

brassai paris by night

Brassai Paris by Night is an iconic photographic collection that captures the mysterious, vibrant, and often unseen side of Paris after dark. Through the masterful lens of Hungarian-French photographer Gyula Halász, better known as Brassai, these images reveal the city's nocturnal soul, showcasing dimly lit streets, bustling cafés, shadowy alleyways, and the intimate moments of Parisians when the sun sets. Brassai's work has become synonymous with the romantic, moody, and sometimes gritty essence of Paris at night, making it a must-explore subject for photography enthusiasts, historians, and travelers alike. In this comprehensive guide, we will delve into the history of Brassai's Paris by Night photography, explore its significance, highlight key images and locations, and provide tips for experiencing Paris by Night today.

The History and Significance of Brassai Paris by Night

Who Was Brassai?

Gyula Halász, born in 1899 in Brassó (now Braşov, Romania), adopted the pseudonym Brassai, inspired by his birthplace. An accomplished photographer, writer, and artist, Brassai became renowned for his nocturnal photography of Paris in the 1930s and 1940s. His work captured the city's hidden corners and lively streets at night, offering a perspective that contrasted sharply with the bright, daytime Paris often depicted in postcards.

The Birth of Paris by Night Photography

Brassai's fascination with the night began during his time in Paris, where the city's nightlife and shadowy alleyways became his muse. Using a small, portable camera capable of low-light photography, Brassai was able to capture the intimate and sometimes clandestine activities of Parisians after dark. His images often depict:

- Night workers and street vendors
- Poets, writers, and intellectuals in cafés
- Prostitutes and their clients
- Musicians and entertainers
- The interplay of light and shadow on historic facades

The Artistic and Cultural Impact

Brassai's Paris by Night photographs serve as both artistic masterpieces and historical documents. They:

- Capture the mood and atmosphere of pre-war and wartime Paris
- Document social life, class distinctions, and urban architecture
- Influence generations of photographers and visual artists
- Inspire the romanticized image of Paris as a city of mystery and allure

Key Themes and Features of Brassai's Paris by Night Collection

Atmosphere and Mood

Brassai's photographs are renowned for their moody, atmospheric quality. He skillfully uses light and shadow to evoke emotion, often portraying lonely figures against illuminated streets or capturing the vibrancy of nightlife.

Lighting Techniques

His mastery of low-light photography involved:

- Using small, portable cameras for candid shots
- Exploiting streetlights, shop windows, and café signs to illuminate scenes
- Creating contrasts that highlight textures, expressions, and architecture

Subjects of Brassai's Night Photography

Brassai's images encompass a broad range of subjects, including:

- Street scenes with pedestrians, cars, and street vendors
- Nightlife in cafés, bars, and cabarets
- Shadows and reflections in puddles and windows
- Architectural details of Parisian buildings at night
- Portraits of individuals immersed in their nighttime routines

Iconic Images and Locations in Brassai's Paris by Night Portfolio

Les Halles and the Montmartre District

Brassai often captured the lively markets around Les Halles and the bohemian atmosphere of Montmartre. Notable images include bustling street scenes and candid shots of artists and performers.

La Sainte-Chapelle and Historic Landmarks

His photographs of illuminated landmarks like La Sainte-Chapelle showcase the interplay of historic architecture with nighttime lighting, emphasizing the romantic essence of Paris.

Cafés and Cabarets

Brassai's images of famous Parisian cafés and cabarets, such as the Moulin Rouge, reveal the city's nightlife and entertainment scene, capturing performers, patrons, and the vibrant energy.

Shadows and Silhouettes

Many of Brassai's most evocative images focus on shadows cast by streetlights or silhouettes of figures against illuminated backgrounds, creating a sense of mystery and intrigue.

Hidden Corners and Alleyways

His work often depicts lesser-known alleyways and corners, emphasizing the secretive and often overlooked facets of Paris after dark.

Why Brassai's Paris by Night Photography Remains Relevant Today

Preservation of Urban History

Brassai's photographs serve as visual records of Paris during a turbulent period, including the years leading up to World War II. They offer insights into the city's social fabric and urban landscape.

