

Become a friend
of the
Christian Louis : clair-obscur
association



A crowd funding initiative

to help save, conserve and bring back to life
the lost work of an important French photographer

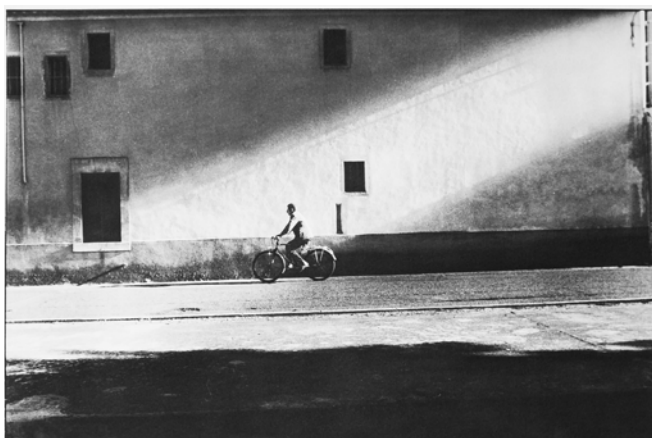
Christian Louis : clair-obscur

Association Loi 1901, RNA 181 003 631

organisme d'intérêt général

bureau, 12 chemin des Écossais, 18300, Bué, tel : 02 48 54 09 67

www.christian-louis.com



Christian Louis (1948 - 2001)

was a Paris based photographer active in the 1970's, 80's and 90's who developed a highly personal style of storytelling – a gently surrealist combining of images and words that infused a series of books and exhibitions cut short by his death at the age of 53.

Some of his best work was produced during a ten year struggle with cancer that perhaps brought a new sense of urgency and clarity to the way he saw and re-presented the world.

With his untimely death in 2001 Christian's work effectively disappeared from view. His widow, Martine, had barely begun working with Pierre Brochet, Roger Coleman and Sally Reilly to rescue this remarkable collection from obscurity when in 2014 she, in turn, died suddenly (intestate) leaving us holding the baby! In November 2014 the Association Christian Louis : clair-obscur was created in order to secure the future of the collection.

The archives are now safe, a preliminary inventory has been completed, a 5 year contract signed with Karine Louis, Martine's niece, which allows us to conserve, promote and exhibit the work. We have negotiated an important donation of a representative collection of prints and all of Christian's negatives to the Musée Nicéphore Niépce at Chalon-sur Saône, the premier photographic museum in France. On the weekend of the 7/8 October 2017 we launched an exhibition programme with a preview show in Bué, near Sancerre, Christian's adopted village. After 16 years in the dark, 50 of this significant photographer's images have now seen the light of day, and once we have recovered from our first show in Bué we intend to take it to Paris.

There is an enormous amount of material to be dealt with – diaries, correspondence, press cuttings, audio tapes etc., all of which would make an ideal subject for a thesis. We have begun a visual inventory of the most interesting of the thousands of prints – notably some unpublished book projects and sets prepared for exhibition. But there remains more to do...

Everything costs money and so we are launching a funding appeal. The first aim is to raise €8,000 to sort out a safe place to store the archives where they can be consulted, studied and prepared for exhibition. We are asking for individual donations of €150.



Become a "Friend"

At the moment what we really need are friends and advocates to support us and spread the word about Christian and his work. Karine Louis, is now working with us to re-introduce him to as wide an audience as possible and has very generously made available to the association a collection of collotypes to launch a crowd funding appeal.

Donators may choose a collotype print – an artist's proof signed by the photographer and dry stamped. We ask you to frame it and to show it in your home, place of work or elsewhere, to introduce it to as many people as possible and to talk about it.

The following list (which Roger will update regularly) contains 50 phototypies/collotypes of which the association has between 1 and 9 copies. Each image has a title, number and (in brackets) is the number of copies available. You just need to identify your favourite image and let Sally know which one you have chosen. She will tell you what to do next. All requests will be treated on a first come first served basis and prints will be allocated according to availability. Sally will also give you the association's bank details so you can make a bank transfer of €150 (or more if you wish).

