SEYDOU KEÏTA

Photographs
Bamako, Mali 1948-1963

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Seydou Keïta was born in Bamako, Mali in 1921, then part of the colony of French Sudan and a bustling transportation hub on the route to Dakar. With a Kodak Brownie given to him by his uncle, Keïta took up photography at the age of fourteen, going on to establish what would become Bamako's most successful portraiture enterprise of the 1950s and 60s.

Photographs, Bamako, Mali 1948–1963 draws on an expanded archive to offer over 400 portraits, mostly unpublished, from the height of the photographer's productivity in downtown Bamako. Providing lushly patterned backdrops and props that now serve to date distinct periods in his career, the artist often styled his subjects but also encouraged their active participation, hanging sample portraits around the studio as inspiration. Migratory youth, government officials, shop owners and Bamako's cultural elite all make appearances here, and while Keïta's photographs served as both family record and cultural status symbol for the clients who commissioned them, these images have become a lasting visual record of Mali at that time.

Seydou Keïta's work made its first international appearance in 1991 and has been exhibited extensively across Europe, Japan, and the United States.

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Seydou Keïta
Photographs, Bamako, Mali 1948-1963
Creative direction: Pascal Dangin
319 Tritone plates
14 x 10.8 in. / 355 x 275 mm
Hard cover
US $ 148 / £ 86 / € 98
ISBN 978-3-86930-301-7
Release December 2011

Seydou Keïta's *Photographs, Bamako, Mali 1948-1963* contains a total of 319 plates; an extensive selection of unpublished images as well as some of Keïta's most iconic work. The book preface was written by Kathy Ryan, photography director at the New York Times.

The Seydou Keïta foundation and Steidldangin, in collaboration with Louis Vuitton, will be releasing in the spring of 2012 an exclusive limited edition set. The 50 unique editions will contain a monograph encased in a luxurious box and a limited edition print, available in selected Louis Vuitton stores. For any inquiries regarding the limited edition, please contact Julien Guerrier at j.guerrier@fr.vuitton.com.

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The following images are available for/and in context with reviews on the upcoming book, *Photographs, Bamako, Mali 1948-1963* by Seydou Keïta.

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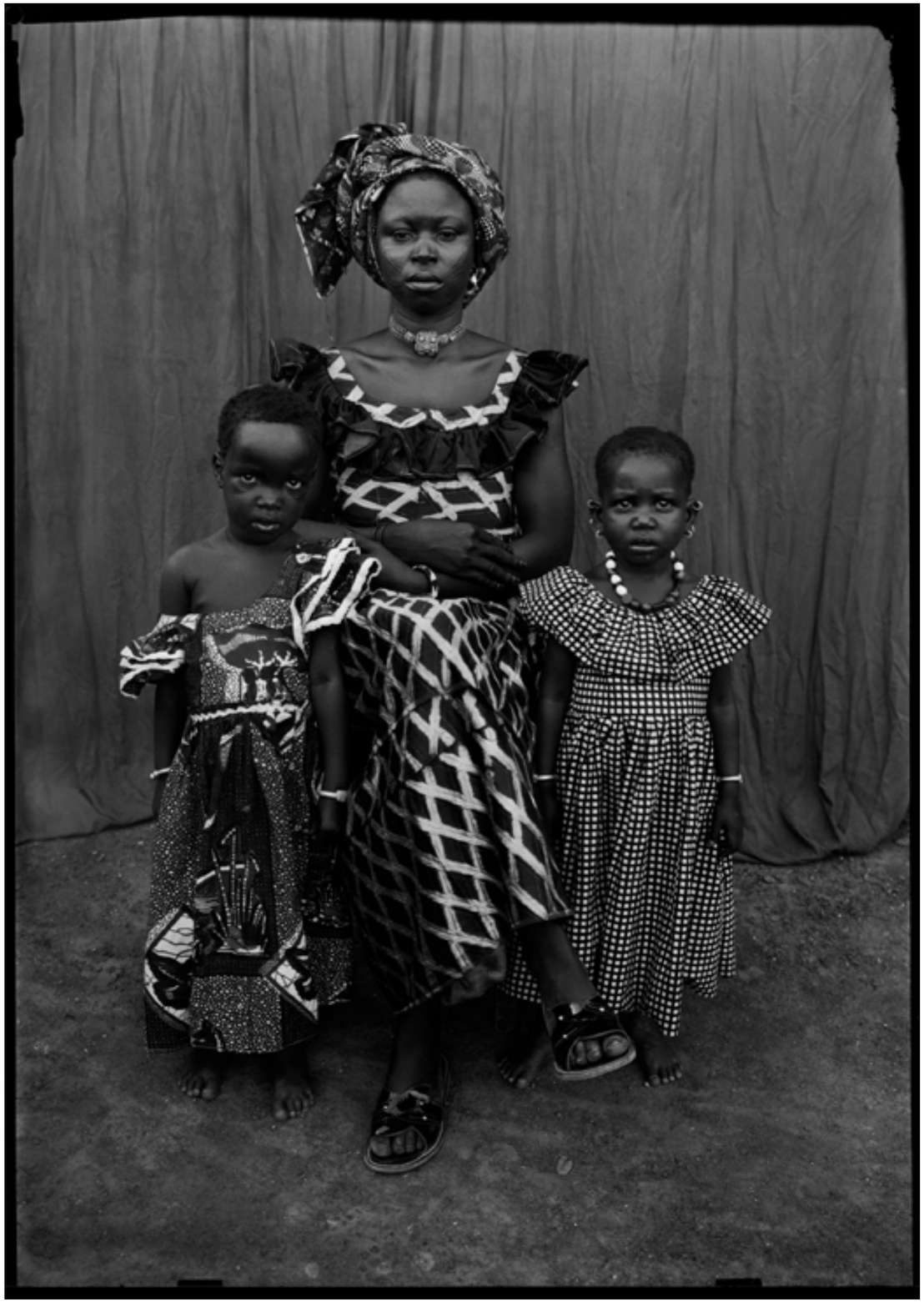

