

Brooklyn + William KLEIN



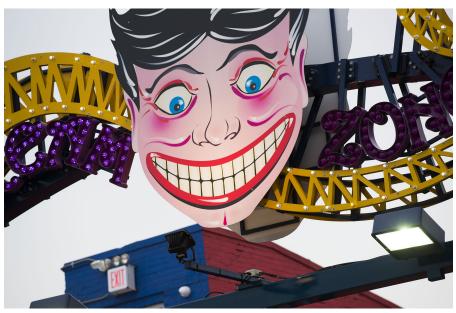
PRESS RELEASE



Brooklyn + William KLEIN

EXHIBITION: MARCH 22 - MAY 24, 2014

A DIGITAL SHOW CREATED BY THE PHOTOGRAPHER



Mister Coney Island, Brooklyn, 2013 © William Klein / courtesy Polka Galerie

Sixty years after "Life is Good and Good for You in New York", his first book and one of the most important in the history of photography, William Klein takes on a new challenge: shoot Brooklyn in digital. This technique becomes a way for the master of the æsthetic of chaos to refresh his approach to the New York borough.

"No rules, no limits, no holding back." Such is his motto. What is important is to capture the exuberance and impertinence of life. For many weeks, the artist wandered the streets, worked days and nights, shot from the window of his car and roved the beaches of Coney Island and Brighton. With these images, William Klein creates a kaleidoscope of Brooklyn. For him, the Attorney General opens the door of police stations and courthouses; Hasidic Jews and Latinos dance in front of his lens; Pakistani, Russian and Mexican storefronts flaunt their colors. His camera records everything frontally, often slightly from below. Nobody assaults him. The opposite happens: William Klein is recognized and saluted by his fans.

To celebrate this first foray into digital photography, the walls of Polka Galerie will be entirely covered with images. "Brooklyn + William Klein" will be one single prodigious piece: a visual mural.

Exceptional happening with William Klein: (coming soon)

A selection of images will be printed under the supervision of William Klein in front of all the participants.

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SONY

This work was commissioned by Sony exclusively for the Global Imaging Ambassadors programme, a new Sony initiative uniting some of the best photographers around the world.

William Klein is amongst the first "Master" photographers to join the programme, produced in collaboration with the World Photography Organisation.



BIOGRAPHY



William Klein discovered Europe while doing his military service (1948-1951). He then signed up for classes at La Sorbonne, and later studied painting under Fernand Léger. His interest for photography began in 1951 while he was working on an architectural project in Italy to create murals on moveable panels. In 1954, he met Alexander Liberman, then artistic director of Vogue, with whom he started collaborating regularly. His first book, *Life is Good and Good for You in New York: Trance Witness Revels*, came out in 1956. It was awarded the Nadar prize the following year, which prompted Federico Fellini to ask William Klein to become his assistant.

The end of the fifties and the following decade were prolific for Klein. The multidisciplinary artist released several books – *Rome, Moscow, Tokyo* – as well as movies – *Cassius the Great, Who Are You, Polly Maggoo?* – and television shorts such as *Au grands magasins*. For a while, he put photography aside to focus solely on directing long features including *Far from Vietnam* (1967), *Mr. Freedom* (1969), *Muhammad Ali, the Greatest* (1974), and *Le couple témoin* (1976). The late eighties marked his return to photography. He published several books - *Close Up* (1989), *Torino' 90* (1990), *In & Out of Fashion* (1994) - yet still continuing to produce movies. Since, his production has barely slowed and his work has been shown in museums across the world. In 2005, the Centre Pompidou in Paris debuted a major retrospective of his work and co-published with Marval the book *Retrospective*.

In many of his latest projects, Klein revisited some of his famous photographs and interacted with his works by applying paint on blown-up contact sheets in strokes reminiscent of the marks made by photographers when editing.

Throughout his career, William Klein has received many distinctions: Prix Nadar (1957), Prix Jean Vigo (1967), the Hasselblad Award (1990), the rank of Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres de France (1991), Grand Prix National de France (1999), and The Royal Photographic Society's Centenary Medal and Honorary Fellowship (1999), as well as the Grand Prize at the 2004 Moscow Biennale and the American Art Institute Grand Prize in 2008.

William Klein is currently exhibited at FOAM Amsterdam until the end of March 2014.



BIBLIOGRAPHY



2013	Klein, FOAM Magazine
2012	Paintings, etc., Editions Contrasto William Klein: ABC, Tate Publishing
2010	Les Carnets de la Creation, Editions de l'Œil
2009	Coffret Roma + Klein, Editions Thames
2008	Contacts, Editions Delpire / Contrasto / + 4 coéditions
2006	Romani, Editions Contrasto-Fendi
2005	Rétrospective, coédition Centre Pompidou et Marval / Contrasto / + 5 coéditions
2002	Paris + Klein, Editions Marval / + 6 coéditions
2001	William Klein pour la liberté de la presse, Editions Delpire
1999	William Klein Films, Editions Marval / powerHouse Books
1995	New York 1954-55, Editions Marval / Dewi Lewis / Braus Edition, Heidelberg / Contrasto / DAP
1994	In & Out of Fashion, Random House / Jonathan Cape / Editions du Seuil / Braus Edition
1992	William Klein, coll. Photo Poche, Editions Actes Sud
1990	Torino 90, Editions Frederico Motta
1989	Close Up, Thames and Hudson Ltd.
1987	William Klein, Pacific Press Service
1985	William Klein, Photo Poche, Centre National de la Photo
1983	William Klein, coédition Centre Pompidou et Herscher
1982	William Klein, I Grandi Fotografi, Editions Fabbri Bompiani
1981	William Klein, Aperture
1979	William Klein, Editions de la Fondation Nationale de la Photographie
1970	Mister Freedom, Editions Eric Losfeld
1964	Moscou, Zokeisha Publication / Editions Delpire / Die Zeit Tokyo, Zokeisha Publication / Silvana / Die Zeit
1959	Rome, Editions du Seuil / Feltrinelli
1956	Life is Good and Good for You in New York: Trance Witness Revels, Editions du Seuil / Feltrinelli



PRESS IMAGES



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Jamaican Parade, Brooklyn, 2013 © William Klein / Polka Galerie



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Luna Park, Brooklyn, 2013 © William Klein / Polka Galerie



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