Our friends are very precious to us. We will keep you informed of our progress and send you invitations to exhibitions and events.

Thank you for your support.



Sally Reilly

Sally Reilly, Treasurer
sally@sallyreilly.co.uk
12 chemin des Écossais, 18300, BUÉ
t : +33 (2) 48 54 09 67

For more information about the association and Christian Louis' work visit
www.christian-louis.com

the collotype prints

available as of
1st January 2022



What is a collotype

A collotype, or *phototypie* in French, is an early form of photo lithography. The extremely fine reproduction of half-tones and the sumptuous blacks achievable through this process give superb results on fine art paper.

These are high quality, limited edition prints from 55 of Christian's images, produced in series of 100 on antique presses by the renowned printing house *Arte* on *rue Daguerre* in Paris. These large format (50 X 60cm) collotypes on deckle edge *papier Arches* were commissioned in the mid-1990s by Édouard Bourreau – friend and patron of Christian and now member of our association – as promotional gifts for *Le Généraliste*, a professional magazine for GP's which he published.

The *Association Christian Louis : clair-obscur* is a not-for-profit organisation recognized as '*d'intérêt général*', a French equivalent to charitable status. Its aim is to 'bring to public recognition, study and conserve the work of Christian Louis and advance and secure its future by all appropriate means.'



03 (out of stock)
« L'accordéoniste de la rue de Lévis »



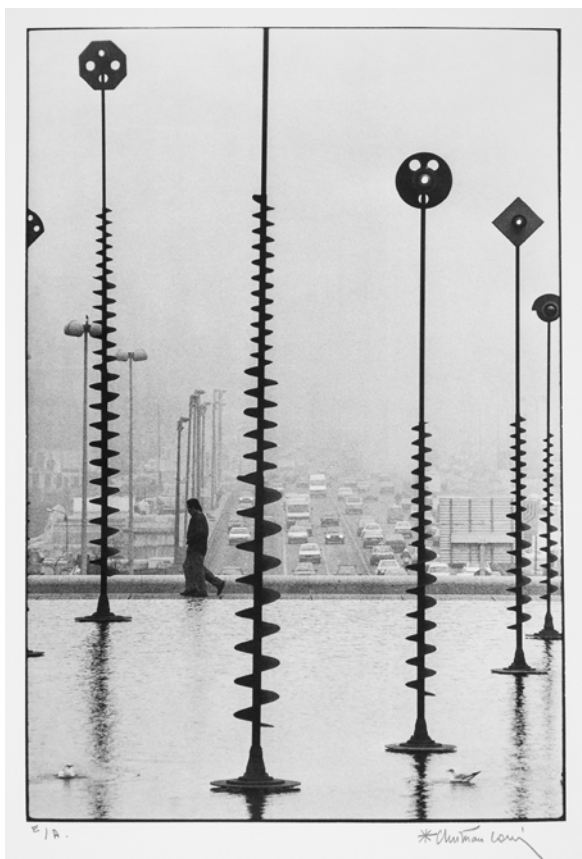
04 (1)
« Le chien des Baskerville »



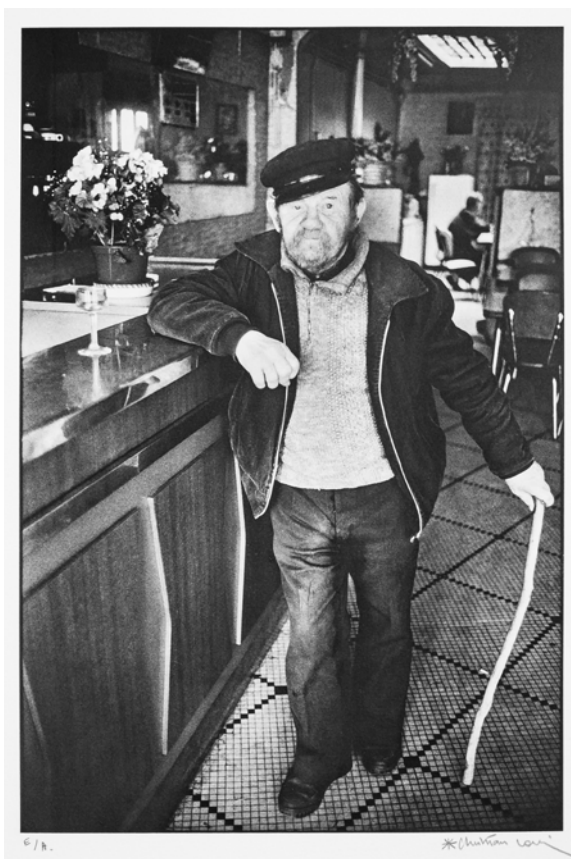
05 (out of stock)
« La Bugati 1931 sur la Nationale 7 »