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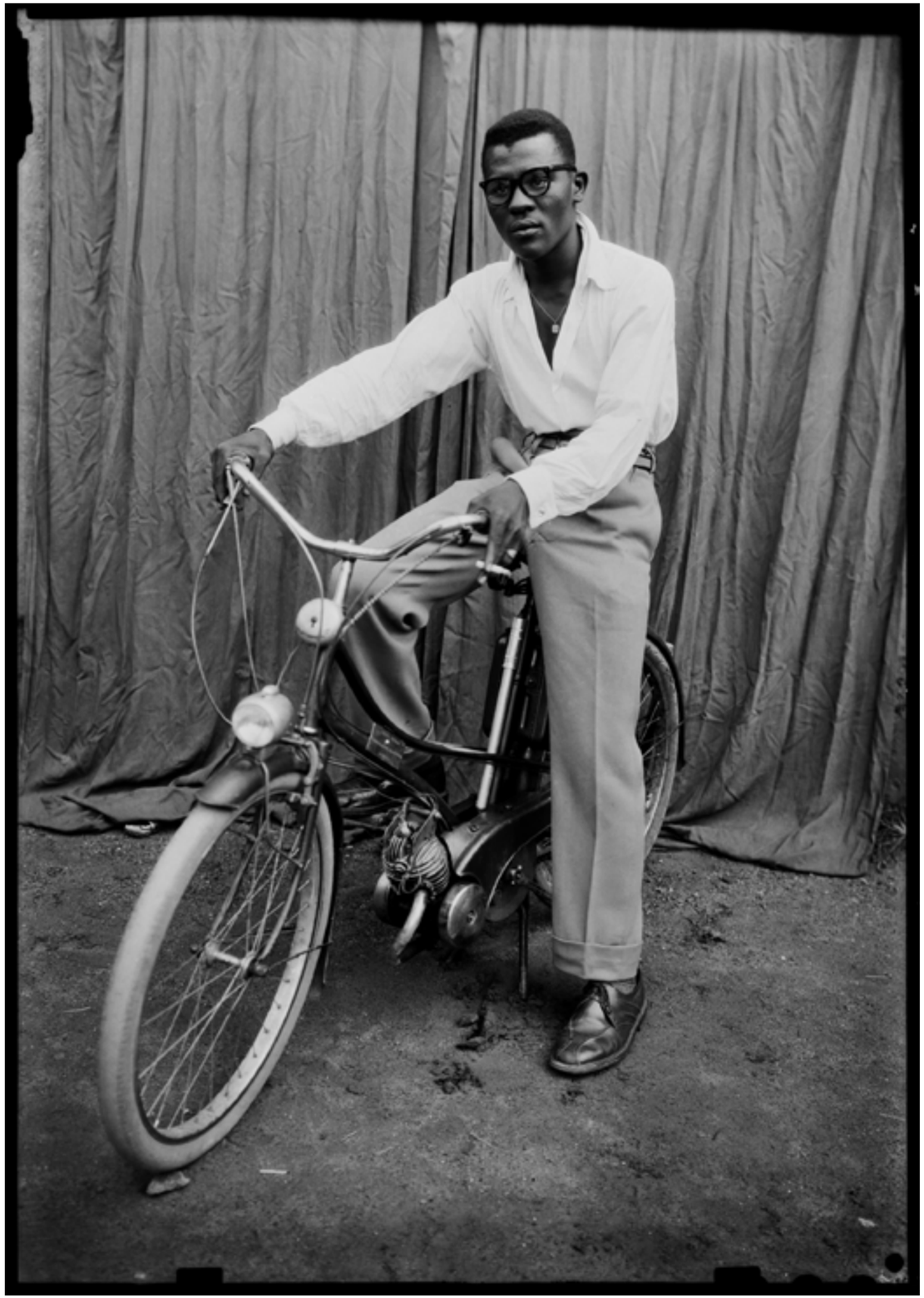

