

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 aesthetic 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.

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

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- 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

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