

= Hermaphrodite (Nadar) =

In 1860 , French photographer Nadar (real name Gaspard @-@ Félix Tournachon) took a series of photographs of a young intersex person , who had a male build and stature and who may have been female assigned , or self @-@ identified as female . Possibly done on commission by Armand Trousseau , the nine photographs have been described as " probably the first medical photo @-@ illustrations of a patient with intersex genitalia " . They were originally restricted for scientific uses , and Nadar did not publish them . Further photographs of intersex subjects followed over the next several decades , although there is no evidence that the photographers knew of Nadar 's work .

= = Background = =

Nadar (1820 ? 1910) , the son of a publisher , had previously had medical training in Lyon and at Hôtel @-@ Dieu . However , by the late 1830s he had left medicine to focus on the printed press , becoming a caricaturist , journalist , and novelist . He only began photography in 1854 , but by the end of that decade he was well known for his portraits of famous persons and advances in photographic techniques .

Although developed several decades earlier , photography was rarely used for medical documentation until the 1850s . In the mid @-@ 1850s France , at the request of neurologist Duchenne de Boulogne , photographer Adrien Tournachon documented experiments in which facial muscles were electrically stimulated ; another example of clinical photography was documented by German physician Hermann Wolff Berend in an 1855 journal article entitled " Ueber die Benutzung der Lichtbilder für heilwissenschaftliche Zwecke " (" On the Use of Photographs for Therapeutic Research Purposes ") .

Several years later , in late 1860 , Tournachon 's elder brother Nadar took a series of nine photographs of a young intersex person , possibly on commission by Armand Trousseau ; This commission is suggested by an undated letter from Trousseau to Nadar , in which the former requests help in the documentation of a subject with a " very strange malady " , to be done " with as much truth and art as you can . " The subject was to be brought to Nadar by one of Trousseau 's friends , a Doctor Dumont @-@ Pallier ; the surgeon Jules Germain François Maisonneuve was also present .

= = Subject = =

The subject of the series , whose name was never released , was an intersex person with a male build and stature , but who may have self @-@ identified as female and / or been assigned female at birth . The subject had a small , probably hypospadiac , penis , rudimentary scrotum , and male pubic hair pattern . The subject also had a retracted or rudimentary clitoral hood and vaginal opening . In most photographs the subject 's face and chest are covered .

= = Series = =

The series consists of nine photographs documenting the subject in various poses and angles . Anna Blume , writing in the journal LTTR , describes the images as quite different from Nadar 's other work ; she writes that Nadar , whose normal portraits captured a personality and personage , instead focused on " a body and specifically of the genitals of this body " .

These include two images that show the subject standing . One captures a full length view , in which the subject is unclothed except for a pair of stockings and shoes . In the other , the subject 's right leg is raised to provide a clearer view of the genitalia . Another image presents the subject lying back with one arm covering the face while someone else 's hand pulls on the penile tissue . A similar photograph shows the subject in an examination position , with a hand ? visible in the uncut photographic plate as belonging to Maisonneuve ? spreading the vaginal lips . The series also includes a close @-@ up of the subject 's genitalia , with the legs open .

= = Post @-@ photography = =

Nadar did not publish the photographs , but in 1861 he copyrighted them ? something he almost never did ? and limited them to scientific uses , excluding public display . In The Journal of Sexual Medicine , Dirk Schultheiss , Thomas R.W. Herrmann , and Udo Jonas suggest that the photographs are " probably the first medical photo @-@ illustrations of a patient with intersex genitalia " and describe them as a " milestone in the history of sexual medicine " .

According to Schultheiss , Herrmann , and Jonas , although Trousseau had earlier suggested that surgery was a viable option , there is no evidence that the subject subsequently received treatment ; They suggest several possible factors , including legal issues , the subject 's refusal , or failed treatment followed by a lack of reporting , for the lack of surgery or evidence of such . Maisonneuve , partially shown in one of the photographs , treated another intersex patient in 1862 .

Several photographs are at the Musée d 'Orsay in Paris , and at least one is at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET) in New York . The MET occasionally puts the photographs on display with other Nadar works ; a 1995 exhibition featured two of the series .

= = Legacy = =

Medical photography continued to develop , both in France and abroad , after the Nadar images were shot . In Europe , several further cases of intersexuality were documented , although there is no evidence that the photographers were aware of Nadar 's work . In April 1870 a Monsieur Delacroix presented photographs of an intersex individual at the Société Médicale de Reims . In 1930 German physician Magnus Hirschfeld published a portrait of himself with an intersex individual in his five @-@ volume Geschlechtskunde (Sexology) , while Louis Ombrédanne published 25 images of cases he had handled in his 1939 book Les hermaphrodites et la chirurgie (Hermaphrodites and Surgery) .