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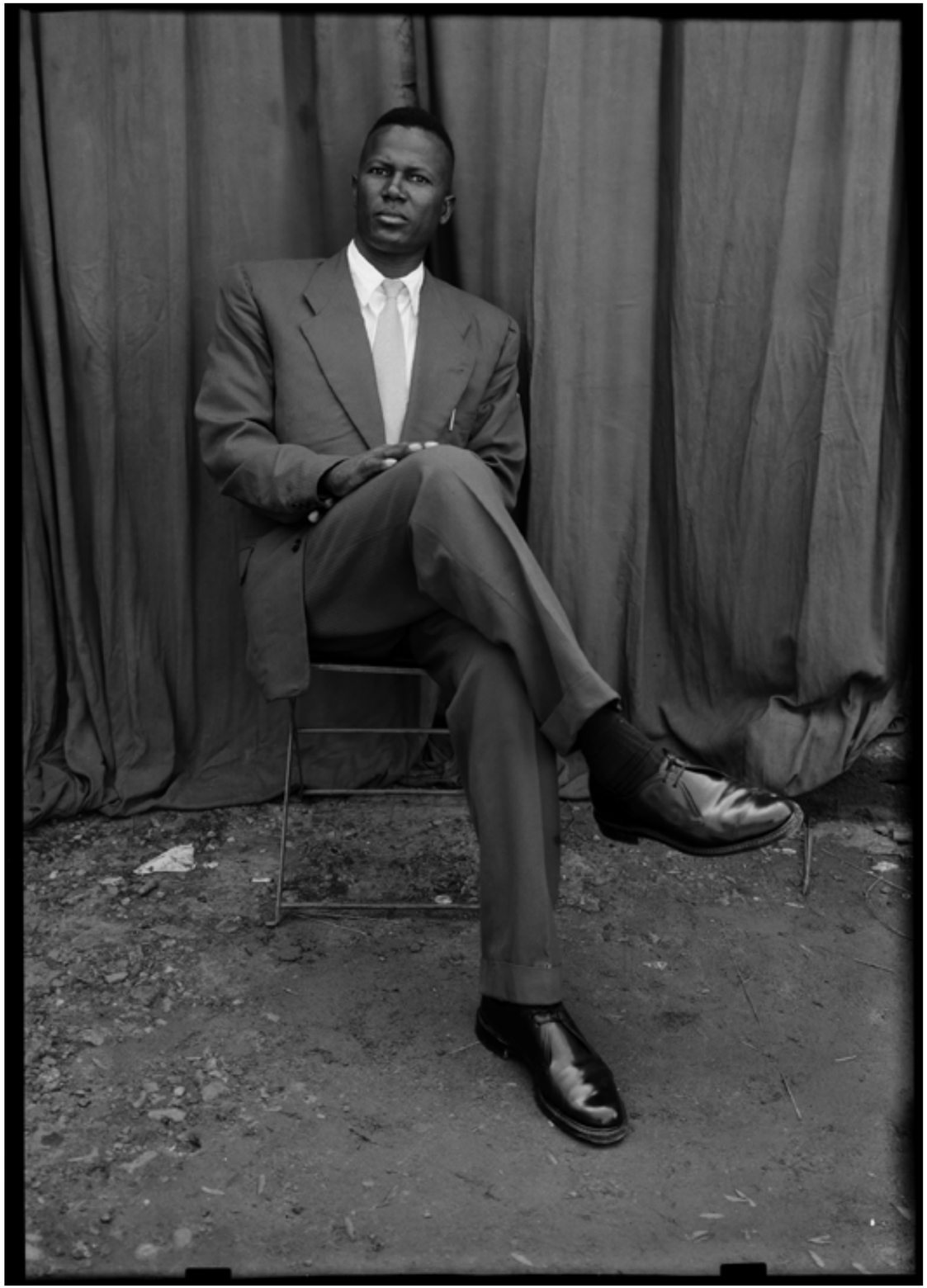

