

DAZED MAGAZINE

Paris Photo 2024:**Must-see images from the world's greatest photo fair**

le 7 novembre 2024 par Alessandro Merola

From John Kayser's secret erotic archive to Camille Vivier's flexing female bodybuilders, here's our guide to the best sights to see at the buzzed-about photography fair

Paris Photo, the photography world's equivalent to the Oscars, has finally returned to the revamped Grand Palais, and there's a festive feeling in the air. Beneath the iconic birdcage structure, dealers and galleries from all corners of the world have congregated to show off high-quality works from luminaries and new-world talents. It's the usual cocktail of classic and contemporary, albeit with a clear edge on the latter. "Paris Photo has never occupied so much space!" artistic director Anna Planas says excitedly. "The new spaces of the Palais really offer an augmented experience of the fair and what photography means today."

For the second year running, the fair's *ta-da* moment comes at Christian Berst, whose cosy, curtained booth unveiling John Kayser is making a real splash. Some 70 pictures by the amateur erotic photographer are splayed across the walls, with the more provocative ones down the corridor. They show soft-focused, nude and semi-nude California girls who also star in short films playing on vintage TVs here. The whos, hows and whys will forever fuel the American's secretive, homemade trove, which was discovered posthumously in 2007. Encountering Kayser's infatuation with female beauty up close, you can't help but try to piece together some kind of story – his fantasy meeting yours. And even though these photographs regurgitate the same kinky motifs – high heels, cocked hips, sitting – you can admire a technical skill that transcends any flea market find.