

press release

PHILIPPE CHANCEL / GARY GREEN

Rebels & Dandys

15 April - 5 June 2021



Philippe Chancel, *Rebels* (Paris), 1982



Gary Green, *Anya & Roxy*, NY, 1976

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Paris, January 2021 ----- The spring 2021 exhibition at Galerie Miranda brings together two historical and little-known bodies of photography that capture urban underground culture in Paris and New York in the late seventies and early eighties.

At the time, Gary Green (b. 1956, USA) and Philippe Chancel (b. 1959, France) were both young photographers, in their first jobs and finding their footing as adults and as artists. Each of their series bears witness to the energy and spontaneity of youth - that of the artists, but also of the urban underground movements they were documenting.

In 1982, Paris, Philippe Chancel photographed the city's rockabilly gangs composed largely of teenagers from immigrant families who sought the freedom and social integration represented by the music and clothes of postwar American pop culture, that they adapted in a kind of Parisian *West Side Story*.

Paradoxically, at the same time on the other side of the Atlantic, New York was plunging into deep social, economic and urban crises that were being questioned in real time by the city's underground artists and musicians, who Gary Green photographed for nearly a decade. This 'tale of two cities' recounts two creative, youthful movements fuelled by music and dance - as well as violence and drugs - that were profoundly different in their composition and aspirations, whilst sharing an innate and vital resistance to crushing external forces.

The Paris photos are particularly striking in their representation of second-generation immigrant kids drinking, dancing, kissing and fighting alongside their white middle class friends, scenes that are unthinkable in Paris today where these same social groups have been structurally and economically separated after decades of political disengagement, symbolized largely by the ghettoisation of Paris' poor outer suburbs, or 'banlieues'.

The New York series is a raw document of the many famous but also unfamous people who forged the artistic and punk scene of the times.

For both series, the gallery has chosen to highlight the iconic figures of each movement but also the women - famous and anonymous - who played an essential role in each 'scene', whether as musicians, dancing partners, kissing partners, style icons, muses, 'door bitches' or barmaids.

ABOUT EACH SERIES AND ARTIST

Philippe Chancel

Rebels

Paris, 1982

On the other side of the Atlantic, equally young photographer Philippe Chancel (b. 1959, France) decided in 1982 to follow and document the Vikings and the Panthers, two street gangs inspired by the culture and style of 1950s American rock 'n roll culture, with quiffs and bomber jackets for the boys, ponytails and full skirts for the girls. Chancel was intrigued by the Viking's ethnic mix, compared to the other street gangs, typically white and right wing. The Vikings were named after the Del Vikings, the first successful multiracial rock 'n roll group in 1950s America, and they were allies with the Panthers, another Paris gang made up of second generation kids from the French West Indies' colonies, taking their political cue from the Black Panther movement and their dress codes from black GIs. The Paris gangs' 'black, blanc, bleu' composition (black, white, arab) was a reaction to the growing racism in France at the time: 1983 was the year that the National Front won a seat in the municipal elections, of suburban Paris, with a discourse blaming rising unemployment on immigration.

Battles between rival bands often broke out and Chancel recounts the tension that would arise as he sought to photograph both sides. Yet he also recounts the overall joyful and uninhibited mood of the time, of young immigrant kids finding freedom and acceptance in Paris through music and dance, inspired by the optimism of postwar America. He photographed the cars, the fights, the guns, the clothes, the dancing contests, the kissing contests, but also the solidarity and chivalrous codes, whereby the young women were indispensable partners, both respected and courted.

Philippe Chancel's work is presented at Galerie Miranda in friendly collaboration with Galerie Melanie Rio Fluency in Nantes, France.

Gary Green

When midnight comes around

New York, 1976-1986

"A democratic portrait of an emerging New York punk scene" - Sean O'Hagan

For a decade, young American photographer Gary Green was at the heart of the New York underground music scene that was raging against a backdrop of social and economic turmoil - homicides were at near-record highs, crack was epidemic, as was prostitution. Bryant Park and Times Square were dubbed 'Needle park' because of the widespread heroine abuse AIDS would soon come, ravaging the population even further, as recorded by artists such as Nan Goldin, Peter Hujar and others.

Gary Green hung out at the nightclubs Max's Kansas City, CBGB and the Chelsea Hotel where he photographed some of the decade's most iconic musicians and artists. At the time, music was everywhere in the city and key venues also included The Ocean Club, Hurrah's, Trax and the Village Gate. "It was a rich time," says Green, "and a small scene that was fairly easy to jump into – especially with a camera, because most people liked the attention."