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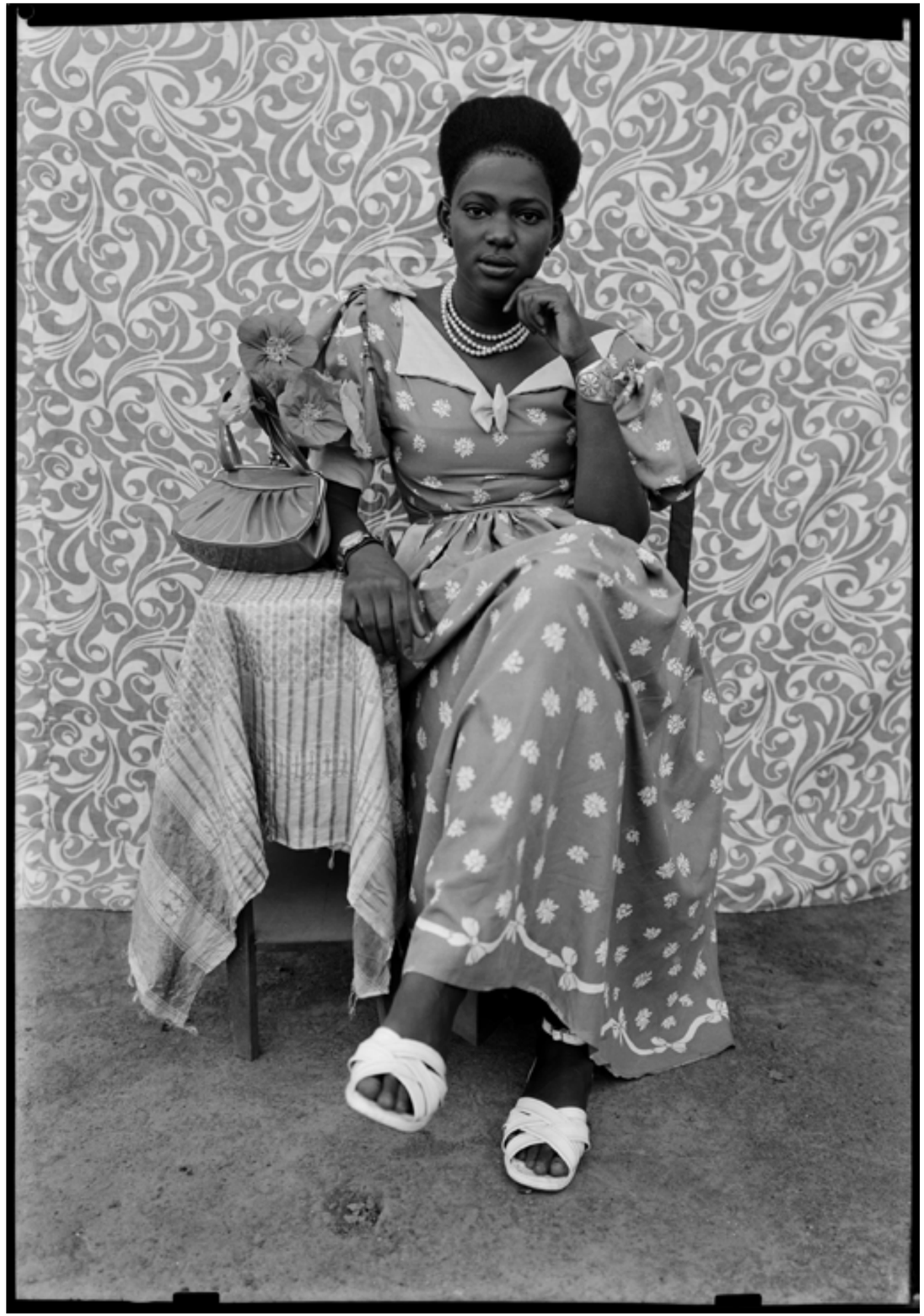

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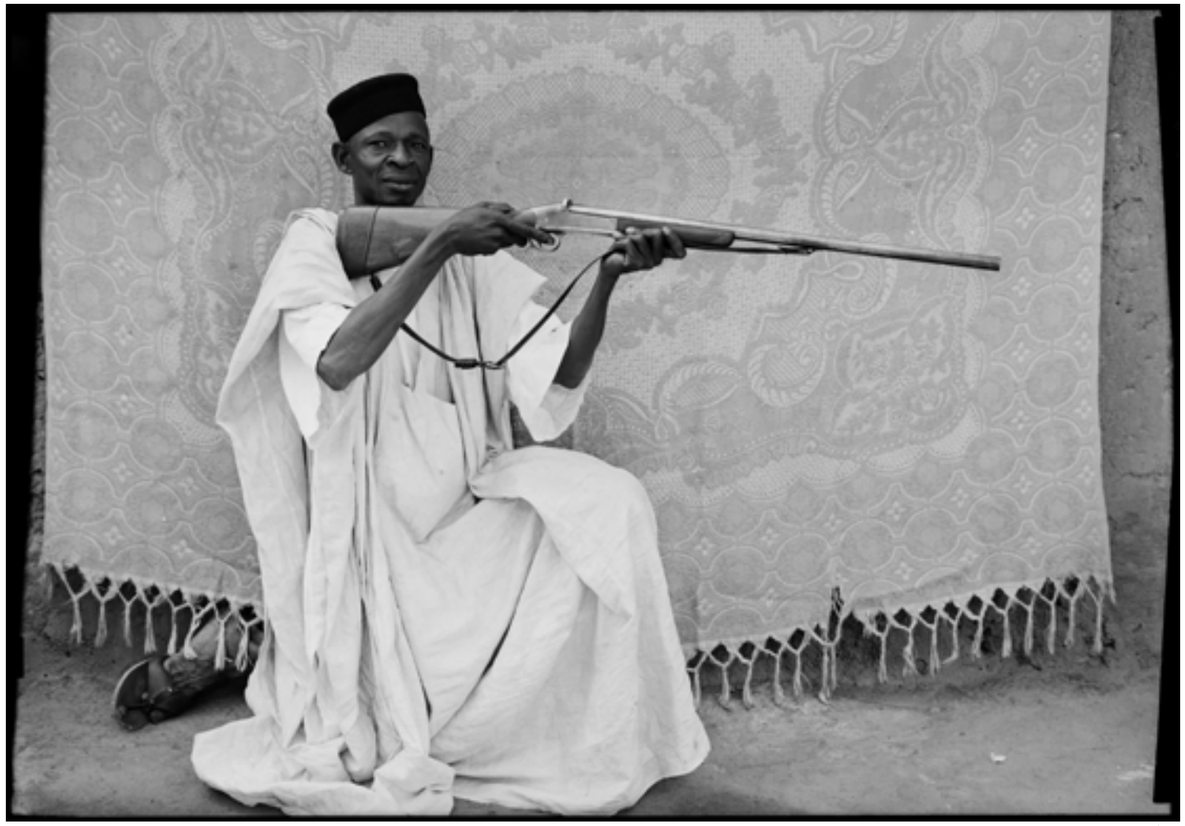

