

## Preview: Malick Sidibé, The Photographer Who Inspired Beyoncé's Baby Shower

By Hayley Maitland

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When Beyoncé posted images of her "Push Party" to Instagram back in May, it sent the internet into a collective frenzy. The inspiration behind the stunning portraits of Mr and Mrs Carter? Malian photographer Malick Sidibé's shots of nightlife in the capital of Bamako. Now, a year after his death, a new exhibition at the Cartier Foundation in Paris, *Malick Sidibé, Mali Twist*, showcases more than 250 of his remarkable photographs.

A pair of lovers dancing barefoot in a palm-tree-filled courtyard on Christmas night; wild parties along the banks of the Niger; young James Brown fans enthusiastically clutching a record... If you had to describe Malick Sidibé's photography in a single word, it might be joyous. Born in Soloba, a rural Malian village, at some point during the Thirties (he was never quite certain of his birthdate) Sidibé was the only one of his 17 siblings to receive an education – heading to lessons whenever his father was able to release him from herding duties. By 1952, his artistic talent had won him a place at the École des Artisans Soudanais in Bamako, where he met leading French photographer Gérard Guillet and began shooting the local nightlife with a Brownie camera. It was only after Malian independence in 1960, though, that he managed to open his own studio – and quickly became known as the “eye of Bamako” thanks to his natural portraits of the local youth culture. Now, a new exhibition at the Cartier Foundation in Paris is showcasing more than 250 of Malick's groundbreaking photographs – many of them never before seen. See below for some of the highlights of *Mali Twist* – and book your autumn trip to Paris now.

*Malick Sidibé, Mali Twist runs from October 20, 2017 to February 25, 2018 at Fondation Cartier.*



Untitled, 1973, Malick Sidibé / Malick Sidibé Estate



Nuit de Noël, 1963, Malick Sidibé / Fondation Cartier Pour L'art Contemporain, Paris



Moi Seul, 1974, Malick Sidibé / André Magnin



Les Amis Dans La Même Tenue , 1972, Malick Sidibé / CAAC – The Pigozzi Collection, Genève



(Je L'appelais) La Gazelle / Avec Mon Chapeau Et Mes Pattes D'éléphant, 1974, Malick Sidibé / The Pigozzi Collection, Genève



Je Suis Fou Des Disques, 1973, Malick Sidibé / Fondation Cartier Pour L'art Contemporain, Paris



Yokoro, 1970, Malick Sidibé / Galerie Du Jour Agnès B.



Sur Les Rochers Du Fleuve Niger, 1971, Malick Sidibé / Magnin-A



Untitled, Circa 1969, Malick Sidibé / Malick Sidibé Estate



Un Jeune Gentleman, 1978, Malick Sidibé / Magnin-A

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Combat Des Amis Avec Pierres Au Bord Du Niger, 1976, Malick Sidibé / Fondation Cartier Pour L'art Contemporain, Paris

<http://www.vogue.co.uk/gallery/malick-sidibe-mali-twist-cartier-foundation-exhibition-paris-photographer-beyonce-baby-shower>