

Published on 16 October 2017

Mali Twist, the largest ever exhibition of Malick Sidibé's work, goes on show in Paris

Written by Eoin Murray



Un Yé-yé en position, 1963. Collection Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris © Malick Sidibé

Starting work in the heady years after independence from France, Malick Sidibé captured Mali's vitality and verve through photographs of its youth

Malick Sidibé was lauded "the eye of Bamako" for his work in the Mali capital in the heady years after independence from France in 1960. Often shooting in dance halls and soirées as well as in his studio in the Bagadagjii district, Sidibé captured the vitality and verve of the time, photographing the country's young people and their clothes, dance moves, and musical tastes.

By the 1990s Sidibé's work had gained attention outside Africa and in 1995, the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain was the first to give him a solo show outside the continent. Now, a year after his death, the institution is staging the largest ever exhibition of his work, including over 300 images taken from the early 1960s to 80s. *Mali Twist* includes iconic works such as *Un Yé-yé en position* and *Nuit de Noël (Happy-club)*, both shot in 1963, but also previously unseen vintage photographs and portraits – including 30 previously unshown studio portraits selected from thousands of negatives in Sidibé's archives.



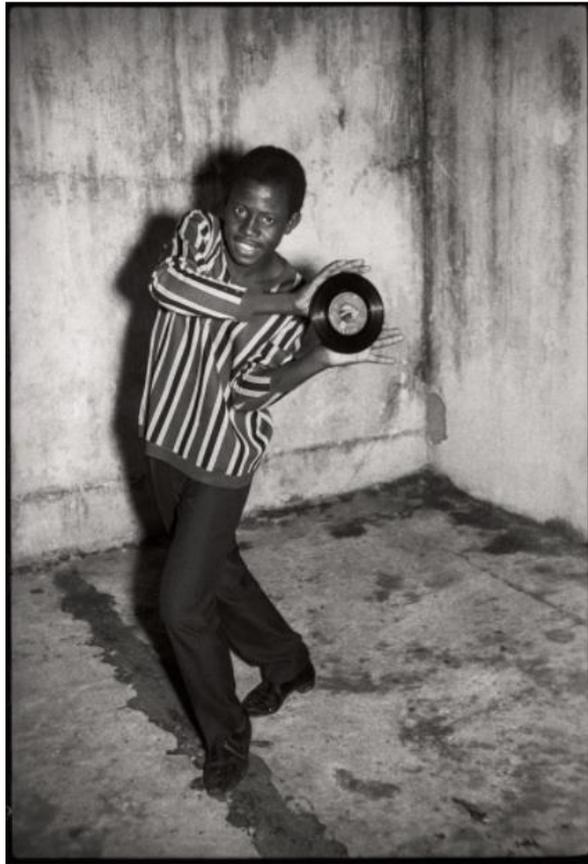
Regardez-moi! 1962. Collection Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris © Malick Sidibé



Nuit de Noël (Happy-club), 1963. Collection Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris © Malick Sidibé



Dancez le twist, 1965. Collection Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris © Malick Sidibé



Soirée mariage Drissa Balo, 1967. Collection Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris © Malick Sidibé



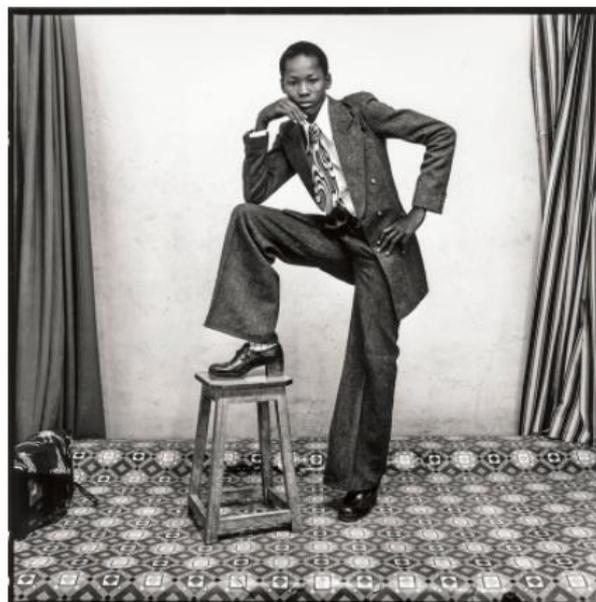
Untitled, circa 1969. Courtesy succession Malick Sidibé © Malick Sidibé



(Je l'appelais) La gazelle / Avec mon chapeau et mes pattes d'éléphant, 1974. Courtesy CAA - The Figozzi Collection, Genève © Malick Sidibé



Moi seul, 1974. Courtesy collection André Magnin © Malick Sidibé



Un jeune gentleman, 1978 Courtesy Magnin-A © Malick Sidibé