Inspiration for Modern Photographers

Contemporary photographers draw inspiration from Brassai's mastery of low-light and candid photography, adopting similar techniques to explore urban environments at night.

Enhancement of Cultural Appreciation

His images deepen our appreciation of Paris's rich cultural life, illustrating the city's enduring allure and nocturnal charm.

Influence on Art and Media

Brassai's work has influenced countless artists, filmmakers, and writers, contributing to the romanticized image of Paris as a city that comes alive after sunset.

Experiencing Paris by Night Today: Tips and Recommendations

Visit Historic Night Spots

Explore iconic locations featured in Brassai's photographs:

- Montmartre and Sacré-Cœur
- The Latin Quarter and Saint-Germain-des-Prés
- The Seine River banks and bridges
- Famous cafés like Café de Flore and Les Deux Magots

Photographing Paris at Night

For photography enthusiasts, capturing Paris at night requires some preparation:

- Use a tripod for stability in low-light conditions
- Experiment with long exposure settings
- Focus on capturing reflections, shadows, and ambient light
- Seek out lesser-known alleyways and less crowded spots for candid shots

Attend Night Tours and Events

Many companies offer night walking tours of Paris, providing opportunities to photograph the city's illuminated landmarks and vibrant streets.

Explore Contemporary Nightlife

Experience the city's modern nocturnal scene, from jazz clubs and bars to outdoor markets and night festivals.

Respect Local Customs and Privacy

While capturing candid moments, always be respectful of individuals' privacy and local regulations.

Conclusion

Brassai Paris by Night remains a captivating window into the soul of one of the world's most romantic and mysterious cities. His images transcend time, offering a poetic and sometimes gritty depiction of Paris after dark that continues to inspire and fascinate audiences worldwide. Whether you're a photographer, a history enthusiast, or a traveler seeking to experience the city's nocturnal magic, Brassai's work provides a timeless guide to uncovering the hidden beauty and vibrant life of Paris at night.

Further Reading and Resources

- "Brassai: Paris by Night" – A comprehensive collection of Brassai's night photographs
- The Brassai Museum and Archives – Online collections and exhibitions
- Photography workshops in Paris focusing on night and low-light techniques
- Documentaries and films inspired by Brassai's work

By exploring Brassai's Paris by Night, you gain not only an appreciation for his artistic genius but also an intimate glimpse into the heart of Paris as it truly comes alive when darkness falls.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Brassai Paris by Night' and why is it significant?

'Brassai Paris by Night' is a renowned collection of black-and-white photographs by Hungarian-French photographer Brassai, capturing the nocturnal life and atmosphere of Paris in the 1930s. It is significant for its intimate, atmospheric portrayal of the city's nightlife, influencing modern street and documentary photography.

How did Brassai capture the essence of Paris at night in his photographs?

Brassai used low-light techniques, film photography, and candid shots to capture the vibrant nightlife, including cafes, streets, and performers, often working late into the night to authentically depict the city's nocturnal energy.

What are some iconic images from 'Brassai Paris by Night'?

Some iconic images include his photos of Parisian street corners, jazz clubs, cabarets like the Moulin Rouge, and intimate portraits of night workers, all showcasing the mysterious and lively spirit of Paris after dark.

How has 'Brassai Paris by Night' influenced contemporary photography?

'Brassai Paris by Night' has inspired countless photographers with its mastery of low-light photography, candid street scenes, and atmospheric compositions, shaping modern urban and documentary photography styles.

Where can I view or purchase 'Brassai Paris by Night' photographs today?

You can view Brassai's 'Paris by Night' photographs in art galleries, photography exhibitions, and through published books. Limited editions and prints are available from specialized art dealers and auction houses.

What techniques did Brassai employ to shoot at night in the 1930s?

Brassai used fast film stock, high-ISO settings, and a handheld camera to capture images in low light, along with careful composition and timing to produce his atmospheric night scenes without modern digital equipment.

Why is 'Brassai Paris by Night' still relevant today?

'Brassai Paris by Night' remains relevant for its timeless depiction of urban nightlife, its artistic mastery of light and shadow, and its influence on street photography, offering a nostalgic yet enduring view of Paris's nocturnal charm.

