

**FOR  
IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

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# **THE CLUBS OF BAMAKO**

**Malick Sidibé - Photographs**

**Emile Guebehi and Nicolas Damas - Sculpture**

**February 11 - March 6, 1999 / Opening Reception February 19, 1999, 7-9 p.m.**

Deitch Projects is pleased to present an exhibition of photographs by Malick Sidibé and sculpture by the brothers Emile Guebehi and Nicolas Damas documenting the nightlife in the clubs of Bamako, Mali from the late 1950s through the mid 1970s.

*"I used to go to five different parties every Saturday night. I was everywhere. Wherever I went, people said, 'Malick the photographer is here!' I was looking for the most joyful and frivolous moments so that I could take the pictures I liked." Malick Sidibé*

Malick Sidibé has become internationally recognized during the past several years for his extraordinary photographs of the social life of Bamako. He opened his "Studio Malick" in the center of Bamako, in 1958, where he is still active doing portrait photography and camera repairs. From the late 1950s onward, he photographed the surprise parties and other events of the Bamako clubs. His studio became a gathering place for the young generation.

The nightlife in Bamako was especially lively during the late 1950s and '60s. Many clubs were formed with wonderful names like the Happy Boys Club and Les Surfs. The clubs played the latest music from England, France and America as well as the Mali twist. Sidibé's photographs capture the jubilant mood. His work also documents the creative fashions worn by the club goers, the wild combinations of traditional African and patterned Western clothing, bell bottoms and platform shoes. Sidibé's exuberant images open our eyes to an Africa completely different from the stereotypes.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT AVA SCANLAN AT DEITCH PROJECTS**

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**DEITCH PROJECTS Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 12-6**

Malick Sidibé was born around 1935 in Soloba, Mali. He has lived and worked Bamako since the mid 1950s. Since 1995, when the Foundation Cartier presented an exhibition of his work in Paris, Sidibé has exhibited internationally. This exhibition coincides with the publication by Scalo of *Malick Sidibé* by André Magnin, a 256-page monograph on the artist's work.

The exhibition also features sculpture by the brothers Emile Guebehi and Nicolas Damas inspired by the photographs of Malick Sidibé. Guebehi and Damas were commissioned by the gallery to make life sized polychrome wood sculptures based on figures in Sidibés photographs. The sculpture will be displayed along with the photographs to give the viewer the experience of being inside a Bamako nightclub. Guebehi, who was born in 1937, and Damas, who was born in 1947, live and work in Abidjan Ivory Coast. Their work combines traditional carving techniques with a response to contemporary urban life.

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