06 (1)
« La concierge est à l'entresol »



07 (out of stock)
« Lumières de Takis à la Défense »



08 (2)
« Le poivrot breton au bar des Bretons »



09 (4)
« La gamine au masque »



10 (4)
« Le cadre de sérigraphie »



11 (1)
« Les oiseaux de la rue Royale »



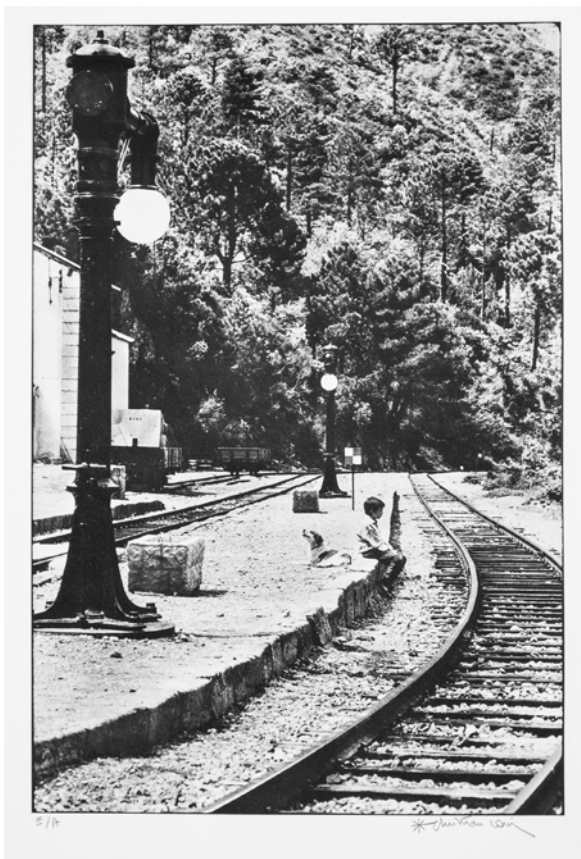
12 (out of stock)
« Le vieux manège au Châtelet »



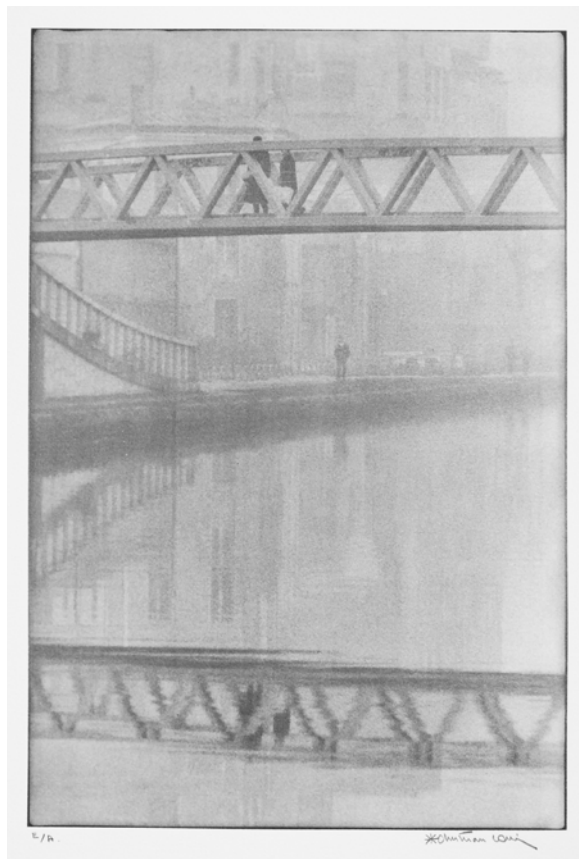
13 (3)
« La funambule »



