

TIMOTHY GREENFIELD-SANDERS, PORTRAITS OF A COMMUNITY

THE ADVOCATE

SINCE 1987

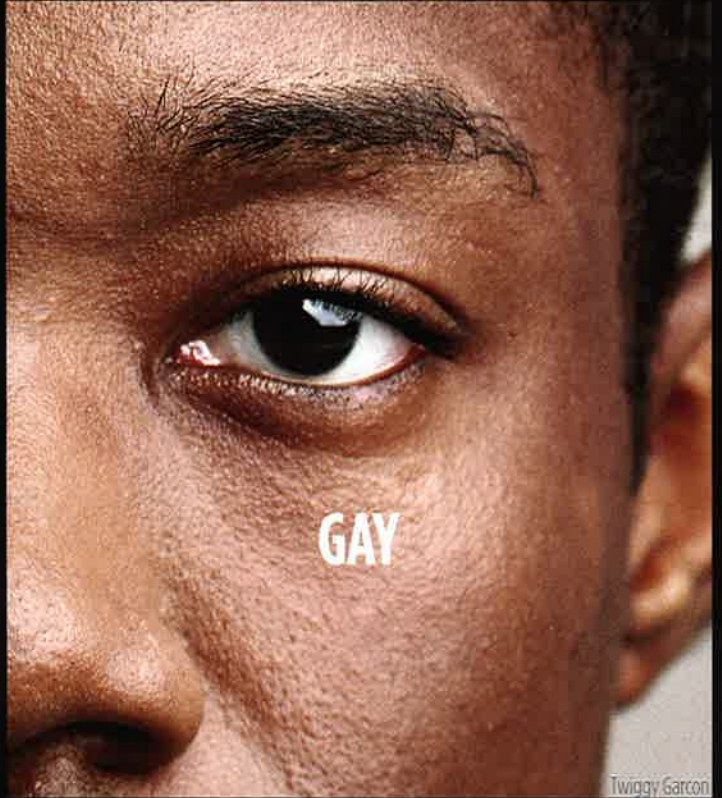
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BLACK

Janet Mock



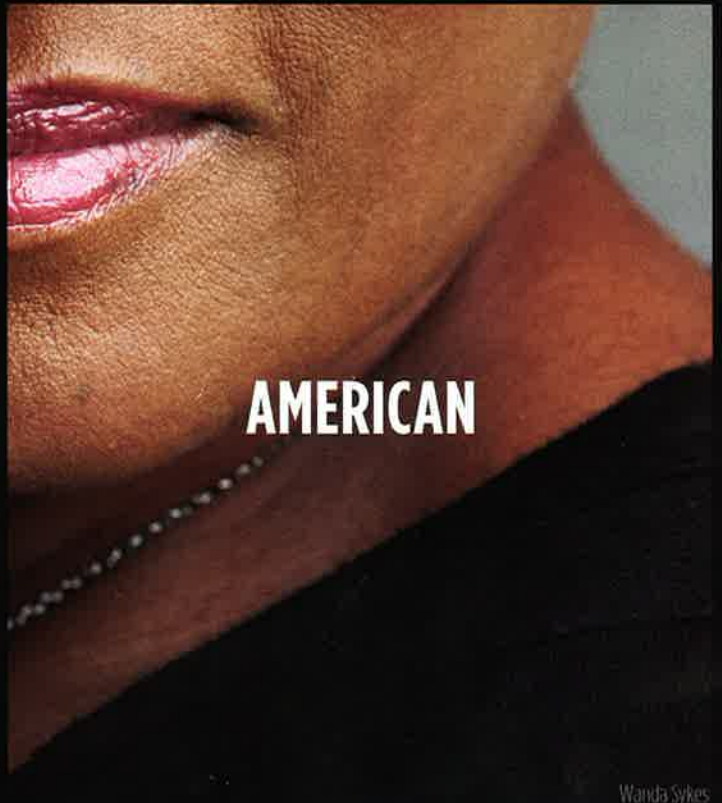
GAY

Twiggy Garçon



AND

Wade Davis



AMERICAN

Wanda Sykes

the MAS, or Museum Aan de Stroom (MAS.be/mas-en), I was completely lost, despite the good advice to take the major streets instead of the tiny, twisty, curvy ones that remain from the 15th century. An English-ish-speaking guy with a map pointed me in the right direction, and I eventually climbed my way to the top of the MAS, which is ripe for self portraits with the landscape of the city or the Schelde river in the

background. Each floor of this nine-story museum explores a different aspect of Antwerp's and Belgium's history, art, and language.

