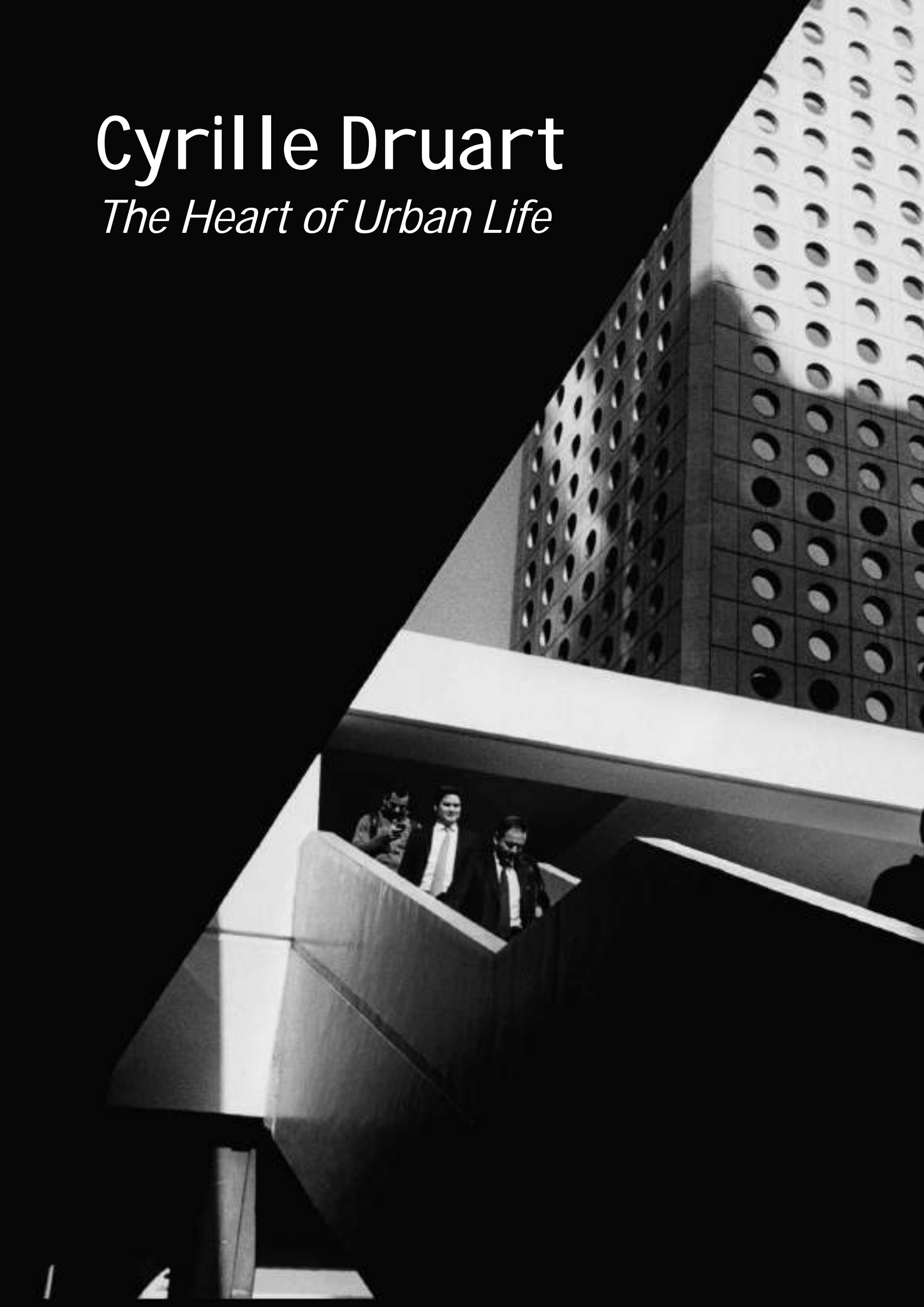


# Cyrille Druart

*The Heart of Urban Life*











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# Cyrille Druart

## *The Heart of Urban Life*



Cyrille Druart was born in 1980 in Paris. His interest in Art leads to experimenting various fields from an early age. In parallel with Design studies at ESAG-Penninghen in Paris, he learns photography by himself and begins travelling in order to make images.

He focuses his work on major cities worldwide, bringing his interest in observing people, how people behave and interact. Loneliness is also at the center of his images because paradoxes at the heart of urban life.

Regularly browsing large cities, wandering randomly, he only uses black and white as a means of representation. The goal is not only to freeze time, but taking off fragments of reality to create individual images, made of a substance of their own.

He is represented in Paris by Philia gallery, and his images are on sale on 1stdibs (<https://www.1stdibs.com>)













# Cyrille Druart

## *The Importance of Light & Shadows*

I love the darkness. Light says it all, darkness only suggests. It is rich in the sense that it is deep and infinite, and it stimulates the imagination by not telling everything. It hides part of the message, and leaves open interpretations. I like this way of exciting curiosity very much. I like the idea of not saying too much in my pictures, not showing everything, but to suggest. This creates an extra dimension and different reactions for everyone.

Transcribed on a medium like Photography, shadows give deep blacks, which I find sublime. I mainly use film today. Grain adds roughness and personality to the images. It creates some deepness I want to scratch out and dig in, which I love. One of the interests of black & white is the possibility of simplifying the images to the maximum, approaching abstraction.

Painter Henri Matisse said of Black that it is a strength. That's what I like. It is a force, a substance that can invade an image, bring out details, or swallow them completely. I realize that I love black & white photography for black more than anything. Saul Leiter and Daido Moriyama are for me the best at this game. The power and delicacy of their images are unparalleled.

The visual impact of light and shadow interests me, of course, but it's a way of saying more than just a graphical game. In my photo taken in Tokyo and showing a man walking on an esplanade (# Vue05), shadows compress the silhouette. The character becomes only a small spot that



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seems crushed amid these great masses. It symbolizes for me a city like Tokyo, which I love, but despite its many qualities, has this ability to dehumanize people, subjecting them at a rapid, relentless pace. Same for another photo taken in Tokyo (# 143). A spiral line (the staircase) runs through a flat tint of black, giving motion to the image, and focus our gaze to the two people at the bottom of the image. Again, the light draws a simple and minimal form through darkness, and structures the image.

I think this love of light and shadow comes from my very early interest in classical paintings, and especially the work of Caravaggio, which I liked reproduce details in pastel. I kept this interest in simple compositions, reduced to the essential, and lighting with minimal sources.











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