

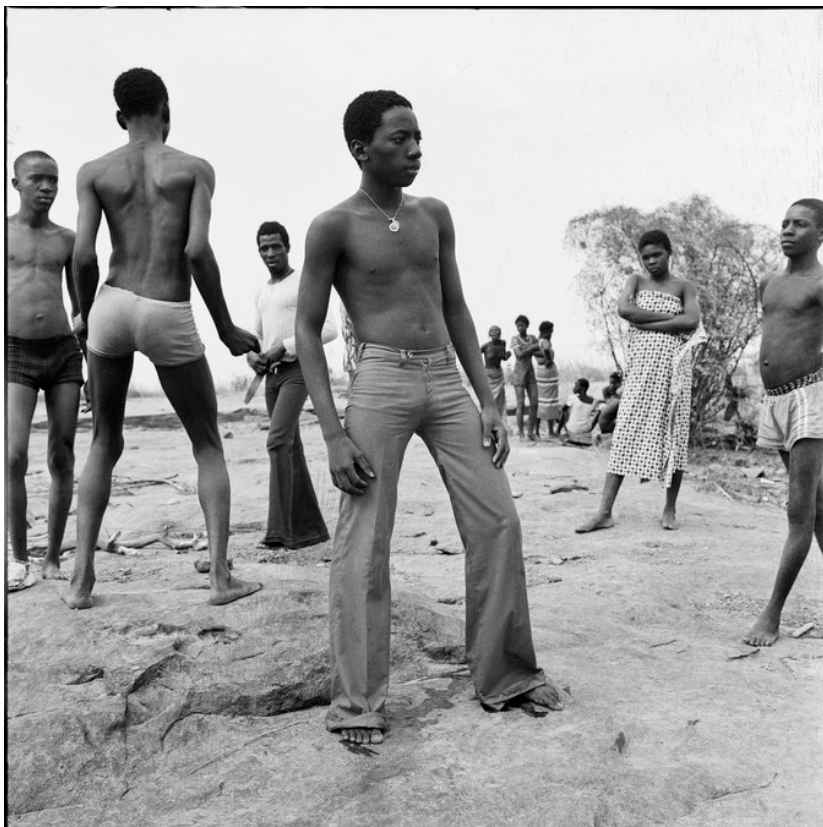
Step Back Into the Streets and Clubs of 70's Mali with Malick Sidibé

by Stephanie Eckardt

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From the dimly lit nightclubs to the Niger River, there was hardly a side of his native and newly independent Mali that Malick Sidibé didn't capture in the 60's and 70's, when he was the only photographer roaming the dance floors whose camera had a flash. Those black-and-white photos soon carried Sidibé's cult following well past Bamako, and made for a flood of impromptu tributes when he passed away unexpectedly earlier this year. Now, his legacy's gotten an institution-level homage, too: "Malick Sidibé: The Eye of Modern Mali" marks the photographer's first major solo exhibit in the U.K., and even has the halls of London's Somerset House playing the Malian music that first got Sidibé on his feet. Revisit those exuberant early days, here.

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"A la baignade au fleuve Niger," 1973.

© Malick Sidibé. Courtesy of Galerie MAGNIN-A, Paris



"Les très bons amis en même tenue", 1972.
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"Je suis fou de disques," 1973.
© Malick Sidibé. Courtesy of Galerie MAGNIN-A, Paris



"Soirée du Club les Frangins", 1966.

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