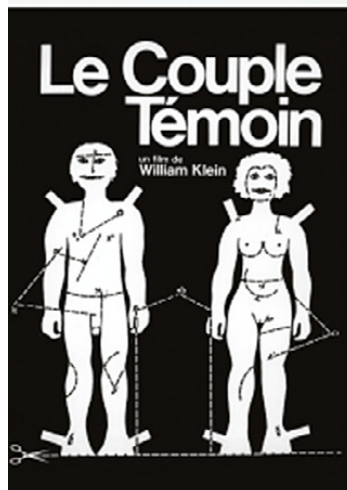
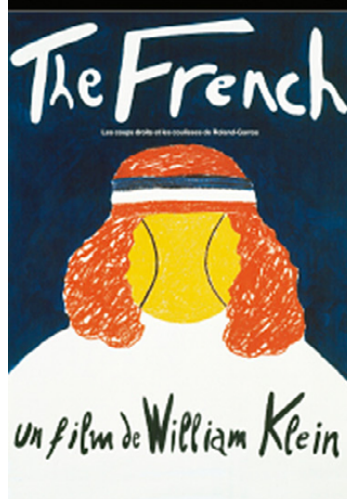
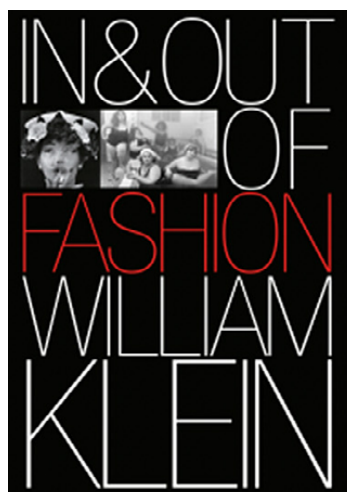


MEP

MAISON
EUROPÉENNE
DE LA
PHOTOGRAPHIE

Press Kit



William Klein Retrospective: Films, Etc.

10.06.2026–13.09.2026

William Klein Retrospective: Films, Etc.

From June to September 2026, to mark the centenary of William Klein's birth, the MEP pays tribute to the artist with an exceptional cinematic retrospective exhibition, organised in partnership with the William Klein Studio. The screening programme is complemented by a display of photographs from the MEP collections, alongside graphic works and publications, presented throughout the spaces.

The institution has maintained a close relationship with the artist and his studio for many years. Since its opening in 1996, it has dedicated several major exhibitions to him and today preserves one of the most significant collections of his work, comprising over 300 pieces—photographs, films, and books.

William Klein—a photographer, painter, and filmmaker—profoundly disrupted the conventions of the image. Through this major retrospective collection retracing his entire career, the MEP pays tribute to a hybrid body of work that defies categorisation—a cinema that is both acclaimed and underground, and which has never allowed itself to be confined.

From June to September 2026, from Wednesday to Saturday in the late afternoon, the MEP will present the artist's great classics in its auditorium (*Who Are You, Polly Maggoo?, Muhammad Ali, the Greatest, Mr. Freedom...*), alongside rare films, some of which are extremely rare (*L'anniversaire de Charlotte, The Little Richard Story...*), as well as numerous archives.

By bringing together the different facets of a piece that relentlessly challenged authority and conventions, tearing down masks with exhilarating freedom, this retrospective reveals the striking contemporaneity of William Klein's vision.

Klein always remained true to himself. It is also with the desire to remain faithful to the tumult he loved to tackle "head-on" that this retrospective was conceived. The screening programme is accompanied by a display of a selection of William Klein's photographic works held at the MEP.

