



COBRA & CAPRICE

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The ICP has taken a first step toward ameliorating this situation by giving Strömholm his first US museum show, a one room summary of his best known body of work – the transgendered and cross dressing men of Place Blanche in Paris from the late 1950s and early 1960s. It's a classic example of a well executed photo essay or tightly self contained project.

Admirers of Arbus and Goldin (who both came later) will find much to connect with in this group of photographs. There is a similar unvarnished consideration for the uniqueness to be found in those outside the mainstream and an authentic, up-close attentiveness to their struggles and overlooked triumphs.

In the dark, gritty streets of the Paris red light district, Strömholm has reaffirmed the basic human freedom to define one's own identity, and his pictures remain a solid example of how a carefully constructed photo essay can capture the spirit of people quietly striving for a different way of life.