

= Patti Smith =

Patricia Lee " Patti " Smith (born December 30 , 1946) is an American singer @-@ songwriter , poet , and visual artist who became a highly influential component of the New York City punk rock movement with her 1975 debut album *Horses* .

Called the " punk poet laureate " , Smith fused rock and poetry in her work . Smith 's most widely known song is " Because the Night " , which was co @-@ written with Bruce Springsteen . The song reached number 13 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in 1978 . In 2005 , Patti Smith was named a Commander of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture , and in 2007 , she was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame . On November 17 , 2010 , she won the National Book Award for her memoir *Just Kids* . The book fulfilled a promise she had made to her former long @-@ time roommate and partner , Robert Mapplethorpe . In Rolling Stone magazine 's list of 100 Greatest Artists published in December 2010 , she was in 47th place . She is also a recipient of the 2011 Polar Music Prize .

= = Life and career = =

= = = 1946 ? 1967 : Early life = = =

Patricia Lee Smith was born in Chicago . Her mother , Beverly , was a waitress , and her father , Ian and her much younger brother Christopher Ian worked at the Honeywell plant . Her father and brother moved to England in 1958 following a divorce . The family was of Irish ancestry . She spent her early childhood in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia , before her family moved to Pitman , New Jersey and later to The Woodbury Gardens section of Deptford Twp . New Jersey . Her mother was a Jehovah 's Witness . Patti had a strong religious upbringing and a Bible education , but left organized religion as a teenager because she felt it was too confining ; much later , she wrote the line " Jesus died for somebody 's sins , but not mine " in her cover version of Them 's " Gloria " in response to this experience . She has described having an avid interest in Tibetan Buddhism around the age of eleven or twelve , saying " I fell in love with Tibet because their essential mission was to keep a continual stream of prayer , " but that as an adult she sees clear parallels between different forms of religion , and has come to the conclusion that religious dogmas are " ... man @-@ made laws that you can either decide to abide by or not . " At this early age Smith was exposed to her first records , including *Shrimp Boats* by Harry Belafonte , *Patience and Prudence* doing *The Money Tree* , and *Another Side of Bob Dylan* , which her mother gave to her . Smith graduated from Deptford Township High School in 1964 and went to work in a factory . She gave birth to her first child , a daughter , on April 26 , 1967 , and chose to place her for adoption .

= = = 1967 ? 1973 : New York = = =

In 1967 , she left Glassboro State College (now Rowan University) and moved to Manhattan . She met photographer Robert Mapplethorpe there while working at a book store with a friend , poet Janet Hamill . She and Mapplethorpe had an intense romantic relationship , which was tumultuous as the pair struggled with times of poverty , and Mapplethorpe with his own sexuality . Smith considers Mapplethorpe to be one of the most important people in her life , and in her book *Just Kids* refers to him as " the artist of my life " . Mapplethorpe 's photographs of her became the covers for the Patti Smith Group LPs , and they remained friends until Mapplethorpe 's death in 1989 . In 1969 she went to Paris with her sister and started busking and doing performance art . When Smith returned to Manhattan , she lived in the Hotel Chelsea with Mapplethorpe ; they frequented Max 's Kansas City and CBGB . Smith provided the spoken word soundtrack for Sandy Daley 's art film *Robert Having His Nipple Pierced* , starring Mapplethorpe . The same year Smith appeared with Wayne County in Jackie Curtis 's play *Femme Fatale* . Afterward , she also starred in Tony Ingrassia 's play *Island* . As a member of the St. Mark 's Poetry Project , she spent the early 1970s painting ,

writing , and performing . In 1971 she performed ? for one night only ? in Cowboy Mouth , a play that she co @-@ wrote with Sam Shepard . (The published play 's notes call for " a man who looks like a coyote and a woman who looks like a crow " .) She wrote several poems , " for sam shepard " and " Sam Shepard : 9 Random Years (7 + 2) " about her relationship with Shepard .