Additional Resources

Brassai Paris by Night is a phrase that conjures images of the City of Light's clandestine allure, illuminated streets, and the enigmatic charm that has captivated artists, photographers, and visitors for generations. While the name Brassai is most famously associated with the Hungarian-French photographer Gyula Halász, who adopted the pseudonym Brassai, the term "Paris by Night" evokes a timeless romance and an intricate tapestry of nocturnal life in one of the world's most iconic urban landscapes. This article delves into the historical significance, artistic influence, cultural nuances, and contemporary relevance of Brassai's Paris by Night, offering a comprehensive exploration of its enduring allure.

Historical Context and Origins of Brassai Paris by Night

Gyula Halász: The Man Behind Brassai

Gyula Halász, born in 1899 in Hungary, is best known by his pseudonym Brassai, a moniker that became synonymous with nocturnal Paris photography. His early life was marked by a keen interest in literature, art, and photography, which eventually led him to Paris in the 1920s. During this period, Paris was a vibrant hub of artistic experimentation, political upheavals, and cultural ferment.

Brassai's work gained recognition for its unique perspective—capturing the city's hidden corners, shadowy alleyways, and the lives of its night dwellers. His fascination with the nocturnal cityscape was rooted in his desire to document the unseen and often overlooked aspects of Paris's vibrant night life.

The Evolution of Paris by Night Photography

Before Brassai, photography of Paris primarily focused on the city's grandeur—its monuments, bridges, and boulevards. Brassai's approach was fundamentally different; he sought to portray the city's underbelly, emphasizing mood, atmosphere, and the ephemeral quality of night.

His pioneering techniques involved:

- Use of low lighting and artificial illumination to accentuate shadows.
- Capturing candid moments of nightlife, from prostitutes and cabaret performers to everyday city workers.
- Adopting a gritty, sometimes raw aesthetic that highlighted the contrasts of light and darkness.

This body of work not only documented Paris's physical landscape but also illuminated its social and cultural dynamics during a tumultuous period, including the interwar years and the German occupation of France during World War II.

Artistic Significance and Style

Visual Characteristics of Brassai's Night Scenes

Brassai's Paris by Night images are characterized by their moody, chiaroscuro-inspired lighting, which lends a dramatic and poetic quality to his photographs. His mastery of black and white film accentuated contrasts, emphasizing textures, shadows, and reflections.

Key stylistic elements include:

- High contrast imagery that enhances depth and mystery.
- Use of fog, rain, and reflections to add layers of complexity.
- Candid, unposed compositions that captured genuine human moments.
- Close-up perspectives that created intimacy with subjects, often blurring the line between observer and participant.

This visual style became influential, inspiring countless photographers and visual artists who sought to explore urban nocturnes.

Themes Explored in Brassai's Work

Brassai's Paris by Night photographs explore a range of themes, including:

- Urban solitude and anonymity: The city's night life reveals individuals lost in their routines or seeking escape.
- Vices and marginal lives: Prostitutes, drunks, performers, and night workers are recurrent subjects, shedding light on societal margins.
- Romance and mystique: The interplay of shadows and light evokes a romanticized vision of Paris as a city of secrets.
- Cultural vitality: Nightclubs, cabarets, and street scenes depict Paris's lively entertainment scene.

His work often oscillates between documentary realism and poetic abstraction, capturing the multifaceted personality of Paris after dark.

Cultural and Literary Impact

Brassai's Influence on Art and Literature

Brassai's photographs transcend mere documentation, contributing profoundly to the visual culture of Paris. His images influenced generations of artists, writers, and filmmakers who sought to portray the city's nocturnal essence.

Notable impacts include:

- Inspiration for Surrealists and Modernists: Brassai's dreamlike compositions resonated with artists like André Breton, who appreciated the surreal quality of the night scenes.
- Literary references: Writers such as Henry Miller and Walter Benjamin referenced Brassai's work, highlighting the poetic and philosophical aspects of city life at night.
- Film noir aesthetic: His chiaroscuro lighting and shadow-heavy compositions prefigured the visual style of film noir, influencing cinema's depiction of urban crime and mystery.

Documenting the Social Underbelly

Through his lens, Brassai documented the social realities of Parisian life—both its glamour and its grit. His photographs serve as a social record of marginalized communities, nightlife, and the undercurrents that define the city's character.