Far from celebrity portraits, Green's pictures are unposed documents 'from the inside' that capture a moment in time of musical and artistic resistance to a hostile social context. Lou Reed, Andy Warhol and Joey Ramone are there, in their signature sunglasses and leather jackets, along with Alex Chilton, Joe Jackson, Tom Waits and many others. The antiestablishment ideology of the punk scene also opened the doors to women musicians such as Debbie Harry, Patti Smith, Kim Gordon; as Chrissie Hynde would comment, "That was the beauty of the punk thing: sexual discrimination didn't exist in that scene".

The breadth of Gary Green's work fleshes out the iconography of the period by documenting not only the underground figureheads but also the the fans, dandies, muses, drinking partners and nightclub staff who made them famous at a mythical time built on equal parts of talent, posture and excess.

The full photographic series by Gary Green is published as *When midnight comes around* (Stanley/Barker, 2020).

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



Philippe Chancel, Paris, 1982

Philippe Chancel (b. 1959, France)

Chancel has pursued a photographic career at the intersection of art, documentary and journalism. He was introduced to photography at a young age, and studied economics (Université de Nanterre) and journalism (CFPJ de Paris). His work has been exhibited at the Barbican Centre in London, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, C/O Berlin, the Open Eye Society Foundation in New York, the 53rd Venice Biennale, and at the Multimedia Art Museum in Moscow, among others. His *Datazone* project, exhibited and published both in France and abroad was presented in its entirety for the very first time at the Rencontres d'Arles 2019.

Gary Green (b. 1956, USA)

Green received an MFA from Bard College and is an Associate Professor of Art at Colby College, Maine, where he has taught photography since 2007. Green's work is held in many collections including those of The RISD Museum in Providence, Rhode Island; the Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon; The Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, TX; and in Maine at the Bowdoin, Bates, and Colby college's museums of art. Gary is the author of two previous publications and is continuously working on his next big ventures. This includes a new book in the pipeline of landscape photographs, to be released in 2021 at L'Artiere Editions, entitled *The River is Moving/The Blackbird Must be Flying*. Widely exhibited in the USA, this will be the first French exhibition of Gary's work that was published in 2020 by Stanley/Barker publisher, under the title "When Midnight Comes Around".



