

GUY BOURDIN



Untouched

A new monograph reveals Bourdin's precocious vision

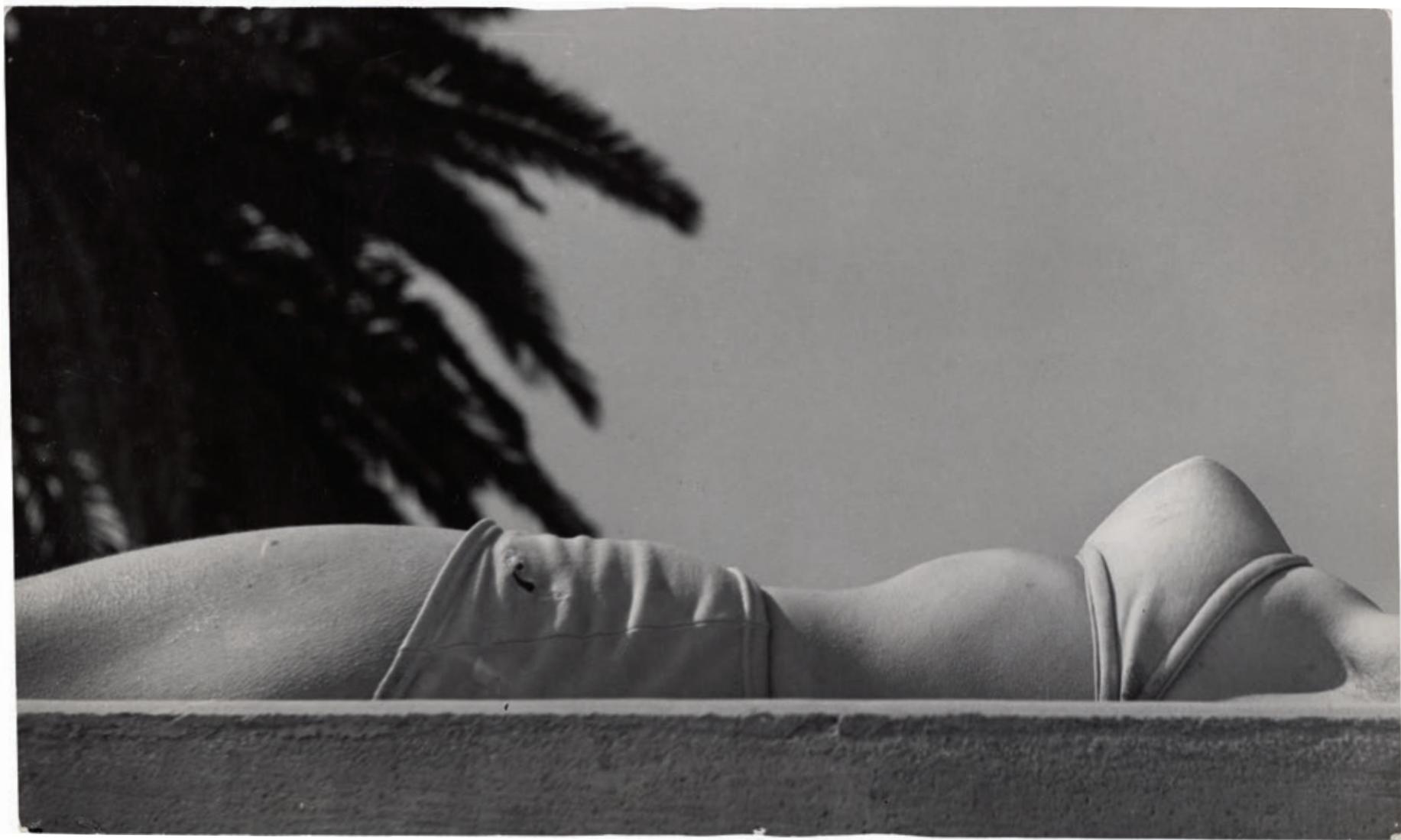
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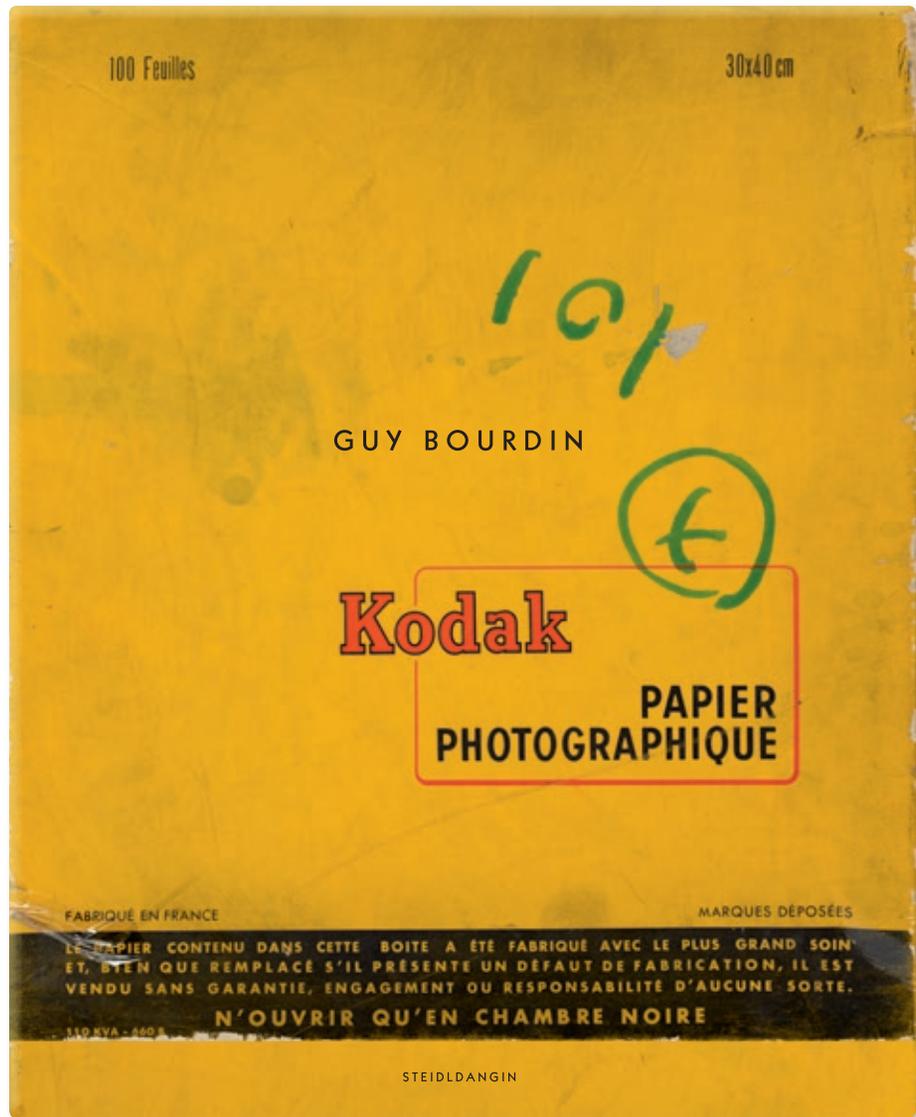
Publisher Gerhard Steidl and creative director Pascal Dangin are proud to introduce the new monograph, **Guy Bourdin, Untouched.**