After an entire day traversing Antwerp on foot, I was nearly crawling by the time I reached Sjalot & Schanul (SjalotenSchanul.be). Thank goodness the lesbian co-owners of this cozy little restaurant had an open table. Rewarded with a glass of wine, I glanced toward the homey looking kitchen, where the food was being made with heaps of love. Located a block away from the tourist-heavy Grote Markt, Sjalot & Schanul is clearly the place to take your partner for a quiet night out. After I filled my belly with a sumptuous steak, roasted potatoes, and sautéed vegetables, then guzzled down what I'm pretty sure was the best house wine I've ever had, I left Sjalot & Schanul with a content smile, ready to wander the streets for another hour or two.

—Michelle Garcia



EAT

Wedge in between the hectic Grote Markt and Handschoenmarkt, chic eatery **Brasserie Appelmans** (pictured, above) takes advantage of seasonal produce. This is the perfect refuge for lunch amid all of the tourist traps. BrasserieAppelmans.be

Beautifully intimate, **Felix Pakhuis** was once the city records building but now churns out simple yet adventurous fare. FelixPakhuis.nu

STAY

Right across from the beautiful Central Station in the city center, **Radisson Blu Astrid** provides comfort, quiet, and an easily accessible location. RadissonBlu.com/AstridHotel-Antwerp

PLAY

Het Roze Huis is a hub of activity for the local LGBT community, acting as the local advocacy organization, but it also has a bar downstairs, providing a casual meeting place for getting a drink or organizing events. HetRozeHuis.be



ZURICH
The flip side of the fabled Swiss banking industry is a thriving LGBT-led counterculture.

ZURICH

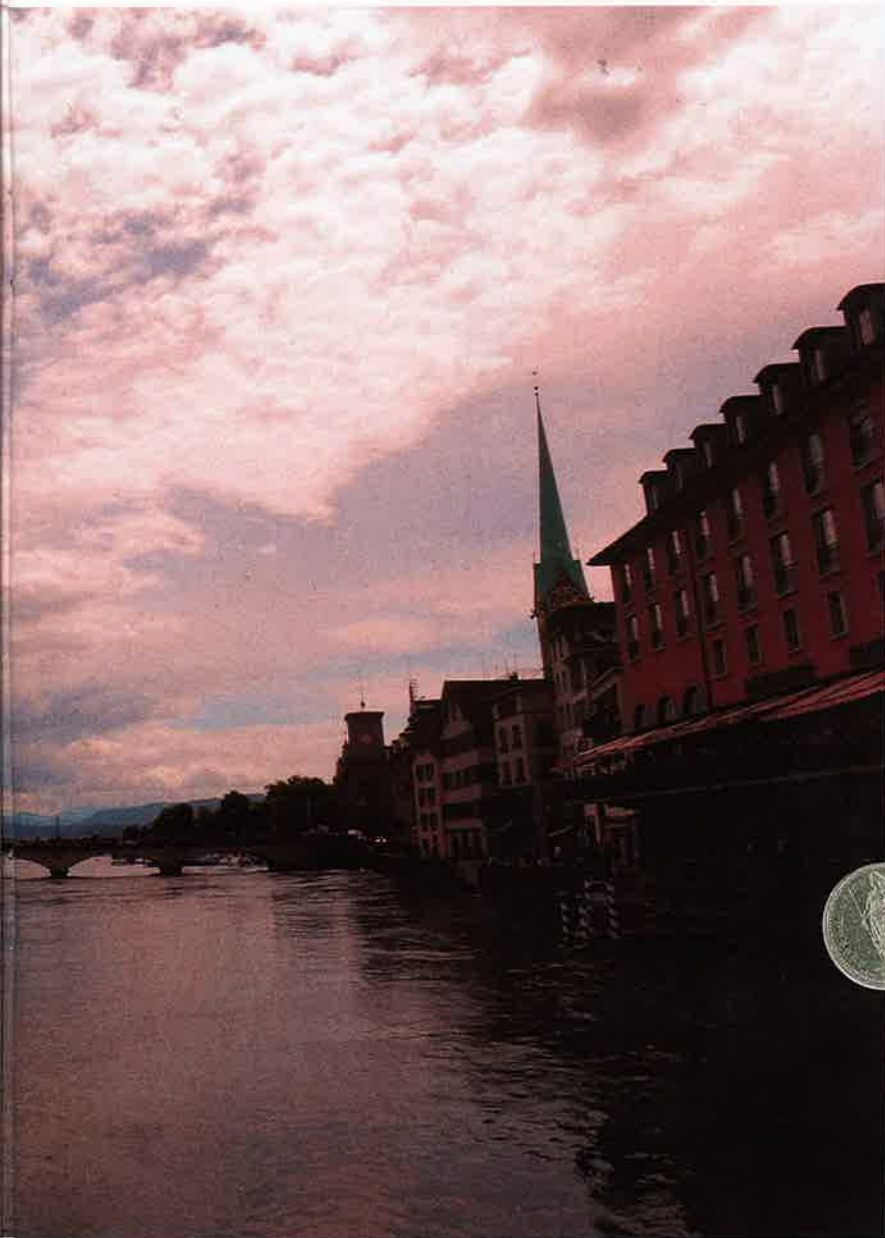
IS A MODERN metropolis anchored by the financial industry. Amazingly, however, alongside the suits and ties is a thriving underground that once birthed the Dada movement and now fully embraces its LGBT community. At least two major gay bars, Barfüsser (Barfuesser.ch) and Cranberry (Cranberry.ch), as well as Platzhirsch (MeinPlatzhirsch.ch), a gay-friendly bar in the lobby of a chic, small hotel, sit right in the middle of Zurich's historical Old

