



The Paris that he photographed was the artists' and writers' capital of the world. **Picasso** and **Braque** and **Beckett** posed for him. He knew **Dali** and **Matisse**. But **Brassai** was particularly fascinated with Paris nightlife. "The real night people live at night not out of necessity but because they want to," he wrote. One of the last survivors of the artistic flowering of the '20s and '30s in Paris, Brassai was in New York for last week's opening of his show, "The Secret Paris of the 30s." "In these pictures, I tried to go inside, to get between the walls," he explained. There are the prewar beautiful people at Le Monocle, a couple wearing one suit between them at the Bal de la Montaigne Sainte Genevieve, the Folies-Bergere chorus line and naked women being introduced to their clients at "Suzy." A Romanian who took the name of his hometown, Brassai was given his first camera at 30 by André Kertész. It was in the U.S., Brassai remembered last week, that he first felt the need to use color film. "What do I love most about New York?" he said. "It is the mirrors and the glass, everything is reflected. I love mirrors, and I love reflections."

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Robert R. McElroy—Newsweek

Introductions at the bordello: Brassai's collected secrets of nighttime Paris in the '30s