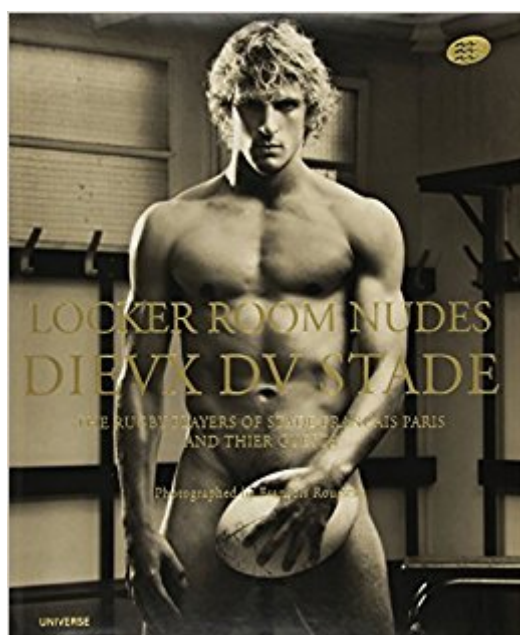


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# Locker Room Nudes / Dieux Du Stade: The Rugby Players Of Stade Francais Paris And Their Guests



## Synopsis

This remarkable collection of candid nude photos of France's national rugby team goes beneath the uniform to reveal what real jocks look like underneath it all. Each image taken by leading French photographer François Rousseau depicts the rugby player alone or with teammates undressing, lounging on the bench, showering. Locker Room Men is at once a celebration of athletes and the beauty of the male form as well as the fulfillment of the fantasy of going behind the scenes in a winning team's locker room. Sure to appeal to both gay men and straight women, these photos are unusual because the men are not models. They don't work out just to look good and look good they do; their bodies are sculpted by winning victories on the field. They aren't made up, shaved, or prettified in any way. These are some of the world's best rugby players—brawny, tough, competitive. Since 1999, the French national rugby team has posed nude or semi-nude for an annual calendar. The purpose behind the calendar was to get wider "exposure" for rugby and the team. In 2004, François Rousseau was selected as photographer, and he successfully brought out the sensual beauty and sexiness inherent in the rugby players' rough and tumble exterior. The calendar became a cult hit, and thus the book was born so that even more of these unparalleled images could be savored. Whether or not rugby will become more popular in this country remains to be seen, but this book will certainly raise the game's profile.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

François Rousseau was born in France in 1967. He spent ten years as an artist before beginning his photography career in 1995. Since then, his work has been commissioned by numerous magazines in Paris. He often incorporates athletes, musicians and artists in his photos and currently alternates between commercial fashion photography and art photography.

The second star is because I don't hate the book, there isn't enough emotion in the entire collection to create any such emotion! My expectations from the descriptions I read were totally incorrect. Artsy-Fartsy, posed, made-up is NOT what I expected. Rugby players represent that manly/strong/focus-and-do sort of primitivism that equates with a certain casual, alert, rawness that this apparently high-class portraiture simply doesn't have. Even the dirty/muddy guys looked made-up. I have nothing against "high end art". It can be every wonderful. But, to me, High-end Art and Rough-and-tumble Rugby don't have a whole lot of congruent elements. In this context, visualize Michelangelo's David. High-end Art? I use it to describe High-end Art. The genius lies in the fact that it is high-end that shows the beauty and power of any man controlled violence waiting for a chance to happen. To me, this collection of photographs definitely qualifies as 'High-End Art'. Art that simply does not represent the power, elegance, ability of these men, with the possible exception of the one photo of the man practicing his Savant/kick-boxing talent. A talent that cannot be used on the rugby field as far as I know. I doubt that he is the only one of these men with some sort of martial arts training. I expected to see a demonstration of what drives, and how, of a group of highly physical, alert, vigorous men in action. Instead I got primped, posed and staged art photographs that missed the mark. I think that anyone looking for high class portraiture ought to be happy with this book. It's just that it does NOT show the reality of the practitioners of a rough-and-tumble art/game/vocation. In my never-very-humble opinion, this collection misses the mark by a wide margin. I see pretty. I do not see Rugby! My expensive new book showed up with minor damage (crushed corner) due to inadequate packaging. I wasn't/am not very happy to see damage to a purchase of this cost!

Arrived very well-packed and protected. Being a collector of past Dieux du Stade calendars - I was excited to crack the cover and feast my eyes on these gorgeous athletes and was not disappointed. The sepia-toned images were beautifully composed, with some posed and others slightly voyeuristic. Heavy stock paper and a hardcover for such an inexpensive price was a real steal and I was lucky to have my new coffee table book. Very, very highly recommended.