This duality—beauty intertwined with darkness—has cemented Brassai's reputation as a chronicler of the city's complex soul.

Modern Perspectives and Preservation

The Enduring Relevance of Brassai's Paris by Night

Today, Brassai's images continue to resonate, offering contemporary audiences a window into Paris's historical nightscape. They serve as both artistic masterpieces and cultural artifacts, reminding us of a city that has always thrived in the shadows.

Modern photographers and artists draw inspiration from Brassai's techniques, emphasizing mood and atmosphere to evoke emotional responses.

Preservation and Exhibitions

Many of Brassai's photographs are preserved in major museums and archives worldwide, including the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris and the Centre Pompidou. Exhibitions dedicated to his work often feature:

- Chronological selections illustrating the evolution of his style.
- Thematic displays focusing on specific aspects of Paris's nightlife.
- Multimedia presentations incorporating vintage prints, films, and contemporary reinterpretations.

Digital archives now make Brassai's work accessible globally, ensuring that future generations can appreciate his contribution.

The Contemporary Legacy of Brassai Paris by Night

Influence on Modern Urban Photography

Contemporary photographers such as Thomas Hoepker, William Klein, and even street photographers like Garry Winogrand have been influenced by Brassai's mastery of capturing the city at night. His emphasis on mood, candidness, and social realism remains central to urban documentary photography.

Paris as a Cultural Muse

The city's nocturnal allure continues to inspire artists, filmmakers, and writers. Brassai's work exemplifies how urban environments can serve as living, breathing entities that tell stories beyond the visible—stories of longing, mystery, and human resilience.

Conclusion: The Timeless Allure of Brassai Paris by Night

Brassai's *Paris by Night* encapsulates a unique intersection of art, social commentary, and poetic vision. His ability to transform the mundane into the mystical has immortalized Paris's nocturnal soul, making his work an essential touchstone for understanding the city's cultural history. As Paris continues to evolve, Brassai's images serve as a reminder of the city's layered identity—where light and shadow, beauty and darkness, history and mystery coexist in a delicate balance.

In a world increasingly dominated by digital screens and fleeting images, Brassai's timeless photographs invite us to pause, reflect, and rediscover the enduring poetry of Paris after dark.

Brassai Paris By Night

brassai paris by night: *Brassai: Paris by Night* Brassai, 2012-04-03 Arriving in Paris in 1924, Brassai rapidly became a shrewd observer of nocturnal Parisian life. He sensed that photography was the tool that would allow him to document his vision of a dying society. Fascinated by the night, which he found disconcerting, enigmatic, and suggestive, Brassai photographed its every aspect, from police to prostitutes to the homeless to socialites, all in a dreamlike and mysterious manner. In sixty-four images, Brassai succeeded in remarkably capturing this unique ambience. This book, meticulously assembled by Brassai himself, signifies the birth of the artist. Brassai, originally from Hungary, traveled to Paris in 1924, where he began to associate with the avant-garde artist community, in particular with Picasso and the Parisian surrealist circles. He quickly established himself as one of the most original photographers of his generation.

brassai paris by night: *Paris by Night* Brassai, 2001 Roaming Paris streets by night in the early 1930s, Brassai created arresting images of the city's dramatic nocturnal landscape. First published in French in 1932, this new edition brings one of Brassai's finest works back into print. The back alleys, metro stations, and bistros he photographed are at turns hauntingly empty or peopled by prostitutes, laborers, thugs, and lovers. *Paris by Night* is a stunning portrait of nighttime in the City of Light, as captured by its most articulate observer. 62 photos.

