

**#50 May 2020 Cameraderie
Brassaï (1899-1984)**



Self-portrait

The Hungarian photographer Gyula (Julius) Halász (pseudonym: Brassai [meaning “from Brasso,” his hometown]) came to Paris in 1924 and remained there the rest of his life. He was part of a vibrant circle of creative Hungarian artists who lived in Paris between the World Wars. He is best known for his “Paris by Night” images. In these, I see some similarity to the work of Weegee (#38, March 2019), who photographed many underbelly subjects of New York City, often at night.

Please have a look at Brassai’s Wikipedia article here:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brassa%C3%AF>

From the Wikipedia article:

Brassaï captured the essence of the city in his photographs, published as his first collection in the 1933 book entitled *Paris de nuit* (Paris by Night). His book gained great success, resulting in being called “the eye of Paris” in an essay by Henry Miller. In addition to photos of the seedier side of Paris, Brassai portrayed scenes from the life of the city’s **high society**, its **intellectuals**, its ballet, and the **grand operas**. He had been befriended by a French family who gave him access to the upper classes. Brassai photographed many of his artist friends, including **Salvador Dalí**, **Pablo Picasso**, **Henri Matisse**, **Alberto Giacometti**, and several of the prominent writers of his time, such as **Jean Genet** and **Henri Michaux**.

As usual, I Googled “Brassai” and then selected “Images” to see hundreds of Brassai’s images, and selected a few to show below. These are all of Paris, and especially Paris by night; please Google “Brassai” and select “Images” if you want to see his portrait and other images.

The Steps of Montmartre 1936



I was just here two years ago with my wife,
But we took the new tram up and down. It is
located immediately to the left of this frame.

The Eiffel Tower from the Cathedral of Notre Dame



Does this look like a depth of field problem?
It must be deliberate.

Two images of Paris by night



A running man at night



Somewhat surrealistic

Typical Paris night scenes