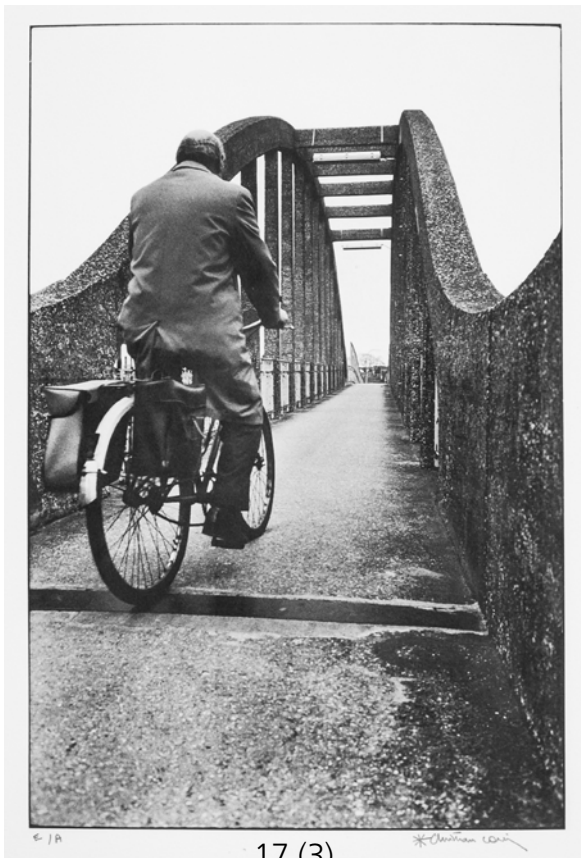
14 (2)
« Le rayon du soleil
au café du Blanc-Mesnil »



15 (out of stock)
« Le gamin à la gare de Vivario en Corse »



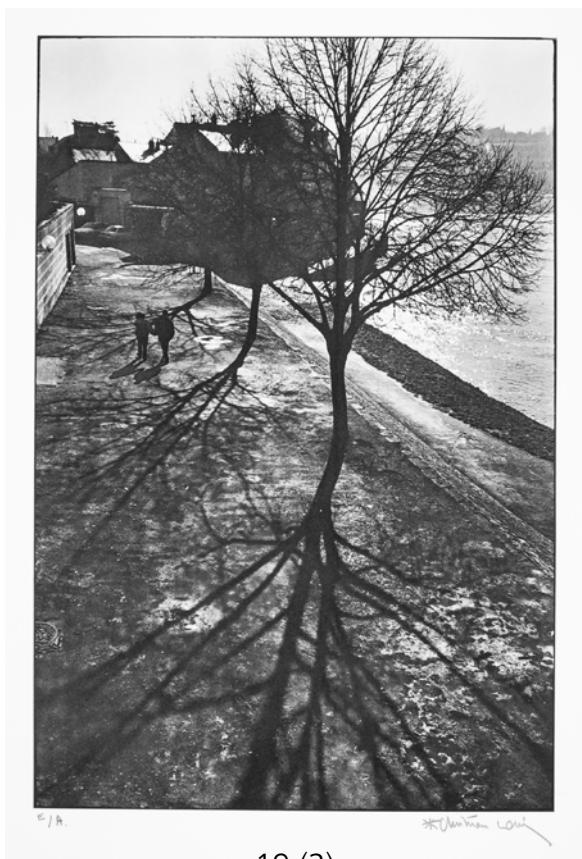
16 (out of stock)
« Canal de l'Ourcq à Pantin »



