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by Priscilla Frank 05/22/2012

Christer Strömholm *"Les Amies de Place Blanche"* *Captures Transsexuals Of Paris* *Red Light District In 1960s*

Born in Sweden, Strömholm moved to the Parisian neighborhood of Pigalle in 1959, where he walked the streets and became intimate friends with the night owls and transsexuals he met along the way. It follows, then, that his photographs don't look like those of a voyeur or an outsider, but of an intimate friend. In these moments of pure beauty, Strömholm's subjects get a chance to become the women they want to be: young, sexy, vivacious, and carefree.

Strömholm was a member of the Fotoform movement, which revived the aesthetic principals and techniques of photography offered up in Weimar-era Germany. His collection "Les Amies de Place Blanche" quickly became a cult classic, revealing the intimate moments before intimacy with strangers.

Although aesthetically the images embody the sexualized 60s femininity that makes "Mad Men" fans drool, their message is dramatically forward-thinking. The images celebrate the freedom to choose one's identity and the hope that softens the sacrifices we make to construct ourselves.



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