

French Mussels

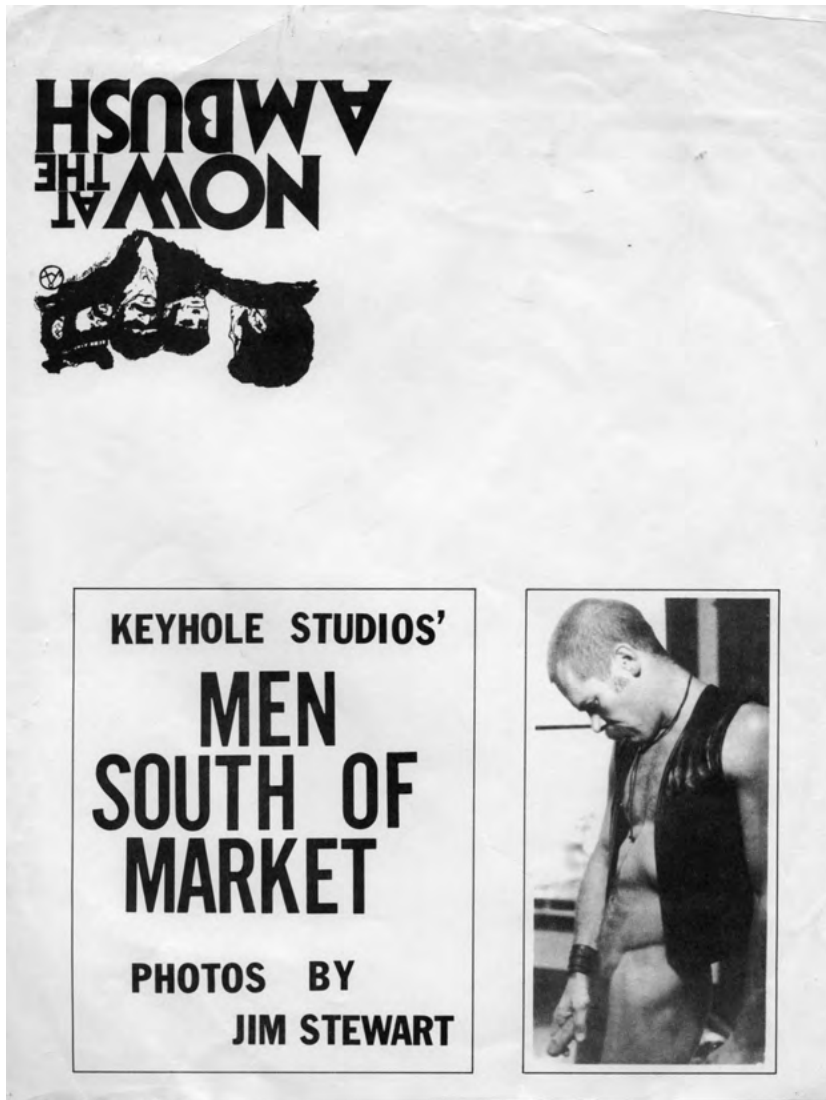
She ran away
With a fireman
In a Volkswagen van
Red and tan
California Gypsy-girl

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.

[Jack Fritscher, Ph.D.](#), All Rights Reserved
HOW TO LEGALLY QUOTE FROM THIS WORK