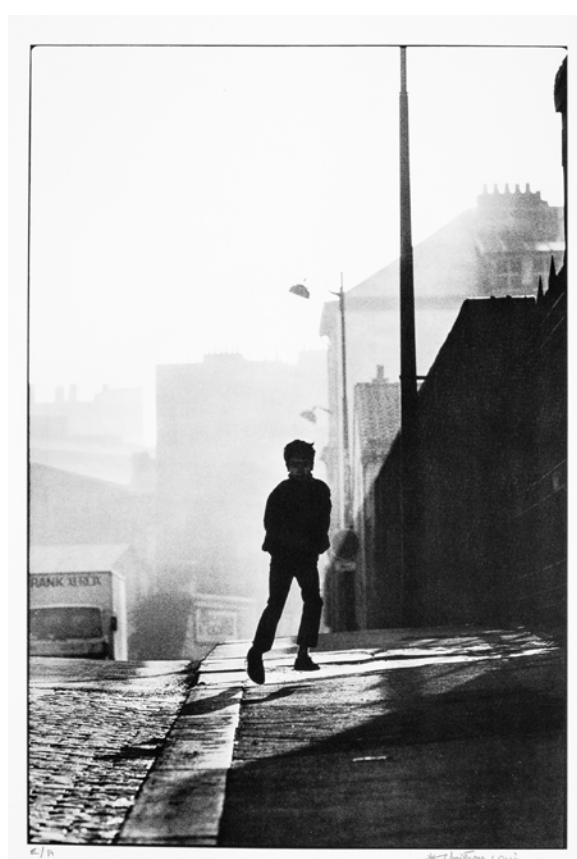
17 (3)
« Le vélo sur le pont SNCF
au Blanc-Mesnil »



18 (2)
« La pin-up gonflable »



19 (2)
« Saumur : quai du Gaz vu
du pont Cessart »



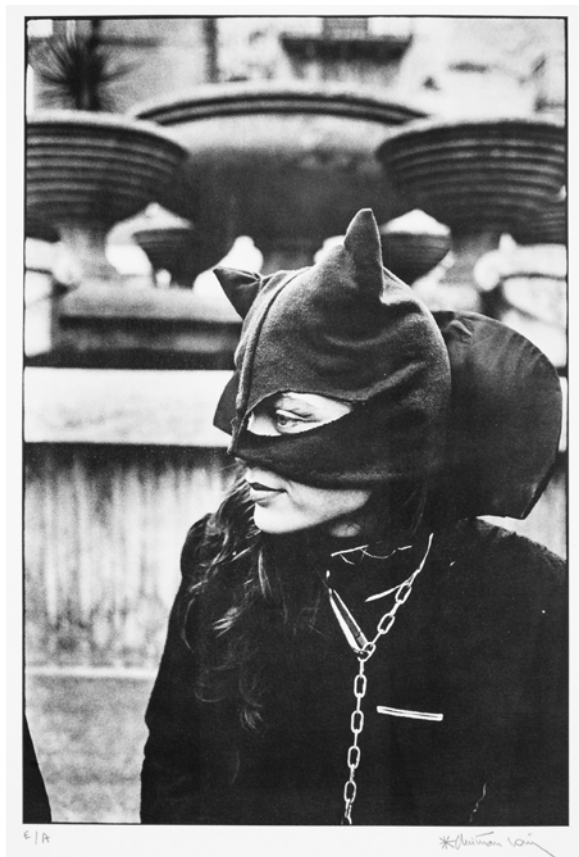
20 (out of stock)
« À cloche-pied »



21 (2)
« Les Aristide Bruant »



22 (3)
« La sorcière et le balai »



23 (3)
« La fille en chatte à Ischitella »



27 (8)
« L'apprenti dans la locomotive à vapeur »



28 (out of stock)
« L'olivier de Gargano »



30 (out of stock)
« Le père de Pietro et les filets »



31 (1)
« Barques à Chatou »