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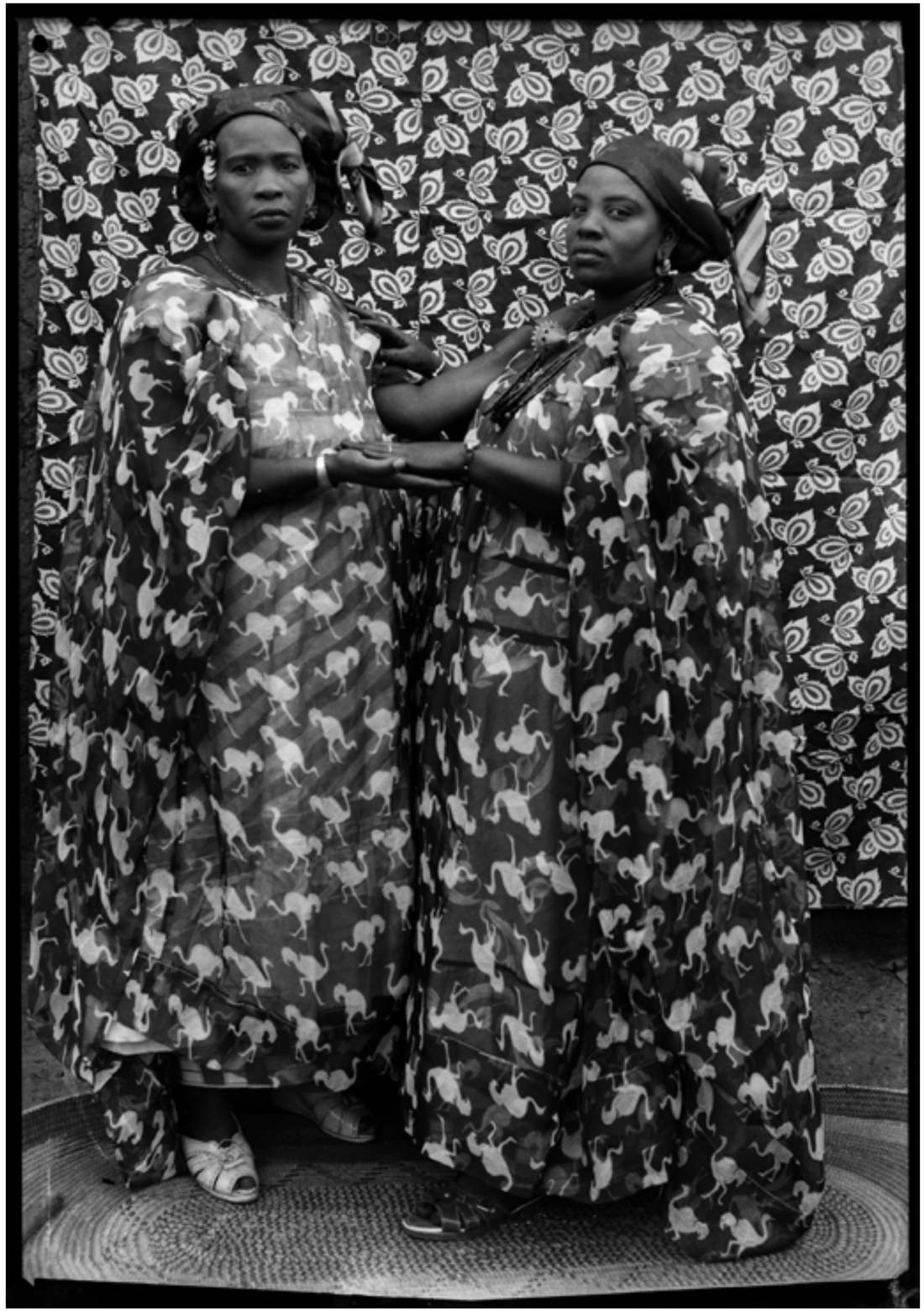