Town. And many of their patrons, you may find, are not necessarily gay—they just like the atmosphere and the cocktails.

Zürich's attitude toward gay rights may also be buoyed by the fact that most people in the city are well-educated. A full tenth of the city's population are students, thanks to several universities that dot the city. One local told me that one of the ways LGBT people started gaining legal traction in the country was by dominating Zurich's social



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES; SUBJECT: ZURICH; VTCI; FELICER; COURTESY SUBJECT



EAT

The former guild house **Zunftthaus Zur Waag** (pictured, above) was built by an apothecary and served as the meeting place for textile workers. Nowadays it's a formal dining experience, where you can also have a civil wedding ceremony if the mood strikes you. Waag.ch

If you're done with all of the fondue, rösti, and chocolate, enjoy a Mediterranean lunch right in the middle of Old Town at **Terrasse** (Limmatquai 3, +41 44 251 10 74).

STAY

Right across from Barfüsser, boutique hotel **Hotel Platzhirsch** oozes Old Town hipness but with a few more amenities. Established by the same team that built the nearby gay club T&M, but with a cheery, intimate bar and patio downstairs. MeinPlatzhirsch.ch

LEARN

Get lost in the **Landesmuseum Zurich**, one of the three institutions of the Swiss National Museum. With room after room detailing art, commerce, history, design, and handicrafts of the Swiss, one might need a precision timepiece to mark the hours. Musee-Suisse.ch

scene; once young people started realizing gay people were throwing earth-shattering raves in the late 1990s, the local LGBT community found young, straight allies. Zurich is run by lesbian mayor Corine Mauch, who is also the city's first female mayor. Her election is a doubly significant coup; Swiss women have only had the right to vote since 1971.

These days there are plenty of gay, lesbian, and mixed parties that pop up in abandoned warehouses and spaces around Zurich West, a part of town that could be twinned with Brooklyn's Williamsburg, or Burnside in Portland. Entering the neighborhood, formerly an industrial area still in the process of converting every leftover factory and warehouse from the industrial revolution into lofts and studios, you pass under the new Viadukt Markthalle (Im-Viadukt.ch). It's still an active

railroad bridge, but the arches below now house bakeries, fromageries, and furniture boutiques.

A few streets down, the Freitag brothers (Freitag.ch) sell 1,600 different eponymous messenger bags, clutches, and duffels made of recycled truck tarps from an 85-foot structure made of 19 freight containers. You can't miss it.

If you continue to venture into Zurich West, art students and young professionals rule the streets packed with art galleries, bars, and shops. Unique among them is Schiffbau, a space that was once a boat factory. Nowadays this warehouse houses a beautiful, lofty restaurant, LaSalle (LaSalle-Restaurant.ch/en), an art gallery, a jazz club called Moods (Moods.ch/en), several theater stages, and an event hall. —Michelle Garcia

Zürich
City Map / Stadtpl

Für
mehr Infos:
zuerich.com
For more
information.