brassai paris by night: *Brassai: Paris by Night* Brassai, 2025-10-21 This essential reference in the history of urban photography—compiled by Brassai himself and first published in 1933—has been meticulously reproduced in a new edition, with tinted page edges. The city of Paris bewitched Hungarian-born Brassai. Working as a journalist by day in the early 1930s, he roamed the streets of the capital by night, visiting its bistros and sharing moments in the lives of avant-garde artists, prostitutes, peddlers, down-and-outs, and illicit lovers. He captured portraits of a hauntingly dramatic nocturnal world. With these sixty-two poetic photographs, which demonstrate his technical mastery in depicting darkness, he quickly established himself as one of the most original photographers of his generation. The city's dramatic night landscape of back alleys, metro stations, and sinewy streets are at turns hauntingly empty or peopled by dancers, revelers, laborers, and thugs. This important work—a stunning portrait of nighttime in the City of Light—portrays the birth of Brassai as an artist. This book serves as a perpetual source of inspiration for creatives in photography, fashion, and design and the new edition, printed using the latest engraving technology to faithfully reproduce the quality of the original photographs, features a cloth binding with embossing and an inset cover vignette.

brassai paris by night: *Brassai* Sylvie Aubenas, Quentin Bajac, 2013-09-10 Firmly rooted in its time and place, timeless in its appeal: Brassai's night photography of Paris assures his place

among the great photographers of the twentieth century Brassai (1899–1984) was the first and is still the most famous photographer to chronicle Paris after dark. Born in Hungary, he came to the French capital in 1924, working first as a journalist and then embracing photography, but it was the Paris of the 1930s that forms the bedrock of his body of work. Walking the city's streets at night, Brassai captured a previously unseen world on camera. He shows us every face and every facet, from tough guys and showgirls to prostitutes and pleasure-seekers, from the bustling cafés and dance halls to the stillness of deserted streets and mist-shrouded monuments. Through his eyes, Paris becomes a world of shadows, in which light, the prerequisite for any photograph, is reduced to dimly lit windows, streetlamps in the fog, or reflections on a rain-soaked pavement. This book brings together some of the best-known images from Brassai's classic *Paris After Dark* and *The Secret Paris* of the 30's, showcasing them alongside previously unpublished photos and archive material. It places his work in its historical and artistic context, analyzing the unique nature of his photographic vision: part reportage, part social document, part poetic exploration.

brassai paris by night: Brassai Marja Warehime, 1998 In this study of Brassai's complete oeuvre, the author analyzes Brassai's paradoxical position between documentary realism and surrealism in the France of the 1930s. She stresses the subjects he pursued most passionately: the shadowy Paris night, urban graffiti and the nature of creative genius.

brassai paris by night: Brassai Brassai, Paul Morand, 1987-01

brassai paris by night: City Gorged with Dreams Ian Walker, 2002 The author analyses how the Surrealists utilised the tactics of documentary and how Surrealist ideas in turn influenced the development of documentary photography. This is a study of what Louis Aragon called 'surrealist realism': the exploration of the real-life surreality of the city.

brassai paris by night: Paris de Nuit , 1998 Photographs.

brassai paris by night: Making Strange Kim Sichel, 2020-03-17 A richly illustrated look at some of the most important photobooks of the 20th century France experienced a golden age of photobook production from the late 1920s through the 1950s. Avant-garde experiments in photography, text, design, and printing, within the context of a growing modernist publishing scene, contributed to an outpouring of brilliantly designed books. *Making Strange* offers a detailed examination of photobook innovation in France, exploring seminal publications by Brassai, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Frank, Pierre Jahan, William Klein, and Germaine Krull. Kim Sichel argues that these books both held a mirror to their time and created an unprecedented modernist visual language. Sichel provides an engaging analysis through the lens of materiality, emphasizing the photobook as an object with which the viewer interacts haptically as well as visually. Rich in historical context and beautifully illustrated, *Making Strange* reasserts the role of French photobooks in the history of modern art.

brassai paris by night: Night Photography Lance Keimig, 2012-10-02 Night photographers have one big thing in common: a true love of the dark. Rather than looking at night photography as an extension of daytime shooting with added complications, they embrace the unique challenges of nocturnal photography for the tremendous wealth of creative opportunities it offers. That's just what this book does. But if the idea of setting out into the deep, dark night with just your camera (and maybe a cup of coffee) gets your creative juices flowing, dive right in. Lance Keimig, one of the premier experts on night photography, has put together a comprehensive reference that will show you ways to capture images you never thought possible. If you have some experience with photography and have always wanted to try shooting at night, you'll learn the basics for film or digital shooting. If you're already a seasoned pro, you'll learn to use sophisticated techniques such as light painting and drawing, stacking images to create long star trails, and more. A chapter on the history of night photography describes the materials and processes that made night photography possible, and introduces the photographers who have defined night photography as an artistic medium. A chapter on how to use popular software packages such as Lightroom and Photoshop specifically with night time shots shows you how to make the final adjustments to your nocturnal creations. In this book you'll find history, theory, and lots of practical instruction on technique, all