The films presented (non-exhaustive list):

Broadway by Light – 1958
Le business et la mode – 1962
William Klein aux grands magasins – 1964
Cassius Clay champion du monde – 1964
Le schisme noir : Malcolm X – 1965
Qui êtes-vous Polly Maggoo ? – 1966
Loin du Vietnam – 1967
Le festival Panafricain d'Alger – 1969
Mister Freedom – 1969
Eldridge Cleaver, Black Panther – 1970
Muhammad Ali the Greatest – 1974
Le Couple Témoin – 1976
Hollywood California, a Loser's Opera – 1977
Grands soirs et petits matins – 1978
The Little Richard Story – 1980
Gestes et sports - Ralenti – 1983
Mode in France – 1985
Babilée 91' – 1992
In & Out of Fashion – 1993

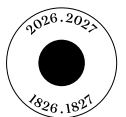
Curator:

Emmanuel Bacquet

STUDIO
WILLIAM KLEIN

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Cover image:

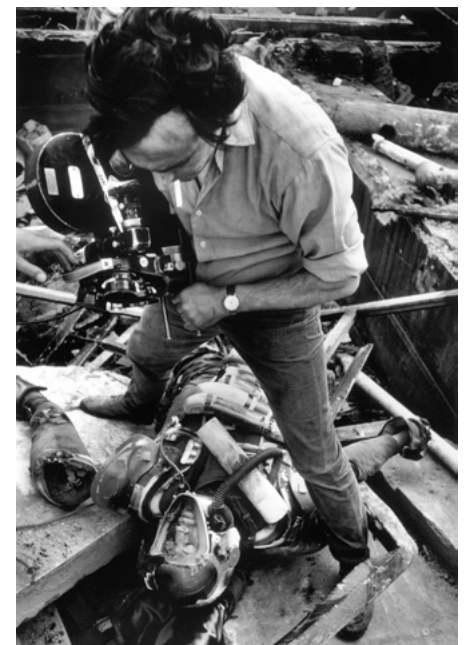
William Klein, *Poster display*

© William Klein Estate

Below:

William Klein filming Mister Freedom.
Photo Jeanne Klein, c. 1967

© Jeanne Klein



Press Images

Press images are available for reproduction solely for the purpose of promoting the exhibition at the MEP and only for the duration of the exhibition. Under no circumstances may these images be cropped or altered (including the addition of text).

[Download the visuals here.](#)



William Klein, *Four Heads, Thanksgiving day, New York, 1955*
Gelatin silver print
MEP Collection, Paris. Acquired in 1990
© William Klein Estate



William Klein, *Dorothy & Cellist, Vogue Paris, 1963*
Gelatin silver print
MEP Collection, Paris. Acquired in 1994
© William Klein Estate



William Klein, *Filmstrips from "Broadway by Light" #4, New York, 1958*
Gelatin silver print
MEP Collection, Paris. Acquired in 2015
© William Klein Estate



William Klein filmant Mister Freedom.
Photo Jeanne Klein, c. 1967
© Jeanne Klein



William Klein, *Poster display*
© William Klein Estate



William Klein, *Club Allegro Fortissimo, hammam, rue d'Odessa, Paris, 1990 (painted in 1997)*
Gelatin-silver print enhanced with paint
MEP Collection, Paris. Gift of the artist in 1998
© William Klein Estate

President: Jacques Bungert
Director: Julie Jones
Executive Director: Caroline Miller
Artistic Director: Clothilde Morette

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**This Season has been certified
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The MEP wishes to thank the MEP's
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Useful information

MEP — Maison Européenne de la Photographie

5/7 rue de Fourcy 75004 Paris

01 44 78 75 00 – mep-fr.org

M° Saint-Paul (ligne 1) ou Pont Marie (ligne 7)

Opening hours

Wednesday and Friday: 11 a.m.–8 p.m.

Thursday: 11 a.m.–10 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

(Exclusive access for members on Sunday mornings,
10 a.m.–11 a.m.)

Monday–Tuesday: closed

Admission

Full price: €13

Discounted admission: €8

MEP Solo Pass

Full price 40€ | Reduced price* 30 €

MEP Duo Pass

Full price 60€ | Reduced price* 50 €

MEP Youth Pass**

Solo 20 € | Duo 40 €

Pass MEP Patron

150€ ***

*Job seekers, retired people, members of our partners institutions.

**Students and/or under 25 years old

***Tax-deductible

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