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## DES HOMMES AMOUREUX

*Texts by Hugh Nini & Neal Treadwell. With an essay by Laura Leonelli*

*Ils s'aiment. Un siècle de photographies d'hommes amoureux* (5 Continents Editions / Éditions Les Arènes), was published in 2020 at the height of the pandemic. Despite that, the first US printing sold out in six weeks, and the response to the book – available in five languages – was overwhelming and emotional. Five years and multiple printings later, *Loving* remains a best-seller. For *Loving*, the collectors drew from two thousand photographs; now, in 2025, more than twenty-five years after they purchased their first picture, the collection has four thousand images. It seems logical then – even necessary – to publish a new volume with all new photographs from those acquired since 2019.

*Des hommes amoureux* continues with more stunning vintage vernacular photographs of romantic male couples, with all the emotional power of the first book intact. This new selection continues the story of the unadulterated joy – longed for by all of us and recognisable to anyone – of being in love.

As with the first volume, these photographs and what they convey, whether directly in an embrace or more subtly in a furtive touch, move – in fact change – those who encounter them. Indeed, anyone who has ever loved will identify with the elation – and peace – that these couples share. The collecting criteria have not changed: starting from the earliest years of photography and continuing through the 1950s, the Nini-Treadwell archive includes daguerreotypes, silver gelatin prints, tintypes, ambrotypes, snapshots, and many more – a historical capsule of a century of photographic technique. The subjects come from all walks of life: soldiers, farmers, students, young and old, poor and affluent.

Their creation happened between loving couples from all around the world. Each photo is the story of two told in an instant.

Native Texans, collectors **Hugh Nini & Neal Treadwell** are arts professional currently living in New York City. Their collection has grown over a period of twenty-five years to include more than four thousand images.

**Laura Leonelli** is a journalist, photographer, and photography historian who contributes to the cultural supplement of *Il Sole 24 Ore*, *Arte*, and *AD*. She has published several books and has studied and collected anonymous, or “vernacular”, photography for many years.