Smith was briefly considered for the lead singer position in Blue Öyster Cult . She contributed lyrics to several of the band 's songs , including " Debbie Denise " (inspired by her poem " In Remembrance of Debbie Denise ") , " Baby Ice Dog " , " Career of Evil " , " Fire of Unknown Origin " , " The Revenge of Vera Gemini " (on which she performs duet vocals) , and " Shooting Shark " . She was romantically involved at the time with the band 's keyboardist , Allen Lanier . During these years , Smith also wrote rock journalism , some of which was published in Rolling Stone and Creem .

= = = 1974 ? 1979 : Patti Smith Group = = =

By 1974 , Patti Smith was performing rock music herself , initially with guitarist , bassist and rock archivist Lenny Kaye , and later with a full band comprising Kaye , Ivan Kral on guitar and bass , Jay Dee Daugherty on drums and Richard Sohl on piano . Ivan Kral was a refugee from Czechoslovakia , he moved to the USA in 1966 with his parents who were diplomats . After the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 , Kral decided not to return . Financed by Sam Wagstaff , the band recorded a first single , " Hey Joe / Piss Factory " , in 1974 . The A @-@ side was a version of the rock standard with the addition of a spoken word piece about fugitive heiress Patty Hearst (" Patty Hearst , you 're standing there in front of the Symbionese Liberation Army flag with your legs spread , I was wondering were you gettin ' it every night from a black revolutionary man and his women ... ") . The B @-@ side describes the helpless anger Smith had felt while working on a factory assembly line and the salvation she discovered in the form of a shoplifted book , the 19th century French poet Arthur Rimbaud 's Illuminations . In a 1996 interview which discusses artistic influences during her young years , Smith said , " I had devoted so much of my girlish daydreams to Rimbaud . Rimbaud was like my boyfriend . "

Later that same year , she performed spoken poetry on " I Wake Up Screaming " from Ray Manzarek 's The Whole Thing Started with Rock & Roll Now It 's Out of Control album .

The Patti Smith Group was signed by Clive Davis of Arista Records , and in 1975 recorded their first album , Horses , produced by John Cale amid some tension . The album fused punk rock and spoken poetry and begins with a cover of Van Morrison 's " Gloria " , and Smith 's opening words : " Jesus died for somebody 's sins but not mine " (an excerpt from " Oath " , one of her early poems) . The austere cover photograph by Mapplethorpe has become one of rock 's classic images . As the popularity of punk rock grew , Patti Smith Group toured the United States and Europe . The rawer sound of the group 's second album , Radio Ethiopia , reflected this . Considerably less accessible than Horses , Radio Ethiopia initially received poor reviews . However , several of its songs have stood the test of time , and Smith still performs them regularly in concert . She has said that Radio Ethiopia was influenced by the band MC5 .

On January 23 , 1977 , while touring in support of Radio Ethiopia , Smith accidentally danced off a high stage in Tampa , Florida , and fell 15 feet into a concrete orchestra pit , breaking several neck vertebrae . The injury required a period of rest and an intensive round of physical therapy , during which time she was able to reassess , re @-@ energize and reorganize her life . Patti Smith Group produced two further albums before the end of the 1970s . Easter (1978) was her most commercially successful record , containing the single " Because the Night " co @-@ written with Bruce Springsteen . Wave (1979) was less successful , although the songs " Frederick " and " Dancing Barefoot " both received commercial airplay .