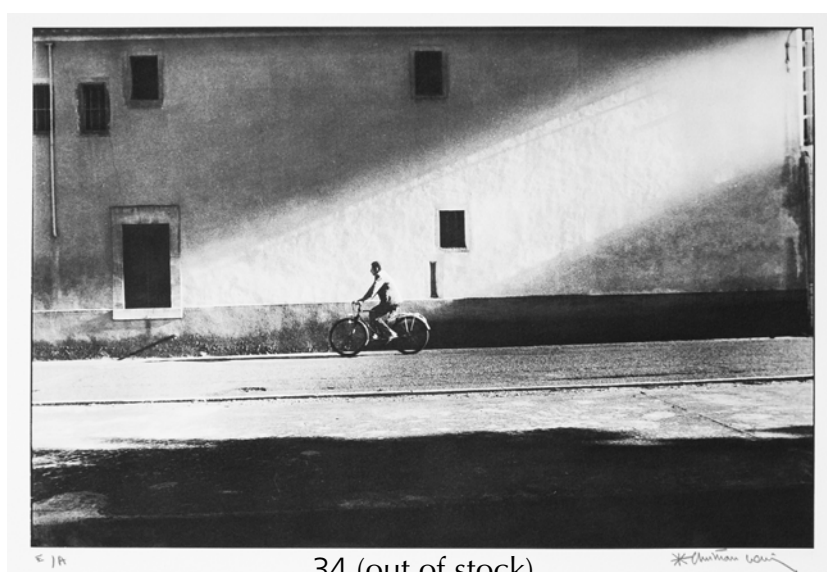
32 (2)

« Le mur des lamentations » – au Trocadéro, Paris



33 (5)

« Trois Anglais et une locomotive à vapeur »



34 (out of stock)

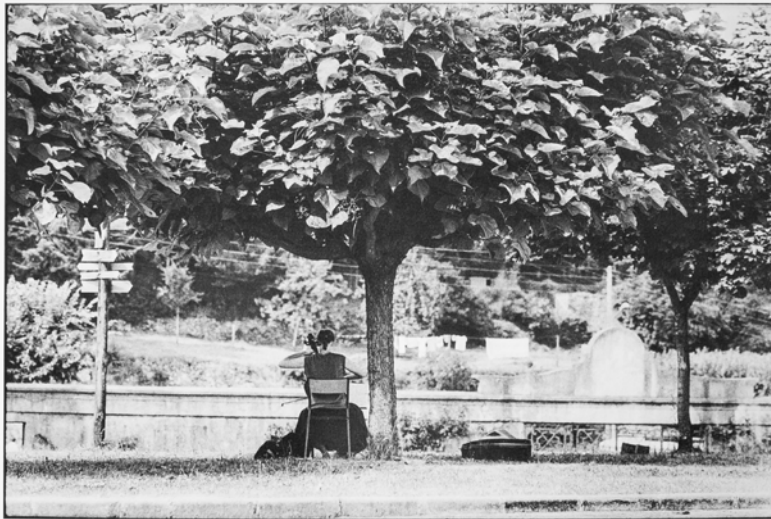
« Le rayon oblique et le vélo »



E/A

35 (épuisée)

« Le joueur de saxophone à Venise »



E/A

36 (1)

« Violoncelle sous l'arbre »



E/A

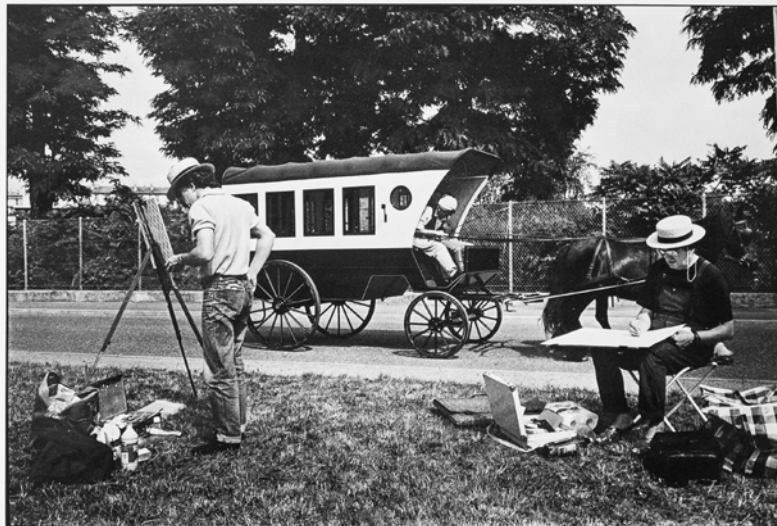
37 (8)