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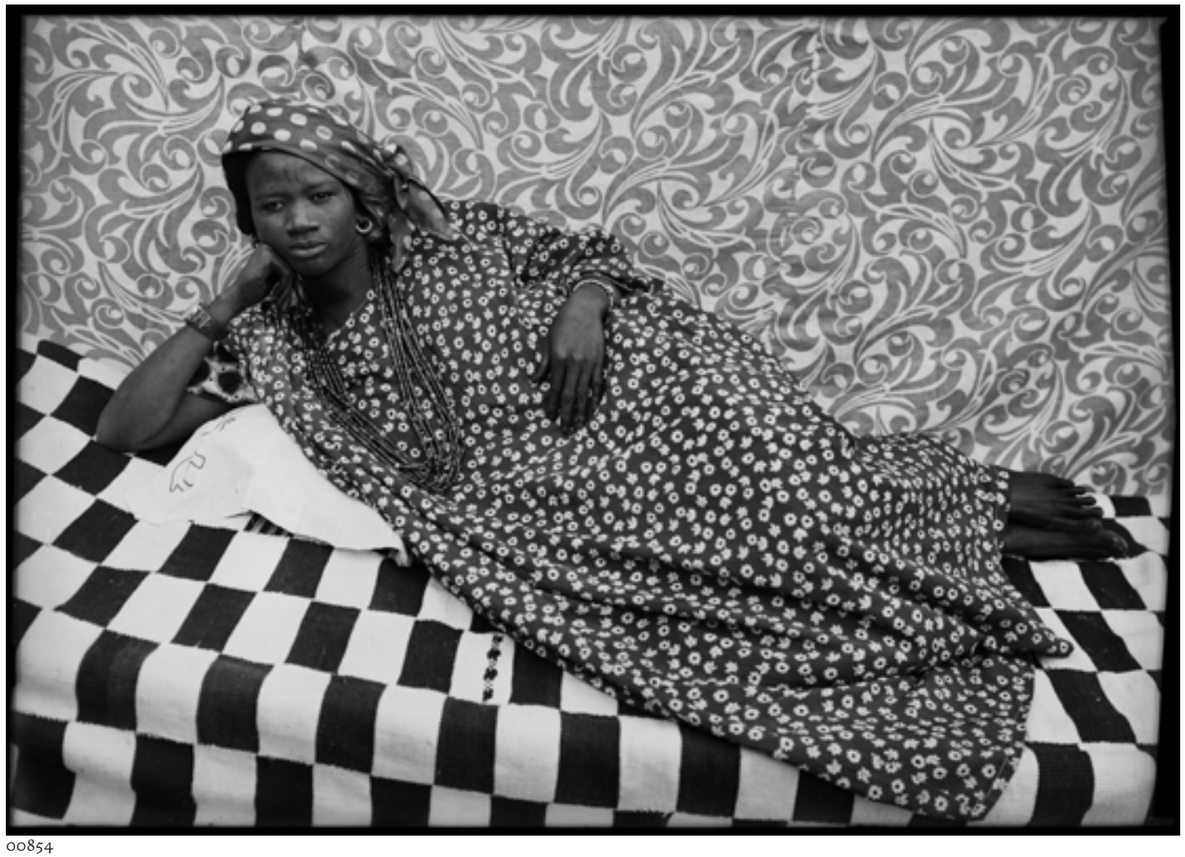