= = = 1980 ? 1995 : Marriage = = =

Before the release of Wave , Smith , now separated from long @-@ time partner Allen Lanier , met Fred " Sonic " Smith , former guitar player for Detroit rock band MC5 and his own Sonic 's

Rendezvous Band , who adored poetry as much as she did . (Wave 's " Dancing Barefoot " and " Frederick " were both dedicated to him .) The running joke at the time was that she married Fred only because she would not have to change her name . They had a son , Jackson (b . 1982) who would go on to marry The White Stripes drummer , Meg White in 2009 ; and a daughter , Jesse (b . 1987) . Through most of the 1980s Patti Smith was in semi @-@ retirement from music , living with her family north of Detroit in St. Clair Shores , Michigan . In June 1988 , she released the album Dream of Life , which included the song " People Have the Power " . Fred Smith died on November 4 , 1994 , of a heart attack . Shortly afterward , Patti faced the unexpected death of her brother Todd . When her son Jackson turned 14 , Smith decided to move back to New York . After the impact of these deaths , her friends Michael Stipe of R.E.M. and Allen Ginsberg (whom she had known since her early years in New York) urged her to go back out on the road . She toured briefly with Bob Dylan in December 1995 (chronicled in a book of photographs by Stipe) .

= = = 1996 ? 2003 : Re @-@ emergence = = =

In 1996 , Smith worked with her long @-@ time colleagues to record Gone Again , featuring " About a Boy " , a tribute to Kurt Cobain . That same year she collaborated with Stipe on " E @-@ Bow the Letter " , a song on R.E.M. ' s New Adventures in Hi @-@ Fi , which she has also performed live with the band . After release of Gone Again , Patti Smith recorded two new albums : Peace and Noise in 1997 (with the single " 1959 " , about the invasion of Tibet) and Gung Ho in 2000 (with songs about Ho Chi Minh and Smith 's late father) . Songs " 1959 " and " Glitter in Their Eyes " were nominated for Grammy Award for Best Female Rock Vocal Performance . A box set of her work up to that time , The Patti Smith Masters , came out in 1996 , and 2002 saw the release of Land (1975 ? 2002) , a two @-@ CD compilation that includes a cover of Prince 's " When Doves Cry " . Smith 's solo art exhibition Strange Messenger was hosted at The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh on September 28 , 2002 .

= = = 2004 ? present = = =

On April 27 , 2004 , Patti Smith released Trampin ' which included several songs about motherhood , partly in tribute to Smith 's mother , who had died two years before . It was her first album on Columbia Records , soon to become a sister label to her previous home Arista Records . Smith curated the Meltdown festival in London on June 25 , 2005 , the penultimate event being the first live performance of Horses in its entirety . Guitarist Tom Verlaine took Oliver Ray 's place . This live performance was released later in the year as Horses / Horses .

On July 10 , 2005 , Smith was named a Commander of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture . In addition to Smith 's influence on rock music , the Minister also noted her appreciation of Arthur Rimbaud . In August 2005 , Smith gave a literary lecture about the poems of Arthur Rimbaud and William Blake . On October 15 , 2006 , Patti Smith performed at the CBGB nightclub , with a 3 ½ -hour tour de force to close out Manhattan 's music venue . She took the stage at 9 : 30 p.m. (EDT) and closed for the night (and forever for the venue) at a few minutes after 1 : 00 a.m. , performing her song " Elegie " , and finally reading a list of punk rock musicians and advocates who had died in the previous years .

On November 10 , 2005 , Smith received the Woman of Valor Award from ROCKRGRL Magazine at the ROCKRGRL Music Conference , marking the 30th Anniversary of the release of " Horses . "

Smith was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on March 12 , 2007 . She dedicated her award to the memory of her late husband , Fred , and gave a performance of The Rolling Stones staple " Gimme Shelter " . As the closing number of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony , Smith 's " People Have the Power " was used for the big celebrity jam that always ends the program .

From November 2006 - January 2007 , an exhibition called ' Sur les Traces ' at Trolley Gallery , London , featured polaroid prints taken by Patti Smith and donated to Trolley to raise awareness and funds for the publication of Double Blind , a book on the war in Lebanon in 2006 , with

photographs by Paolo Pellegrin , a member of Magnum Photos . She also participated in the DVD commentary for Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon Movie Film for Theaters . From March 28 to June 22 , 2008 , the Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain in Paris hosted a major exhibition of the visual artwork of Patti Smith , Land 250 , drawn from pieces created between 1967 and 2007 . At the 2008 Rowan Commencement ceremony , Smith received an honorary doctorate degree for her contributions to popular culture .