Though most widely known for his colour images, Guy Bourdin launched his career in black and white in the early 1950s. *Untouched* explores this largely unseen work and gives insight into the early development of his photographic eye. The carefully constructed images, initially conceived as an exhibition series, reveal his artistic motivation years before he began working on assignments for *Vogue Paris* and *Photo Femina*.

Untouched is the first volume in a series of eight forthcoming books that explore the photographer's complete works.

Pascal Dangin says: "My many years of working with some of the greatest photographers gave me the points of reference and a certain critical distance to appreciate Bourdin unique and avant-garde approach, his constant eye for detail, the visual metaphors that he managed to create, the clues that he incorporated across his work to hold our attention and to propose an alternative way of engaging with a fashion image."





GUY BOURDIN

Untouched

Creative Direction by Pascal Dangin

Edited by Shelly Verthime

Essay and Chronology by Philippe Garner

STEIDL DANGIN

Philippe Garner, author of the essay, 'Unique perspectives', explains: 'Though Guy Bourdin is widely acknowledged as an artist of exceptional inspiration, he has remained in many ways an enigma. His individual images can be compelling, disquieting, haunting; cumulatively, they constitute a strange, off-kilter, yet totally credible parallel universe – our recognisable world dramatically reconfigured through the powerful imagination of this artist. *Untouched* unveils a compelling narrative regarding his formative years. Painstakingly salvaged and dusted down, sorted and examined as the precious archaeological fragments that they are, these photographs illuminate the crucial first years of Bourdin's image making.'







2018

Shelly Verthime recounts the process of discovery: 'A yellow Kodak Box, a treasure found in the archive, filled with a series of brown paper envelopes that each contained a negative and with a corresponding contact print taped to the outside, often with cropping guides. Untouched for fifty years were rare, intimate, personal, and authentic reflections of Guy Bourdin's broad visual interests before he started his commercial career as a photographer.

