled *Obama's People*, featuring a cast of characters that included Vice-President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, as well as the up-and-coming twenty-something aides and the President's social secretary. The minimalist photographs are perhaps Kander's best known, representing the largest body of work by one photographer in a single issue of the magazine, and have subsequently been shown in a gallery setting.

Until July 19, *Curves of Moon and Rivers of Blue* shows at Blindspot Gallery in Hong Kong, an exhibition curated by Tamar Arnon and Eli Zagury and combining two of Kander's most well-known series. The former, *Yangtze, The Long River* was shot over 2006-2008, and in 2009 earned the Prix Pictet, a prestigious global photography award for depiction in the theme of sustainability. The shots document scenes along China's Yangtze River and tell a tale of the country in a stark and smoggy palette.

The more recent *Bodies, 6 Women, 1 Man* explores a much more private subject, the nude form. Pale-skinned, full-figured shapes glow against a dark backdrop, and far from being imbued with sexuality, they are crisp and austere depicted.

If the subject matter runs a wide gamut, Kander's interest is often singular. Through his lens, he seeks to expose the human condition at its barest. ■







THIS PAGE: *ELIZABETH SITTING* (2012). OPPOSITE: *WITH CURVES OF MOON*, *AUDREY IN COSMOS I* (2014)





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: CHONGQING IV (SUNDAY PICNIC), CHONGQING MUNICIPALITY (2006); THREE GORGES DAM I (THE STATE IS SHATTERED, MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS REMAIN), YICHANG, HUBEI PROVINCE (2007); QINGHAI PROVINCE II (2007)

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