There are two major kinds of power: physical power and social power. "Locker Room Nudes" is a book about men who have both. The rugby players of Stade Français Paris are the elite of the elite, one of Europe's premiere teams in one of its premiere sports. Playing one of the toughest and most physically challenging games in the world has honed their bodies to perfection, and their championship wins have turned them into gods among France's sporting crowd. They are almost a force of nature. "Locker Room Nudes" is a beautiful celebration of their power. This hefty book collects the (mostly) nude photos of the rugby players that have been taken by photographer François Rousseau for their annual wall calendar. The men are shown in the locker room as well as the weight room, the shower, the stadium, and even the toilet. The book's one flaw, as others have pointed out, is that it claims to present a "candid" view of these men. There is nothing "candid" about the photos -- each one is carefully posed and shot, usually (though not always) so the naughty parts are obscured. Besides, it's unrealistic to assume that the rugby team would spend so much time in the buff in real life. What IS true is that they are photographed in natural lighting, with no makeup, shaving, or "prettifying." They are often shown streaked with mud and sweat, as though they've just come in from a game. And it's impossible to deny that they are still achingly beautiful men. Ranging from lathesome models like Julian Hans (p. 128-135) to hulking man-mountains such as Ignacio Corleto (p. 20-21) and Régis Sigoire (p. 148), they represent every possible image of the ideal man. Yes, this book has aspects that some people don't like. The "atmospheric" shots of an empty hallway and locker room do distract from the nudes, but they take up so little of the book that it barely matters. I don't have any problem with the collection of head-shots that appear partway through -- after all, the face counts as a naked body part as well, and many of these men are very handsome. Photographing a man's face, so close that we can see every strand of stubble on his jaw, presents just as intimate an image as the same man's nude body. And, yes, there is a homoerotic undercurrent to many of the images: men are shown hanging out together in the nude, casually embracing, and wrestling on the muddy floor. Common sense says that most if not all of these men are straight. However, they must know that their photos have a large following among gay men, and it's kind of nice to see them acknowledging that. Besides, these rugby players do share a powerful bond of trust and camaraderie. They have won this much and come this far by putting their faith in each other. They have few secrets from each other. The fact that they feel comfortable enough to take off all their clothes and exchange a manly hug for the camera shows what a bloody good team they are. I don't believe there's anything sexual in that. "Locker Room Nudes" is above all, a display of raw beauty. Certain photos stand out. On pages

10 and 11, Daniel Browne strips off his shirt to reveal a torso that many athletes would kill for. Clement Poitrenaud strides up the stadium steps on p. 44-45, his flawless body streaked with sweat (or is it rainwater?) and we can almost hear the noise of the adoring crowd. Moise Santamaria kickboxes on p. 64-67, and fearlessly bares all in a defiantly erotic pose. On p. 98-99, the Bergamasco brothers, Mirco and Mauro, square off, their chiseled forms and curly hair making them look like they just stepped from an Olympian mural of ancient Greece. Fabien Galthie kisses a championship plaque on p. 103, drunk on power and glory. Yannick Larguet is caught running with the ball on p. 120-121, muscles taut, an athlete in his element. The jaw-droppingly gorgeous Frederic Cermeno visits the shower on p. 136-139, and I for one would pay big money for the privilege of toweling him dry. The soapy hot tub embrace between Regis Sigoire and Jeremie Ballais on p. 147 is so erotic that the two would have to work hard to convince people they weren't lovers. And, at the very beginning of the book, we see a dark room pierced by a doorway through which brilliant light spills. A naked man stands in the doorway, silhouetted; a second man is almost hidden in shadow to his right. The picture is an invitation to enter that doorway, to see what is merely being hinted at in the image. "Locker Room Nudes" is a fantasy given life. Flipping through these glossy pages, we can imagine that we are truly there, that we have been given the chance of a lifetime, that we are the honored guests of these strong, beautiful, confident men. That's real power.

Beautiful french men who are so relaxed in front of the camera. A welcome change from similar American books.

A bit more than I expected, but very pleasant all the same. Excellent coffee table book.

i'm never not ordering prime again. ordered from overstock for a cure because i figured i might as well save \$15 and it was for a good cause. ordered the item on sept 30. shipped oct 1. arrived oct 18. LONGEST SHIPPING TIME EVER. book is good though! prepare yourself for some nude shots haha

WOW

This book is amazing! I bought it for a good friend of mine as a birthday present, and now it has become one that everyone asks for! The pictures are beautiful and these men's bodies are

incredible! A very tasteful and aesthetically pleasing collection!

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