« Les enfants au cerceau »



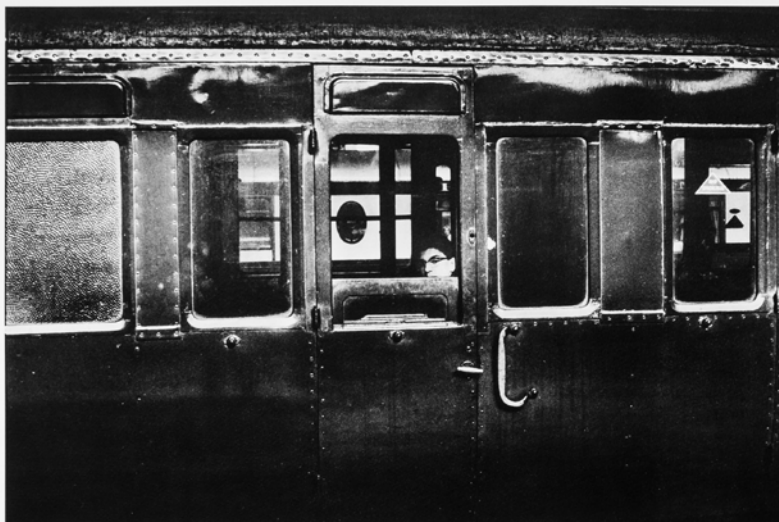
38 (7)

« Le cheminot à la casquette Sherlock Holmes »



39 (1)

« La roulotte et les peintres »



40 (3)

« À la poursuite des Beatles »



41 (out of stock)

« Gamine en blanc qui court à minuit
dans les rues de Tallinn »



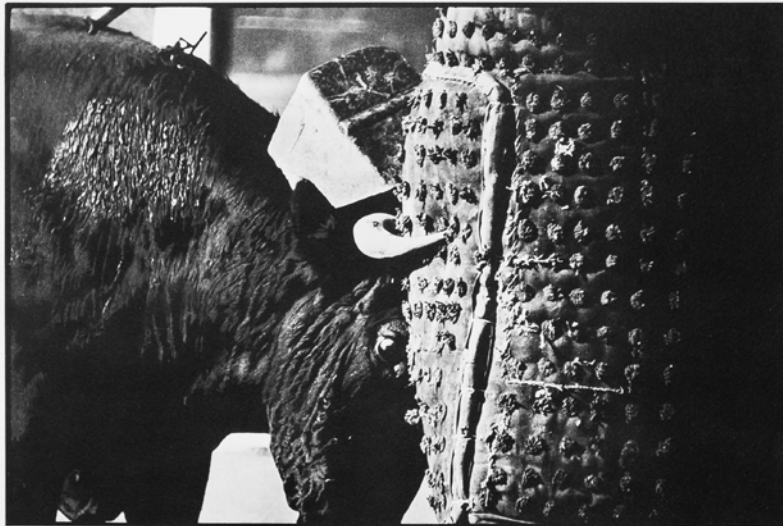
42 (5)

« Le béguinage à Bruges »



43 (2)

« Le dernier muletier à Céret »



44 (2)

« Taureau et caparaçon aux arènes de Céret »



