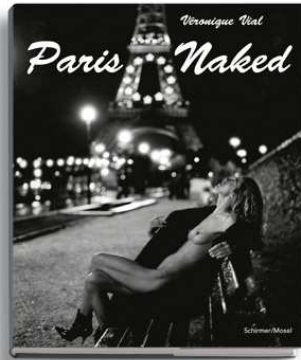


Munich, September 2009

PRESS RELEASE

**Paris by night:  
A walk with a beautiful stranger**



**Véronique Vial**  
*Paris Naked*

With an essay by Marc Levy  
120 pages, 80 duotone plates  
Format: 24 x 29 cm, bound  
German/English  
ISBN 978-3-8296-0438-3  
Retail price EUR 39.80; SFr 65

A beautiful stranger in Paris by night - wearing no more than a pair of short high-heeled boots and an opened coat. In her new photo book "Paris Naked", French photographer Véronique Vial takes us on a tour of the streets of Paris at night with a naked model at her side, past large and small squares, over and under the bridges of the Seine, along the Canal Saint Martin, through the middle of Montmartre all the way to the Eiffel Tower, the city's landmark, in front of which the anonymous naked woman lounges on a park bench. Paris by night - here dark shadows and splendid lights meet, offering a breathtaking backdrop for the fascinating interplay of voyeurism and exhibitionism. The contrast between the traditional stone architecture and the flesh-and-blood female body inspires erotic visions, dreams and emotions in the observer on a long nighttime walk. Véronique Vial gives her model a free rein in the city, in places which during the day are overfilled with tourists, such as the Louvre, Place de la Concorde and Arc de Triumf. The stranger's poses are at times teasingly playful, at others lasciviously provocative. For a fleeting, secret moment, she is alone with herself and the city lights, reflected on her naked body.

Best-selling French author Marc Levy, famous among other things for his novel that formed the basis of the American hit movie "Just Like Heaven", has contributed the introductory essay for the book. For him, the twin subjects of city and femininity merge in the photographs into one and the same object of desire: "On these pages, Paris presents itself as an attractive and thrilling accomplice. Paris is this woman, elegant, intelligent and sophisticated, lost, often vulnerable, unapproachable and arrogant."

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Photographer Véronique Vial, who has lived and worked in Paris since 1989, is well known for her two best-selling photo books “Women before 10 a.m.” and “Men before 10 a.m.”, with photos of famous photo models and actors taken after waking up in the morning. Vial works as a celebrity, travel, fashion and music photographer and collaborates with the Canadian Cirque du Soleil on a regular basis.

With “Paris Naked”, the photographer presents a new large and lavishly illustrated book attesting to her talent in tackling a traditional genre such as nude photography with creative, playful openness. This book is a sensual tribute to both the energy of the female body and the seductive city of Paris.

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