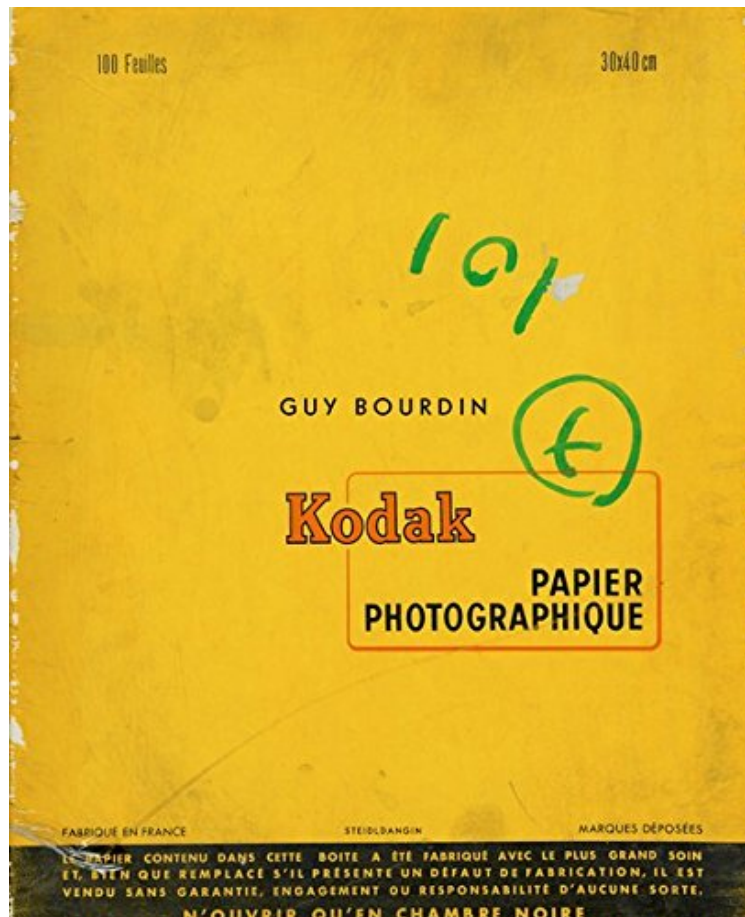


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Guy Bourdin: Untouched

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From Steidl : Guy Bourdin: Untouched before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Guy Bourdin: Untouched:

Intriguing, revolutionary and undoubtedly one of the most influential fashion photographers of the twentieth century, Guy Bourdin was a groundbreaking image-maker, whose work has achieved a cultlike following. His striking use of color, suggestive narratives and surrealist aesthetics established a visual language entirely his own. Though best known for his color images, Bourdin launched his career in black and white in the early 1950s. *Untouched* explores this largely unseen work and gives insight into the early development of his photographic eye. The carefully constructed images, initially conceived as an exhibition series, reveal his artistic motivation years before he began working on assignments for French *Vogue* and *Photo Femina*. In both concept and composition, these photographs display his fascination with striking graphic layouts and narrative cinematic portraiture. Capturing people he

encountered on the streets of Paris, Bourdin trained his eye to transcend the realism of the medium, developing a unique perspective through unconventional manipulations of the picture plane. Guy Bourdin was born in Paris in 1928. His career as a fashion photographer spans over three decades. Bourdin shot largely for French Vogue as well as Harper's Bazaar, Chanel, Issey Miyake, Versace, Charles Jourdan and Emanuel Ungaro. Today Bourdin's work is held in prestigious museums including the Victoria and Albert Museum, Jeu de Paume, the Guggenheim and the National Museum of China. Bourdin died in 1991.

The uncompromising fashion photography of latter-day interiors like Juergen Teller and Terry Richardson owes a debt to this approach which may be why Bourdin's work feels startlingly contemporary. It hasn't aged. If anything, it's better than much of what followed it. (Matthew Schneier The New York Times, Styles Section)