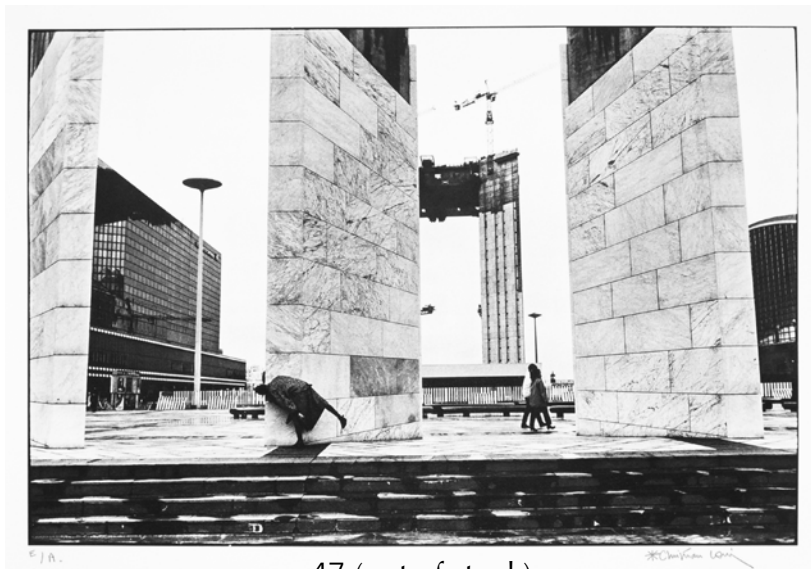
45 (out of stock)

« Laurent et les verres »



46 (out of stock)

« Saint-Eustache à travers les bras de fer »



47 (out of stock)
« Coucou à la Défense »



48 (1)
« Julie sur le pont des Arts »



49 (4)
« Le curé et les consignes »



50 (1)
« le dernier prolétaire sur la place Rouge »



51 (8)
« Danse de Délia »



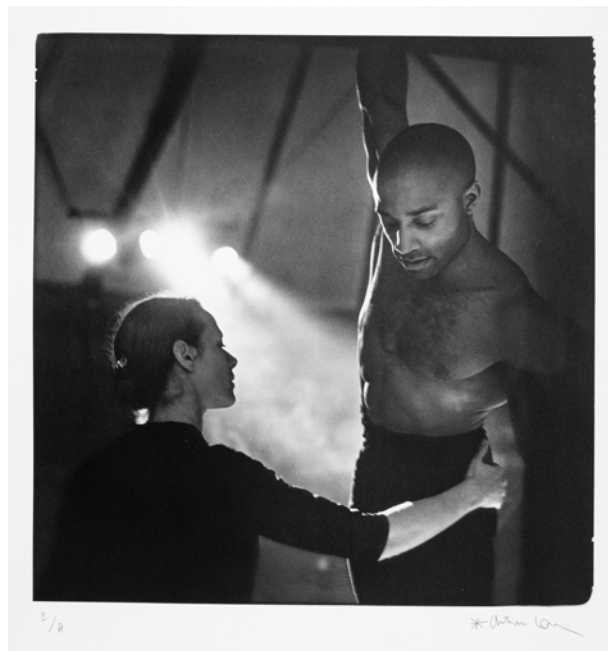
52 (1)
« Le salut du clown à la tombée de la nuit »



53 (out of stock)
« Pilar et la chèvre »



54 (2)
« Les chevaux dans la neige »



55 (out of stock)
« Jean-Claude et Laura : ballet amoureux au sol avant de s'envoyer en l'air »



56 (out of stock)
« Edwige et la colombe »



57 (out of stock)
« Les filles au cercle »



Members of the Christian Louis clair-obscur association

Roger COLEMAN : Professor Emeritus, College Royal of Art (RCA) London

Pierre BROCHET : Former image editor, Éditions Flammarion, Paris

Annie LAMBERT : Social Services director, Paris

Jean-François GARMIER : Former museum curator, Bué

Marie-José GARNICHE : Former museum curator, Bué

Françoise ROY : Graphic artist, printmaking tutor and former colleague of Christian, École nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (ENSAD) Paris

Dany et Dominique ROGER : Winemakers, Bué

Sally REILLY : Ceramicist, Bué

Edouard BOURREAU : Former editor, *Le Généraliste*, Moissac

Bernard BAILLY : Photographer and old friend of Christian

René BRASSART, Photographer, Paris

Charlotte POIDEVIE, Graphic designer, Paris