Smith is the subject of a 2008 documentary film , Patti Smith : Dream of Life . A live album by Patti Smith and Kevin Shields , The Coral Sea was released in July 2008 . On September 10 , 2009 , after a week of smaller events and exhibitions in the city , Smith played an open @-@ air concert in Florence 's Piazza Santa Croce , commemorating her performance in the same city 30 years earlier . In the meantime , she contributed with a special introduction to Jessica Lange 's book 50 Photographs (2009) . In 2010 , Patti Smith 's book , Just Kids , a memoir of her time in 1970s Manhattan and her relationship with Robert Mapplethorpe , was published ; it later won the National Book Award for Nonfiction . On April 30 , 2010 , Patti Smith headlined a benefit concert headed by band @-@ mate Tony Shanahan , for The Court Tavern of New Brunswick . Smith 's set included " Gloria " , " Because the Night " and " People Have the Power . " She has a brief cameo in Jean @-@ Luc Godard 's 2010 Film Socialisme , which was first screened in the Un Certain Regard section at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival .

On May 17 , 2010 , Patti Smith received an honorary doctorate in fine arts from Pratt Institute , along with architect Daniel Libeskind , MoMA director Glenn Lowry , former NYC Landmarks Commissioner Barbaralee Diamonstein @-@ Spielvogel , novelist Jonathan Lethem , and director Steven Soderbergh . Following the conferral of her degree , Smith delivered the commencement address and sang / played two songs accompanied by long @-@ time band member Lenny Kaye . In her remarks , Smith explained that in 1967 when she moved to New York City (Brooklyn) , she would never have been accepted into Pratt , but most of her friends (including Mapplethorpe) were students at Pratt and she spent countless hours on the Pratt campus . She added that it was through her friends and their Pratt professors that she learned much of her own artistic skills , making the honour from the institute particularly poignant for Smith 43 years later .

Smith is currently working on a crime novel set in London . " I 've been working on a detective story that starts at the St Giles in the Fields church in London for the last two years , " she told NME adding that she " loved detective stories " having been a fan of Sherlock Holmes and US crime author Mickey Spillane as a girl . Part of the book will be set in Gothenburg , Sweden .

On May 3 , 2011 , it was announced that Patti Smith is one of the winners of the Polar Music Prize : " By devoting her life to art in all its forms , Patti Smith has demonstrated how much rock 'n'roll there is in poetry and how much poetry there is in rock 'n'roll . Patti Smith is a Rimbaud with Marshall amps . She has transformed the way an entire generation looks , thinks and dreams . With her inimitable soul of an artist , Patti Smith proves over and over again that people have the power . "

On June 19 , 2011 , Patti Smith made her television acting debut on the TV series Law & Order : Criminal Intent , appearing in an episode called " Icarus " .

Smith has recorded a cover of Buddy Holly 's classic " Words of Love " for the CD Rave On Buddy Holly , a tribute album tied to Holly 's seventy @-@ fifth birthday year which was released June 28 , 2011 .

Smith also contributed a track to " AHK @-@ toong BAY @-@ bi Covered " , a U2 covers album released through Q Magazine on October 25 , 2011 . Smith recorded a cover of " Until The End Of The World " for the compilation .

More recently , Smith has devoted her time to what she terms ' pure photography ' (a method of capturing still objects without using a flash) , which she began to pursue following the death of her husband in 1994 . In 2011 , Smith announced the first museum exhibition of her photography in the United States , Camera Solo . She named the project after a sign she saw in the abode of Pope Celestine V , which translates as ' a room of one 's own ' , and which Smith felt best described her solitary method of photography . The exhibition featured artifacts which were the everyday items or places of significance of artists whom Smith admires , including Rimbaud , Baudelaire , Keats and Blake .

In February 2012 , she was a guest at the Sanremo Music Festival .