illustrated with clear, concise examples, diagrams and charts that reinforce the text, and inspiring color and black and white images from the author and other luminaries in the field, including Scott Martin, Dan Burkholder, Tom Paiva, Troy Paiva, Christian Waeber, Jens Warnecke and Cenci Goepel, with Foreword by Steve Harper.

brassai paris by night: Twilight Visions Therese Lichtenstein, 2011-07-21 Through an examination of surrealist photographs, objects, exhibitions, activities, and writings, the essays in *Twilight Visions*, the beautifully illustrated companion volume to the exhibition of the same name, portray the French capital as a city in the process of metamorphosis-in a kind of twilight state. The Bureau of Surrealist Research, the major Surrealist exhibitions, and the photographs of Paris by Brassai, Andre Kertesz, Ilse Bing, Germaine Krull, and Man Ray, among others, all reflect the tumultuous social and cultural transformations occurring in Paris in the 1920s and 30s. Juxtaposing the strange with the familiar, they seek to break down repressive hierarchies. At the same time, they represent a desire to change the world through experimental activities. Introduced by Therese Lichtenstein, with essays by Therese Lichtenstein, Julia Kelly, Colin Jones, and Whitney Chadwick, this absorbing volume considers the social, aesthetic, and political stances of the Surrealists as they probed hidden aspects of the commonplace and blurred the boundaries between dreams and reality, subjectivity and objectivity. Copub: Frist Center for the Visual Arts

brassai paris by night: A Self-made Surrealist Caroline Blinder, 2000 A new evaluation of a writer who was the talk of the literary world in the early days of the sexual revolution. Since the publication of *Tropic of Cancer* in 1934, Henry Miller has been the target of critics from all sides. *A Self-Made Surrealist* sets out to provide a view of Miller different from both earlier vindications of him as sexual liberator and prophet and more contemporary feminist critiques of him as pornographer and male chauvinist. In this re-evaluation of Miller's role as a radical writer, Blinder considers not only notions of obscenity and sexuality, but also the emergence of psychoanalysis, surrealism, automatic writing, and the aesthetics of fascism, as they illuminate Miller's more general 20th-century concerns with politics and mass psychology in relation to art. Blinder also considers the effect on Miller of the theoretical works of Georges Bataille and André Breton, among others, in order to define and explore the social, philosophical, and political contexts of the period. By examining the enormous impetus Miller got from being in the midst of French culture and its debate, *A Self-Made Surrealist* shows that Miller was indeed a seminal writer of the period rather than simply an isolated male chauvinist.

brassai paris by night: How You Look at it Thomas Weski, Heinz Liesbrock, Sprengel Museum Hannover, 2000 A collection of photographs by some of the most influential photographers of the twentieth century which demonstrate the wide range of techniques that have been used by photographers during the past one hundred years.

brassai paris by night: Rendezvous in Paris Christian Briend, Yves Chevretil Desbiolles, Sophie Krebs, 2019-09-16T00:00:00+02:00 Featuring a broad selection of paintings, sculptures and photographs coming mainly from the Centre Pompidou collections, Louvre Abu Dhabi's exhibition catalogue "*Rendezvous in Paris: Picasso, Chagall, Modigliani & Co.*" focuses on this highly distinctive period in French art when young painters, sculptors and photographers flocked to early-20th-century Paris from all over the world to make a decisive contribution to the city's art scene. Most notably from Germany, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia and even Japan, these formally inventive artists - Constantin Brancusi, Marc Chagall, Kees van Dongen, Tsuguharu Foujita, Amedeo Modigliani and Pablo Picasso among them - who would later become known as the "School of Paris", rivalled the greatest French artists of the time.

