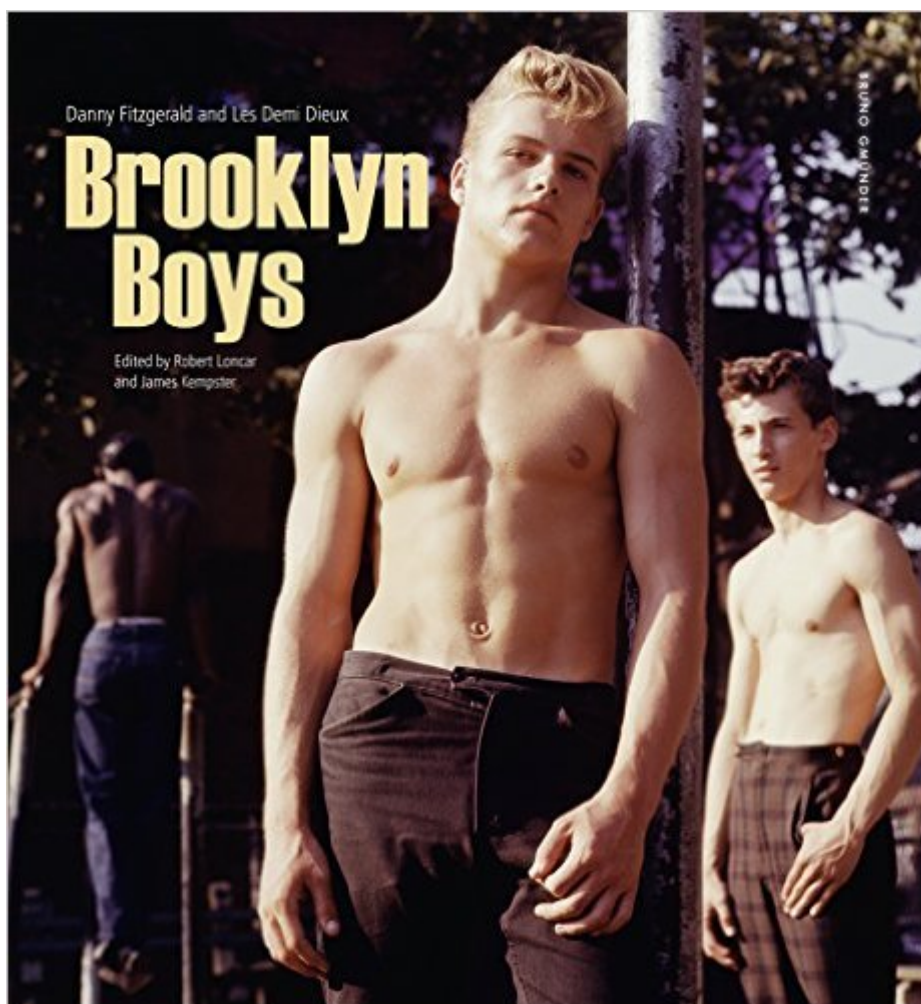


The book was found

Brooklyn Boys



Synopsis

The photographs of Danny Fitzgerald are an undiscovered treasure, making him one of the great photographers of the 20th century. 'Brooklyn Boys' presents some of his work for the very first time since its creation in the '50s and '60s, showcasing the unbelievable intensity of his photography.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The photographs of Danny Fitzgerald are an undiscovered treasure, making him one of the great photographers of the 20th century. BROOKLYN BOYS presents some of his work for the very first time since its creation in the '50s and '60s, showcasing the unbelievable intensity of his photography. Much of this `discovery' is due to the gentlemen who own BigKugels Photographic Resource and the book is not only fresh but also suggests that some of the most honored photographers of the day somehow learned techniques from Danny Fitzgerald and his Les Demi-Dieux studio. From the liner notes the following is important information to appreciate this fine book: `In the early Nineteen Sixties a series of unusual photos appeared in several large-format, glossy physique magazines. They were attributed to Les Demi Dieux studio, with a mailing address in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn. The photos were the work of Danny FitzGerald. As one recent commentator has said, "FitzGerald's style has a fresh editorial quality that is timeless....so much so, one need only look to contemporary editorial/advertising work to see how ahead of the curve he was with his aesthetic and vision." FitzGerald photographed young Brooklyn men as they hung out in neighborhood basketball courts or in the streets, and some of them were the subjects of his large body of figure work. Another photographer has written, "In a genre dominated by clichÃ©s and a

monotonous photographic style, Demi Dieux stands out with enduring sensual images that defy the dated look of so many of their contemporaries." His portrait of the seated Orest Daszo is vintage gay photography's equivalent of the enigmatic Mona Lisa. While other physique photographers of the era occasionally produced work that was as thoughtful (e.g.

The older I get, I notice with some amusement, the more susceptible I become to feelings of nostalgia. Which is probably why I had such a strong reaction to this book of photos by Danny Fitzgerald from the studio Les Demi Dieux. They are from the early 60s, taken "mostly" on the streets of Brooklyn. And although I myself have never lived in Brooklyn, and though I wasn't born till 1967, these "still lifes" of boys standing on the street, sitting near the river, smoking, playing cards etc. radiate a magic I found strangely appealing. Probably, it's because a lot of these young topless boys look like they've come straight out of the movie version of "West Side Story" - the way the pants are cut, the hair is styled, the cigarette hangs from the corner of their mouths. That musical had a profound impact on me, as a child, and somehow this eroticized picture-version of one of my all-time favorite shows is highly stimulating to look at. Mind you, these "erotic photographs" are quite tame. When you do see nudes, they are composed in such a way that they rather exude calm and poise than of "sex". That's the special quality of these images. But it's actually the less obviously erotic pictures - the boys in the street - that I found the most appealing, especially the color-shots. The intro by Robert Loncar and James Kempster gives you a vague idea who Danny Fitzgerald was (he apparently died in 2000), it also briefly mentions his life partner Richard, who can be seen on many images. But it leaves many questions open, like: what did Danny do for a living, if it wasn't a career in beefcake photography? The details about gay life in the US in the early 60s were shocking, to think that only 50 years ago you went to jail for homosexual behavior. Anyway, it's a beautifully designed book.

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