Gary Green, New York, 1980

SELECTED WORKS AVAILABLE FOR PRESS REVIEW PUBLICATION

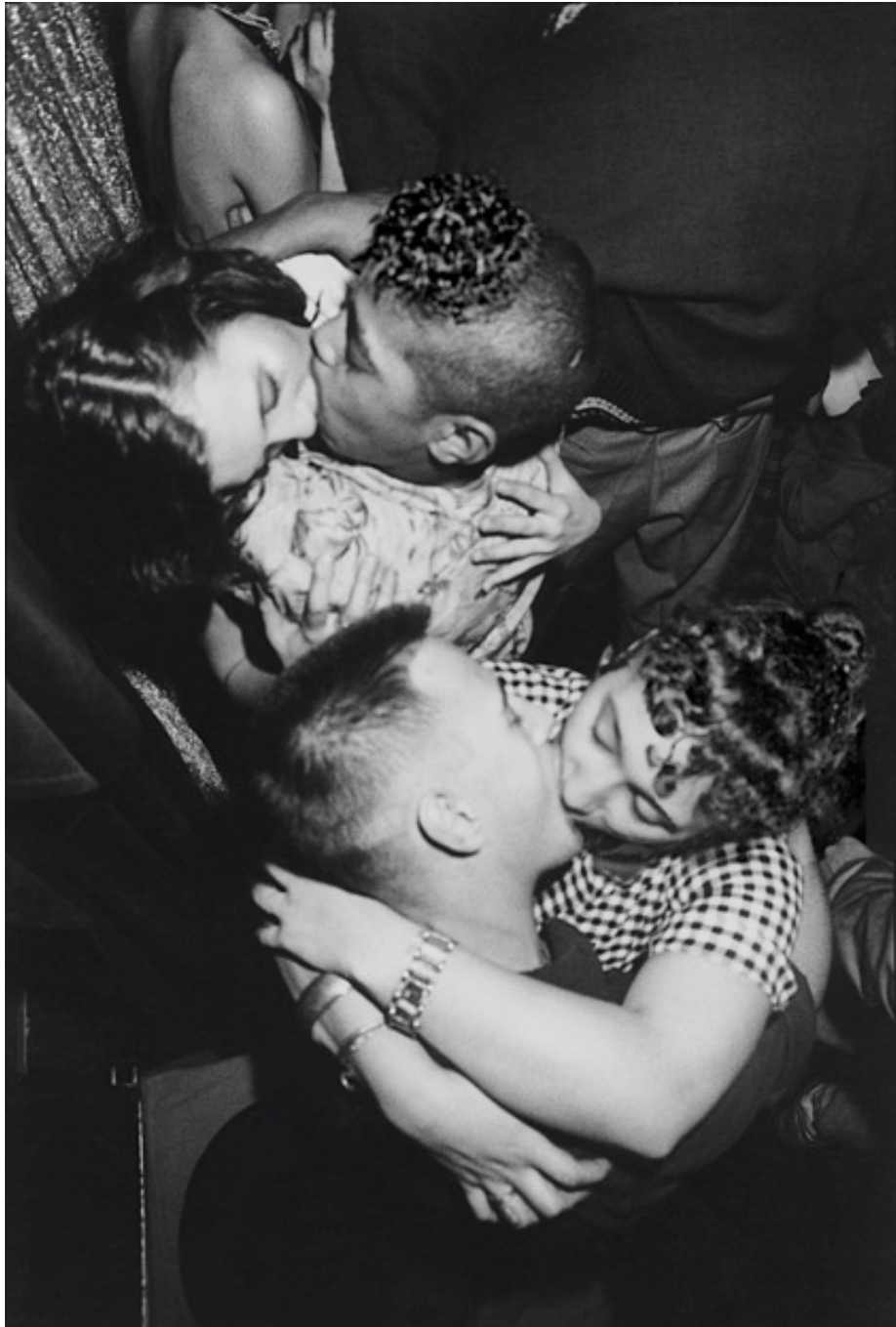


GARY GREEN
Anya & Roxy, Max's Kansas City, New York, 1976
(c) Gary Green / Galerie Miranda



PHILIPPE CHANCEL
Rebels, Paris 1982
(c) Philippe Chancel / Galerie Miranda

PHILIPPE CHANCEL : WORKS AVAILABLE FOR PRESS REVIEW PUBLICATION



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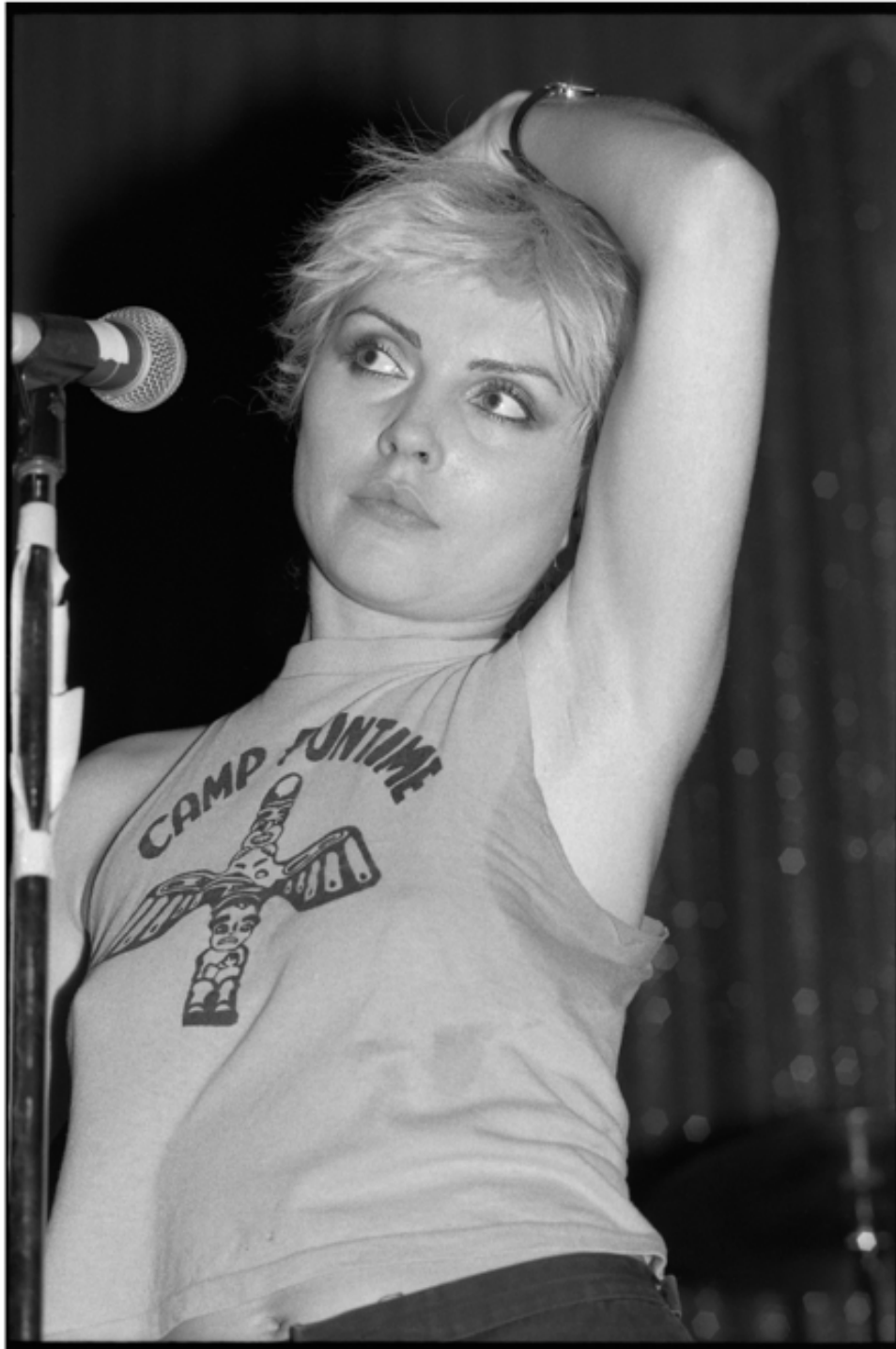


