

# French Mussels

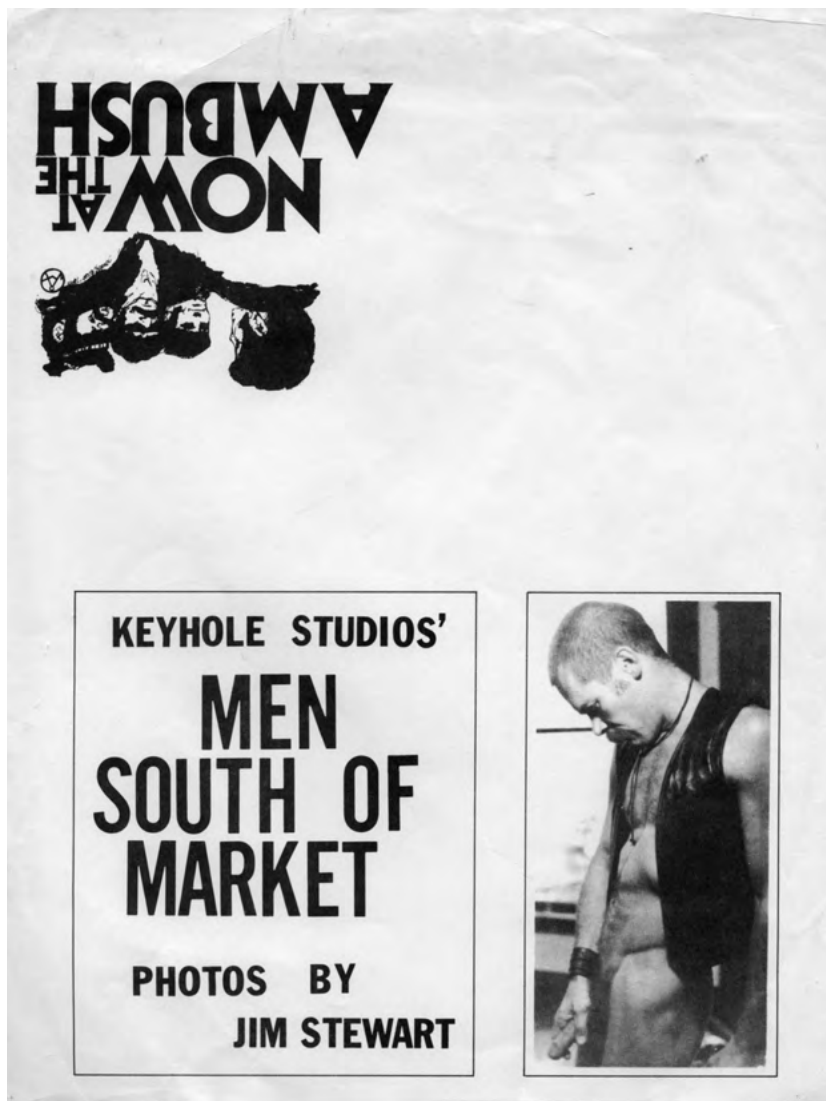
She ran away  
With a fireman  
In a Volkswagen van  
Red and tan  
California Gypsy-girl

He lived South-of-Market then  
Shot high-contrast black-and-white photos  
For group shows  
In small side-street galleries  
And wore black leather with white silk shirts  
From Hong Kong

She and her fireman came  
For a late meal  
Of mussels from a market on 24th Street  
Steamed in white wine with butter and thyme

The mussels opened  
Revealing the soft double-lipped  
Peach-hued bivalve within  
Rimmed with dark flesh  
Like an outline drawn by a soft brown pencil  
Making an exclamation point

In the morning they were gone  
Leaving only a lingering taste  
Of briny mussels  
And sweet white wine



**Keyhole Studios: Men South of Market**  
**Photos by Jim Stewart**

1977: model Michael Monroe, announcement for photo show at  
the Ambush Bar, 1351 Harrison St.

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