Patti Smith 's 11th studio album , *Banga* , was released in June 2012 . Music Journalist Hal Horowitz wrote : " These songs aren 't as loud or frantic as those of her late 70s heyday , but they resonate just as boldly as she moans , chants , speaks and spits out lyrics with the grace and determination of Mohammad Ali in his prime . It 's not an easy listen ? the vast majority of her music never has been ? but if you 're a fan and / or prepared for the challenge , this is as potent , heady and uncompromising as she has ever gotten , and with Smith 's storied history as a musical maverick , that 's saying plenty . " The critical aggregator website Metacritic awarded the album a score of 81 , indicating " universal acclaim " .

Smith provides lead vocals on the title track to Red Hot Chili Peppers bassist Flea 's 2012 debut solo EP titled *Helen Burns* .

Smith was honored by Bryn Mawr College by receiving the 2013 Katharine Hepburn Medal on February 7 , 2013 .

Pope Francis greeted Smith , among other officials , visitors , and faithful , in St. Peter 's Square on April 11 , 2013 . Although Smith maintains she is not Catholic , she says she followed the Conclave after Benedict XVI 's resignation .

Smith recorded the song *Capitol Letter* for the official soundtrack of the second film of the *Hunger Games* @-@ series *The Hunger Games : Catching Fire* .

As of late December 2013 Smith was working on her second book and still performing .

The Vatican announced that Smith would play at the *Concerto di Natale* , the official Vatican Christmas Concert , on December 13 , 2014 ; the performance , held at Rome 's Auditorium Conciliazione , was also broadcast live on television .

On August 23 , 2015 , Smith sang " *Aqua Teen Dream* " , the closing theme song to the final episode of *Aqua Teen Hunger Force* on Adult Swim .

On September 26 , 2015 , Smith performed during the American Museum of Tort Law convocation ceremony .

On October 29 , 2015 , Smith sang " *People have the power* " with U2 as the closing song during their *INNOCENCE + eXPERIENCE* tour .

= = Legacy = =

Smith has been a great source of inspiration for Michael Stipe of R.E.M. Listening to her album *Horses* when he was 15 made a huge impact on him ; he said later , " I decided then that I was going to start a band . " In 1998 , Stipe published a collection of photos called *Two Times Intro : On the Road with Patti Smith* . Stipe sings backing vocals on Smith 's songs " *Last Call* " and " *Glitter in Their Eyes* . " Patti also sings background vocals on R.E.M. 's songs " *E @-@ Bow the Letter* " and " *Blue* " .

The Australian alternative rock band , *The Go @-@ Between*s dedicated a track (*When She Sang About Angels*) off their 2000 album , *The Friends of Rachel Worth* , to Smith 's long time influence .

In 2004 , Shirley Manson of Garbage spoke of Smith 's influence on her in *Rolling Stone* 's issue " *The Immortals : 100 Greatest Artists of All Time* " , in which Patti Smith was counted number 47 . The Smiths members Morrissey and Johnny Marr shared an appreciation for Smith 's *Horses* , and reveal that their song " *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle* " is a reworking of one of the album 's tracks , " *Kimberly* " . In 2004 , Sonic Youth released an album called *Hidros 3* (to Patti Smith) . U2 also cites Patti Smith as an influence . In 2005 Scottish singer @-@ songwriter KT Tunstall released the single " *Suddenly I See* " as a tribute of sorts to Patti Smith . Canadian actress Ellen Page frequently mentions Smith as one of her idols and has done various photo shoots replicating famous Smith photos , as well as Irish actress Maria Doyle Kennedy who often refers to Smith as a major influence . In 1978 and 1979 , Gilda Radner portrayed a character called *Candy Slice* on *Saturday Night Live* based on Smith .

Alternative rock singer @-@ songwriter Courtney Love of Hole heavily credited Smith as being a huge influence on her ; Love received Smith 's album *Horses* in juvenile hall as a teenager , and " realized that you could do something that was completely subversive that didn 't involve violence [or

] felonies . I stopped making trouble , " said Love . " I stopped . " Hole 's classic track " Violet " features the lyrics " And the sky was all violet / I want it again , but violent , more violent " , alluding to lyrics from Smith 's " Kimberly " . Love later stated that she considered " Rock n Roll Nigger " the greatest rock song of all time .