What are we being shown? What do we see? Sometimes it is at first difficult to tell, since the subjects can appear so unassuming. Yet here is his poetic portrait of Paris, a subtle visual research, questioning reality, playing with the viewer's gaze, like the Surrealists and the artists of the Subjective Photography School who so inspired him. The experiments are endless; these images, many of which were presented in his early exhibitions, are the studies that provided the structure for Guy Bourdin's future artistic signature.

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Mieux vaut
5 minutes de
Bonheur qu'une
vie bien conforme.
guy
Printemps 1955.



Better 5 minutes of happiness than a lifetime of conformity. Guy, Spring 1955

Guy Bourdin (1928-1991) was a self-taught photographer who lived and worked in Paris. His career spanned over three decades, from the early 1950s to the late 80s, most famously shooting for French *Vogue* and for Charles Jourdan. His legacy is celebrated worldwide and his work has been shown in numerous museums, notably Tate Modern and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, the Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume, Paris, the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, the National Museum of China, Beijing, and the Getty Museum, Los Angeles.

Chronology – Early exhibitions and publications

- 1928**
Guy Bourdin born Guy Louis Banarès, December 2,
7 rue Popincourt, Paris XI.
- 1948-1949**
Military service in the Air Force as apprentice photographer,
stationed in Dakar, Senegal.
- 1950**
First exhibition of his paintings and drawings: gallery details
not known, rue de Bourgogne, Paris VII.
- 1952**
First exhibition of his photographs: Galerie 29, 29 rue de
Seine, Paris VI, February 15-29.
The small, single-folded-sheet catalogue has an introduction
by Man Ray and lists 45 exhibits.
- First published feature on his photographs: Michel Garance,
'Guy Bourdin un jeune photographe', *Photo France*,
3rd year, No. 15, Paris, pp. 27-28.
- 1953**
Two-phase portfolio publication: Michel Garance, 'Guy
Bourdin', *Photo Monde*, No. 28, Paris, September,
pp. 34-37 (male artist portraits); and Michel Garance,
'Guy Bourdin', *Photo Monde*, No. 29, Paris, October,
pp. 29-35 (abstractions).
- Exhibition of his photographs under the pseudonym Edwin
Hallan: Galerie Huit, 8 rue Saint-Julien-le-Pauvre, Paris V,
November 15-29.
- 1954**
Exhibition of his drawings: Galerie de Beaune,
5 rue de Beaune, Paris VII, June 25-July 16.
- Shows his work to Paris *Vogue* editor Edmonde Charles-
Roux, leading to his first commission for the magazine.
- 1955**
Publication of his first fashion images: 'Chapeaux-Choc',
Vogue, Paris, February, pp. 62-65.
- Publication of joint feature with photographer friend
Fouli Elia: Francine du Plessix, 'Neuf femmes peintres qui
peignent comme des hommes', *Nouveau Femina*, Paris,
February, pp. 80-85 (female artist portraits).
- Participates in group exhibition: 'C.S. [Combined Societies]
Association Travelling Exhibition of International
Photography, 1955-57', ten U.K. venues, from July 18 1955,
finishing at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, Spring
1957 ('Car' and 'Emmanuelle' listed in catalogue, six images
illustrated in curator Roger Mayne's records, including
'Sophie').
- Exhibition of his drawings: Les Amis des Arts,
26 Cours Mirabeau, Aix-en-Provence.
- Participates with his drawings of cats in group
exhibition: Galerie de Seine, 24 rue de Seine, Paris VI.
- Exhibition of his paintings: Galerie Charpentier, 76 rue du
Faubourg Saint Honoré, Paris VIII.
- Rejected image from first *Vogue* shoot ('Sophie' in front of
guttled rabbits) published: Norman Hall and Basil Burton,
Photography Year Book 1956, Photography Magazine,
London, 1955, p. 146.
- 1956**
First publication of his photographs in American *Vogue*,
New York, July 1956, pp. 86-87 ('Toto' and 'Minou Drouet')
- Exhibition of his drawings: Galerie de Seine,
24 rue de Seine, Paris VI.
- Exhibition of his paintings, watercolors, and ink drawings:
Deitsch Gallery, 51 East 73rd St., New York,
December 3-30.
- 1957**
Participates in group exhibition on fashion photography:
'Vogue', First International Photography Biennale, Venice,
April 20-May 19.

*This chronology is 'work in progress' and the authors
would be pleased to hear from any reader with further
documentation. Contact: samuelbourdin@gmail.com*

Guy Bourdin, Untouched

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