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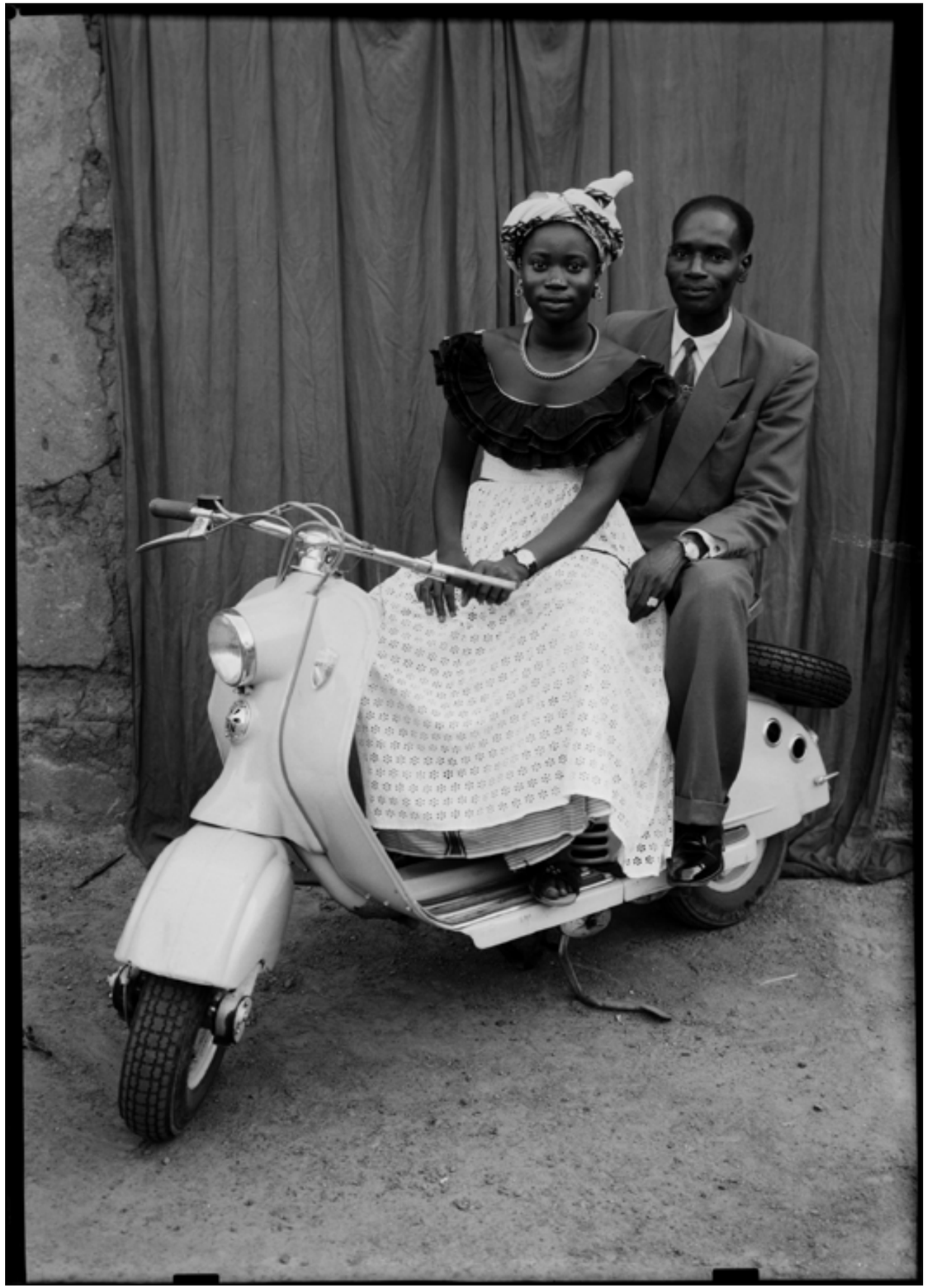

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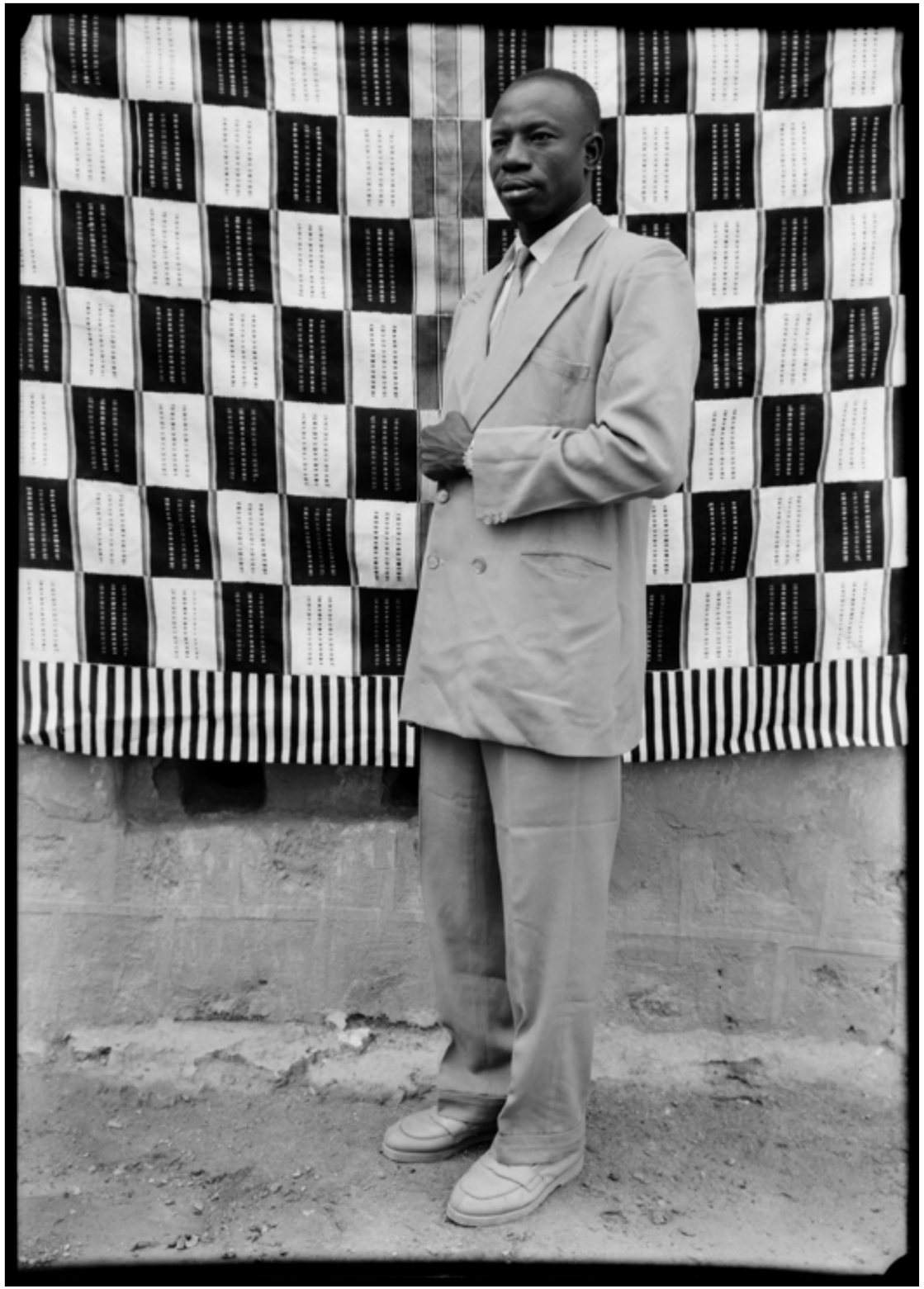

