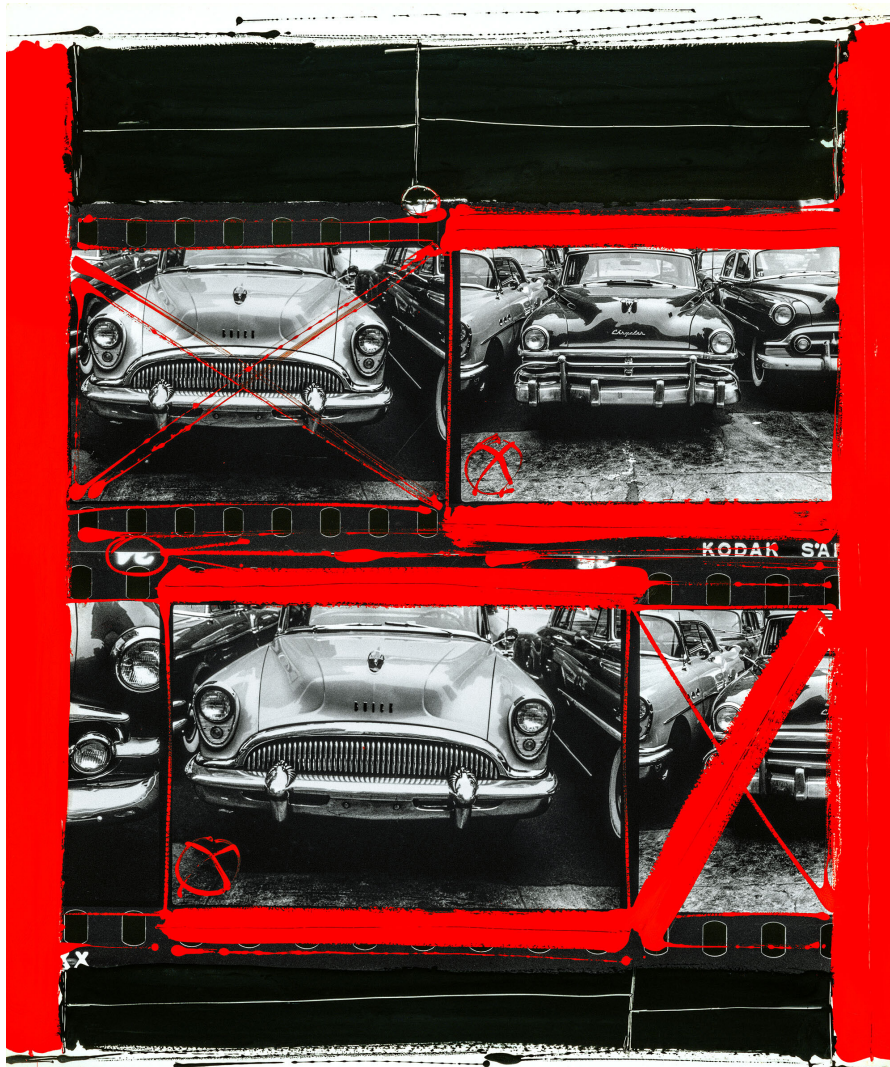


## *William Klein 100*

9 September 2026 - 2 February 2027



*Buicks, New York 1955-1995 © William Klein Studio*

HackelBury, London, presents a major retrospective of William Klein opening in September 2026 to mark the centenary of the artist's birth.

The exhibition offers one of the most comprehensive presentations of William Klein's work in London in recent years, bringing together celebrated street photography, fashion imagery, portraits, early abstract works and later painted contact sheets to trace his radical reinvention of photography and enduring influence on post-war visual culture.

Klein came to photography almost by chance, initially studying painting under Fernand Léger in Paris — an experience which profoundly influenced his visual language and experimental approach to image-making. His early geometric abstractions reveal a foundational interest in light, form, movement and graphic composition which would later define both his photography and filmmaking.

Working for *Vogue* from the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s, Klein revolutionised fashion photography by taking models out of the studio and into the street, introducing a raw immediacy and spontaneity that broke with the conventions of the time. His later innovative use of light and double exposure developed into a signature visual technique:

“First, I would shoot the model. She would hold the pose, and then we’d turn off all the lights in the studio. In a second exposure, lasting just a few seconds, an assistant would use a flashlight to draw shapes in the air around the model’s body. The result was terrific — it brought my early abstract experiments into my fashion work.”