brassai paris by night: Photography David Bate, 2020-09-25 Providing a thorough and comprehensive introduction to the study of photography, this second edition of *Photography: The Key Concepts* has been expanded and updated to cover more fully contemporary changes to photography. Photography is a part of everyday life; from news and advertisements, to data collection and surveillance, to the shaping of personal and social identity, we are constantly surrounded by the photographic image. Outlining an overview of photographic genres, David Bate

explores how these varied practices can be coded and interpreted using key theoretical models. Building upon the genres included in the first edition – documentary, portraiture, landscape, still life, art and global photography – this second edition includes two new chapters on snapshots and the act of looking. The revised and expanded chapters are supported by over three times as many photographs as in the first edition, examining contemporary practices in more detail and equipping students with the analytical skills they need, both in their academic studies and in their own practical work. An indispensable guide to the field, *Photography: The Key Concepts* is core reading for all courses that consider the place of photography in society, within photographic practice, visual culture, art, media and cultural studies.

brassai paris by night: *Playing with Earth and Sky* James Housefield, 2016-07-05 *Playing with Earth and Sky* reveals the significance astronomy, geography, and aviation had for Marcel Duchamp – widely regarded as the most influential artist of the past fifty years. Duchamp transformed modern art by abandoning unique art objects in favor of experiences that could be both embodied and cerebral. This illuminating study offers new interpretations of Duchamp's momentous works, from readymades to the early performance art of shaving a comet in his hair. It demonstrates how the immersive spaces and narrative environments of popular science, from museums to the modern planetarium, prepared paths for Duchamp's nonretinal art. By situating Duchamp's career within the transatlantic cultural contexts of Dadaism and Surrealism, this book enriches contemporary debates about the historical relationship between art and science. This truly original study will appeal to a broad readership in art history and cultural studies.

brassai paris by night: *Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Photography, 3-Volume Set* Lynne Warren, 2005-11-15 *The Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Photography* explores the vast international scope of twentieth-century photography and explains that history with a wide-ranging, interdisciplinary manner. This unique approach covers the aesthetic history of photography as an evolving art and documentary form, while also recognizing it as a developing technology and cultural force. This Encyclopedia presents the important developments, movements, photographers, photographic institutions, and theoretical aspects of the field along with information about equipment, techniques, and practical applications of photography. To bring this history alive for the reader, the set is illustrated in black and white throughout, and each volume contains a color plate section. A useful glossary of terms is also included.

brassai paris by night: *Photography* Mary Warner Marien, 2006 Each of the eight chapters takes a period of up to forty years and examines the medium through the lenses of art, science, social science, travel, war, fashion, the mass media and individual practitioners. -Back Cover.

brassai paris by night: *Put a Life* Juana María Rodríguez, 2023-03-01 In *Put a Life*, Juana María Rodríguez probes the ways that sexual labor and Latina sexuality become visual phenomena. Drawing on state archives, illustrated biographies, documentary films, photojournalistic essays, graphic novels, and digital spaces, she focuses on the figure of the puta—the whore, that phantasmatic figure of Latinized feminine excess. Rodríguez's eclectic archive features the faces and stories of women whose lives have been mediated by sex work's stigmatization and criminalization—washerwomen and masked wrestlers, porn stars and sexiles. Rodríguez examines how visual tropes of racial and sexual deviance expose feminine subjects to misogyny and violence, attuning our gaze to how visual documentation shapes perceptions of sexual labor. Throughout this poignant and personal text, Rodríguez brings the language of affect and aesthetics to bear upon understandings of gender, age, race, sexuality, labor, disability, and migration. Highlighting the criminalization and stigmatization that surrounds sex work, she lingers on those traces of felt possibility that might inspire more ethical forms of relation and care.

brassai paris by night: *Raving* McKenzie Wark, 2023-02-10 What is an art of life for what feels like the end of a world? In *Raving* McKenzie Wark takes readers into the undisclosed locations of New York's thriving underground queer and trans rave scene. Techno, first and always a Black music, invites fresh sonic and temporal possibilities for this era of diminishing futures. Raving to techno is an art and a technique at which queer and trans bodies might be particularly adept but

which is for anyone who lets the beat seduce them. Extending the rave's sensations, situations, fog, lasers, drugs, and pounding sound systems onto the page, Wark invokes a trans practice of raving as a timely aesthetic for dancing in the ruins of this collapsing capital.

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