

Photography : Les Amies de Place Blanche, By Christer Strömholm



Gina & Nana, place blanche 1963

Even in 1983 when it was first published, the Swedish photographer Christer Strömholm wrote in the foreword of the book that made his name: «These images are from another time.»

A book of nightlife documentary and informal portraits of his friends – who were all transvestites, transsexuals or prostitutes – on the Place Blanche in Montmartre, Paris, in the 1950s and 1960s, it is about «the quest for self-identity, about the right to live,» he says, as well as, more evocatively: «a book about humiliation, about the smell of whores and night life in the cafés.»