American pop @-@ dance singer Madonna has also named Smith as one of her biggest influences .

Anglo @-@ Celtic rock band The Waterboys ' debut single , " A Girl Called Johnny " , was written as a tribute to Smith .

The influence of Smith 's music is featured in two award @-@ winning young adult novels by Meagan Brothers , Debbie Harry Sings in French and especially Supergirl Mixtapes .

= = Activism = =

In 1993 , Smith contributed " Memorial Tribute (Live) " to the AIDS @-@ Benefit Album No Alternative produced by the Red Hot Organization .

Furthermore , Smith has been a supporter of the Green Party and backed Ralph Nader in the 2000 United States presidential election . She led the crowd singing " Over the Rainbow " and " People Have the Power " at the campaign 's rallies , and also performed at several of Nader 's subsequent " Democracy Rising " events . Smith was a speaker and singer at the first protests against the Iraq War as U.S. President George W. Bush spoke to the United Nations General Assembly . Smith supported Democratic candidate John Kerry in the 2004 election . Bruce Springsteen continued performing her " People Have the Power " at Vote for Change campaign events . In the winter of 2004 / 2005 , Smith toured again with Nader in a series of rallies against the Iraq War and called for the impeachment of George W. Bush .

Smith premiered two new protest songs in London in September 2006 . Louise Jury , writing in The Independent , characterized them as " an emotional indictment of American and Israeli foreign policy " . The song " Qana " was about the Israeli airstrike on the Lebanese village of Qana . " Without Chains " is about Murat Kurnaz , a Turkish citizen who was born and raised in Germany , held at Guantanamo Bay detainment camp for four years . Jury 's article quotes Smith as saying :

I wrote both these songs directly in response to events that I felt outraged about . These are injustices against children and the young men and women who are being incarcerated . I 'm an American , I pay taxes in my name and they are giving millions and millions of dollars to a country such as Israel and cluster bombs and defense technology and those bombs were dropped on common citizens in Qana . It 's terrible . It 's a human rights violation .

In an interview , Smith stated that Kurnaz 's family has contacted her and that she wrote a short preface for the book that he was writing . Kurnaz 's book , " Five Years of My Life , " was published in English by Palgrave Macmillan in March 2008 , with Patti 's introduction .

On March 26 , 2003 , ten days after Rachel Corrie 's death , Smith appeared in Austin , Texas , and performed an anti @-@ war concert . She subsequently wrote a song " Peaceable Kingdom " which was inspired by and is dedicated to Rachel Corrie .

In 2009 , in her Meltdown concert in Festival Hall , she paid homage to the Iranians taking part in post @-@ election protests by saying " Where is My Vote ? " in a version of the song " People Have the Power " .

On September 26 , 2015 , Smith appeared with Ralph Nader , spoke and performed the songs " Wing " and " People Have the Power " during the American Museum of Tort Law convocation ceremony in Winsted , Connecticut .

On May 24 , 2016 , Smith spoke , read poetry , and performed several songs accompanied by her daughter Jesse at Ralph Nader 's Breaking Through Power conference at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington , D.C.

On June 19 , 2016 , Smith sang " Wing " in homage to Julian Assange and Wikileaks during the " First they came for Assange ... " event at Centre Pompidou , Paris , France , to mark the 4th year of Julian Assange 's forced hiding at the Ecuadorean embassy in London .

= = Band members = =

= = Discography = =

Studio albums

Horses (1975)

Radio Ethiopia (1976)

Easter (1978)

Wave (1979)

Dream of Life (1988)

Gone Again (1996)

Peace and Noise (1997)

Gung Ho (2000)

Trampin ' (2004)

Twelve (2007)

Banga (2012)