PHILIPPE CHANCEL
Rebels, Paris 1982
(c) Philippe Chancel / Galerie Miranda



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Rebels, Paris 1982
(c) Philippe Chancel / Galerie Miranda

GARY GREEN: WORKS AVAILABLE FOR PRESS REVIEW PUBLICATION



GARY GREEN
Deborah Harry, rehearsal at the New York Hilton c. 1976
(c) Gary Green / Galerie Miranda



GARY GREEN

Michael "Spider" Sanders (Pure Hell), Georgie Day (the Miamis), CBGB's, c. 1970s
(c) Gary Green / Galerie Miranda



GARY GREEN

Girls with fake guns, Peppermint Lounge, c. 1980
(c) Gary Green / Galerie Miranda



GARY GREEN

David Johansen (New York Dolls), Lou Reed, Andy Warhol, The Bottom Line, New York, 1978
(c) Gary Green / Galerie Miranda



GARY GREEN

Patti Smith and Lenny Kaye, Great Gildersleeves, New York, 1980s
(c) Gary Green / Galerie Miranda



GARY GREEN
Laura Dean, Max's Kansas City, New York, New York, 1978
(c) Gary Green / Galerie Miranda



GARY GREEN
DJ, Club 57, New York, c. 1981
(c) Gary Green / Galerie Miranda

GALERIE MIRANDA: *A propos*

Galerie Miranda was founded in 2018 by Miranda Salt, French-Australian who has lived and worked in the 10th arrondissement of Paris since her arrival in France in 1995. Specialised in fine art photography, the gallery is focused on a dialogue with international artists and works celebrated in their own country but little known in France and Europe. Inaugurated on International Women's Day 2018, the gallery's inaugural cycle of exhibitions featured solo presentations by prominent women artists Jo Ann Callis, Nancy Wilson-Pajic, Marina Berio and Ellen Carey. Amongst the other artists represented, or with works available, at the gallery are Merry Alpern, John Chiara, Sally Gall, Gerard Dalla Santa, Chloe Sells, Noé Sendas, Laura Stevens, Arne Svenson, Terri Weifenbach. The gallery participates in fairs and private salons and is also a bookshop with a curated selection of photography publications available in French and English: monographs, artist books, critical texts, biographies and exhibition catalogues. Galerie Miranda is situated in Paris' vibrant 10th arrondissement at 21 rue du Château d'Eau, close to the Place de la République and 100 metres from the former site, on rue Léon Jouhaux, of Louis Daguerre's wonderful Diorama and laboratory, destroyed by fire in 1839.

Galerie Miranda
21 rue du Château d'Eau
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Tuesday-Friday 14:00 – 19:00 / Saturday 12:00-19:00
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