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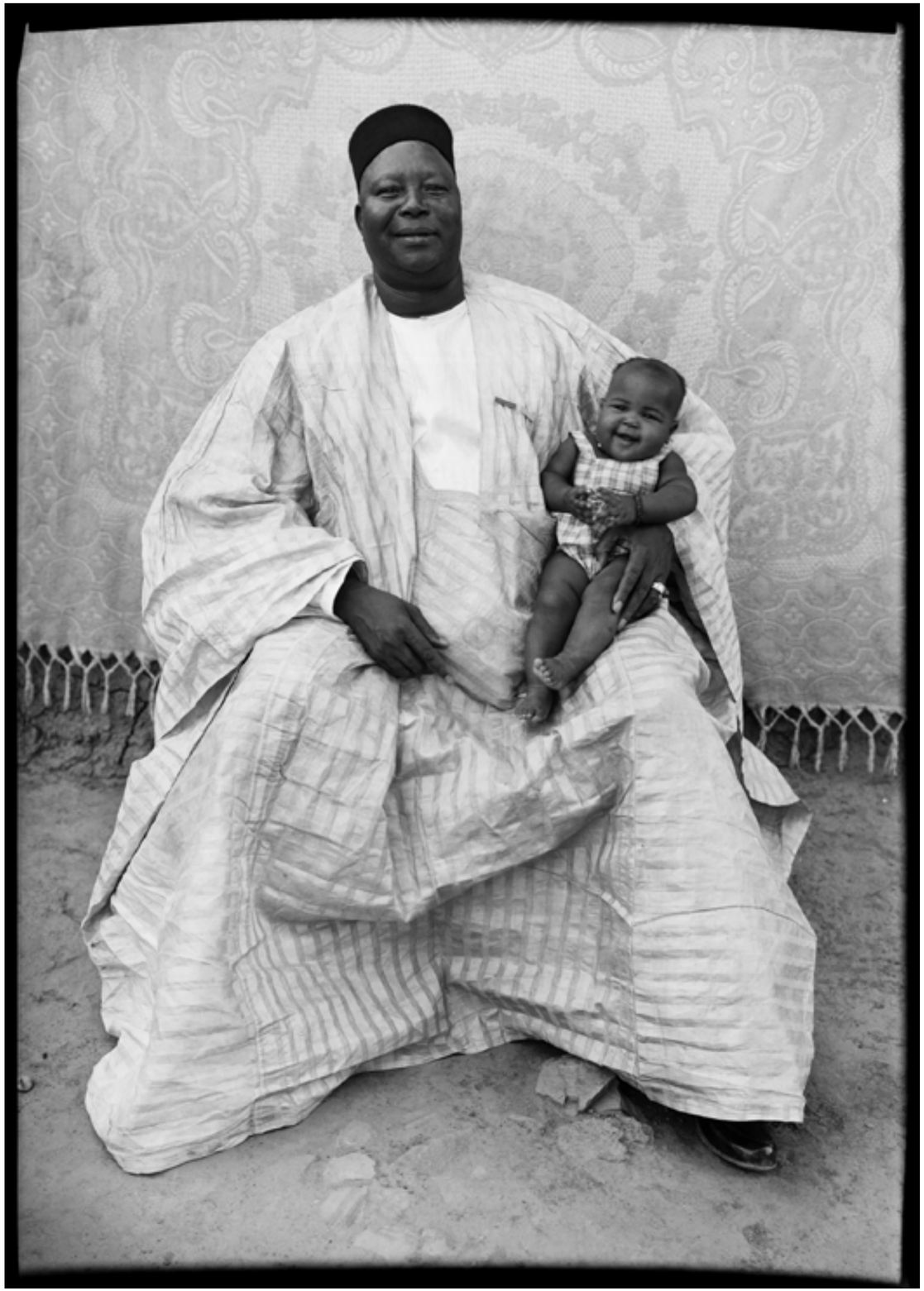

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