— William Klein



*Dorothy + white light stripe*, 1962 © William Klein Studio

Following his years at *Vogue*, Klein returned increasingly to filmmaking and street photography, using his deliberately grainy, blurred aesthetic and wide-angle lens to capture the energy and contradictions of urban life. The exhibition traces these connections across decades of work, from the experimental abstractions of the 1950s to the monumental painted contact sheets of his later years, in which enlarged and overpainted frames transform iconic images into dynamic works in their own right.

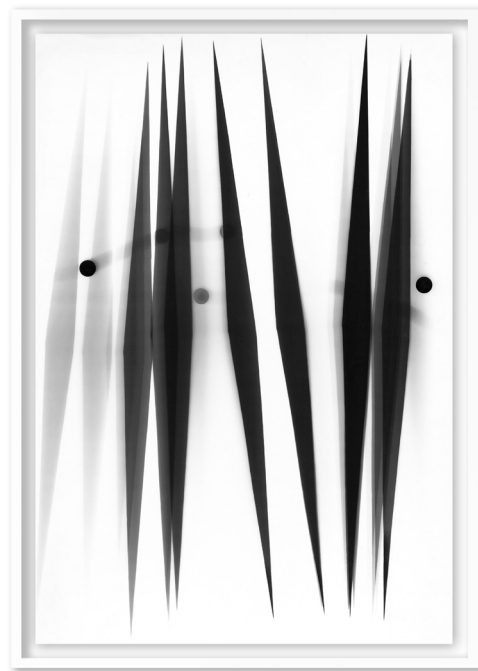
References to movement, fragmentation and narrative echo throughout Klein’s celebrated films, including *Broadway by Light* and *Who Are You, Polly Maggoo* — vivid explorations of the spectacle, speed and visual intensity of modern city life.

Moving between New York, Paris, and London, the exhibition presents the city as a charged theatre of crowds, signage, glamour and confrontation, while fashion emerges as a form of performance in which gesture, flash and movement become a graphic line.

## ABOUT WILLIAM KLEIN

William Klein (1926-2022) was a celebrated multidisciplinary artist whose pioneering career spans street photography, fashion photography, filmmaking, and painting. Widely recognised as one of the most important photographers of the twentieth century, his revolutionary approach — taking fashion out of the studio and onto the streets, and chronicling urban life across New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, and Rome — earned him a place among photography's most influential figures. His 1956 book *Life is Good and Good For You in New York: Trance Witness Reveals* remains one of the most acclaimed photo books ever made.

Among his many honours, Klein received the Hasselblad Award in 1990, the Medal of the Century from the Royal Photographic Society in 1999, and the International Center of Photography Infinity Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2007. His work is held in the permanent collections of the world's leading institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York; the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; the Centre Pompidou, Paris; and the National Portrait Gallery, London.



*Abstract #7, Paris, 1952* © William Klein Studio

## ABOUT HACKELBURY

HackelBury was founded twenty-seven years ago by Marcus Bury and Sascha Hackel. The gallery is committed to championing artists working with the visual arts who push the boundaries of their medium to create meaningful and contemplative work.

The London based gallery initially showcased classic photography from the 20th century including Henri Cartier-Bresson, Berenice Abbott, Malick Sidibe, and Sebastião Salgado. The transition from traditional photography to more conceptual work was as intuitive as it was organic, beginning with artists such as William Klein, Pascal Kern, Doug and Mike Starn, Garry Fabian Miller, Katja Liebmann, Ian McKeever, Stephen Inggs and Bill Armstrong. In 2012 HackelBury facilitated the *William Klein + Daido Moriyama* exhibition at the Tate Modern.

Each artist, whether emerging or established, creates work defined by a depth of thought and breadth and consistency of approach. The small group of artists with whom HackelBury work, represent a diversity of practice yet share an artistic integrity which the gallery is fully committed to supporting in the long-term.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

This retrospective is presented in collaboration with William Klein Studio with whom HackelBury have worked for over 25 years.

HackelBury will be presenting a series of William Klein films in collaboration with the French Cultural Institute, London as part of their '200 Years of Photography' season - dates tbc

## **FOR ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT**

**Camilla Edwards Cañellas – Culturebeam | Cultural Communications**

E: [camilla@culturebeam.com](mailto:camilla@culturebeam.com) M: +34 660375123

**Phil Crook – HackelBury Fine Art**

E: [phil@hackelbury.co.uk](mailto:phil@hackelbury.co.uk) T: +44 20 7937 8688

Instagram [@hackelburyfineart](#)