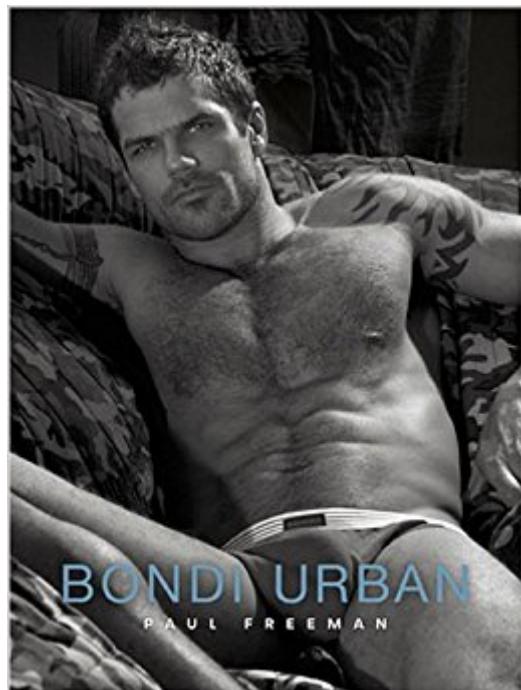


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# Bondi Urban



## **Synopsis**

Hardback collection of photographs from Paul Freeman - part of his Bondi series

## **Book Information**

Series: Bondi

Hardcover: 221 pages

Publisher: Paul Freeman Pub; New title edition (November 15, 2005)

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Shipping Weight: 3.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #886,125 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #189 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Nude Photography #1172 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Visual Arts > Photography #1180 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Photojournalism & Essays > Photo Essays

## **Customer Reviews**

Hardback collection of photographs from Paul Freeman - part of his Bondi series

I have all of Paul Freeman's volumes--9 to date. If you never own any other male nude art photography books, you owe it to yourself to buy each and every one of this artist's works! I love Bondi Urban so much that I bought this copy as a GIFT!! Paul's genius is to find the most beautiful, rugged MEN and place them in front of his lens and create portraits that draw the viewer in. His location shooting creates a mood that cannot be matched and the models look as though they were born there--not just placed for the moment. Do yourself a favor and buy ANY one of his books--you WILL buy the rest because you will be hooked. ENJOY!!!

This book is simply amazing! I hadn't known of Paul Freeman's work until just recently and now I am a huge fan. This is male photography at its best! The men are natural, not posed-looking and don't necessarily look like "models." They are not clean-shaven and all of the same size. I have now bought every one of his books and I can't recommend this book (or his others) more. THE best male photography book on the market!

I did not want homoerotic photos, but this book has some, unlike the other book I have by this photographer. If you like crude, then this may be for you.

well, what can I say but that it is filled with handsome sexy MEN, not boiz.

As a collector of many photography books, I look for several tell-tale signs that the photographer knows what he is doing; that he understands lighting, perspective, balance, anatomy and symmetry. This book is so devoid of almost all of these traits that I felt compelled to write a review to warn others out there, lest they should consider purchasing this book. First thing, the models (for the most part) are unattractive; they are simple run-of-the-mill men who you would not notice in the street, and would most certainly never pay attention to in a public setting (save for perhaps two or three, including one Brad Pitt look-alike who is stunning). A male form photography book, in my opinion, should showcase the epitome of the male form, with exquisite creatures that exude beauty, symmetry and sensuality. The models in this book are far from that; It seems as if the photographer just choose the men he personally found attractive, and went at it, which I believe is a missed opportunity. Second, the images are extremely dark, with many details obscured by the use of poor light sources. I want to be able to see all of the models features, and not just what the photographer wants us to see, and the collages only add to the confusion. Additionally, there are several images that seemed to have been taken during movement, with blur lines abound that obscure the majority of what the image portrayed. This may be fine in an art exhibit, but for someone like myself who uses these books as artistic reference, this technique not only screams of a novice at work, but also of a poor use of the technique when applied to the human form. Lastly (and the most glaring issue), there a distinct lack of melanin in the models; for a book titled, "Bondi Urban", you would think that there would be more men of color (Tan/Dark-skinned Latin/Black) as they permeate the urban landscape. Unfortunately, as I stated earlier, the photographer chose to only include the men he personally found attractive, with little to no regards to what the rest of us may think. In conclusion, there are several elements of this book that I did enjoy; the compositions are top-notch, as well as providing an unobstructed view of men in action, which is refreshing when you consider that most other books focus on pin-up shots. With that being said, I was sorely disappointed with this book, and expected more from anything sub-titled "urban". Next time I purchase any books by this photographer, I will make sure to peruse it at my local book store first, instead of blindly shopping for it online. \*As a side note, if you really want a treat (and a visual feast for the eyes) get your hands on

"Players Two" by Rick Day. The men are absolutely breathtaking, and the shots are the testament of a true master of his craft. This is what a male photo collection is all about.\*

For those looking for the best of the books of male photography, this portfolio by Paul Freeman deserves a place high on the list. Different photographers approach the male nude with different agendas: some try for classic poses, some go for spontaneous moods, some keep the 'privates' in the shadows while others place the focus there, some costume, some try for natural effects.

Freeman searches (and definitely finds!) subjects who are quintessentially masculine Men. And this collection should equally engage the interest of women as of the ready-made male population. Freeman uses his fellow countrymen (Australia) to show us the virile attitude of the untamed. These 'models' are buff, have body decor from piercing or ink, know how to make the partially clothed form even more sensuous than the fully nude form (although there is a lot of that, too), and in general creates photographs that are well conceived and executed and presented in a superb format. There are portraits solo and in tandem. This is a collection that will find a wide audience. Recommended for the novice and the connoisseur collector alike! Grady Harp, October 16

I know, I know--coffeetable book, but I don't have a coffeetable. And, I'm thinking, who allegedly has an innate sensibility for design and furnishings--where is my coffee table? Where is my sleek modernist furnishings? the antiques? the crystal vase? Heck, I'm still waiting on the sleek loft space I was to have at age 20-ish. So, why did I buy this coffee table book--was it the promising cover model photo? Probably. But, inside is a plethora of photo coverage of what seemingly is "urbanite" machismo. Since I have no coffee table and no coffee table literature to compare, I'm granting this edition of Freeman's work four stars.

While I am a huge fan of all Paul Freeman's books, I suspect that *Bondi Urban* is perhaps my favourite from the entire series. The diversity of male subjects captured in the book is exceptional and all are stunningly presented. *Bondi Urban* is a grittier, more sexually charged work than the others Paul has produced - there appears more frontal nudity in this one, and some of the photographs depict a level of eroticism that I have not seen anywhere else. As ever, the subjects are characterised by their truthfulness; beautiful, rugged, hairy males casually undertaking a range of 'everyday' activities. There is, however, nothing everyday about their impact upon the reader - they are stunning. If this book does not make you a life-long fan of Paul Freeman, and make you

rush out to buy the others in the series, than I guess nothing will!

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