

NEWS

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THE WALKER ART CENTER AND HIRSHHORN MUSEUM'S YVES KLEIN EXHIBITION SHOWCASES ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL ARTISTS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

YVES KLEIN: WITH THE VOID, FULL POWERS MAKES FINAL STOP AT THE WALKER OCTOBER 23–FEBRUARY 13

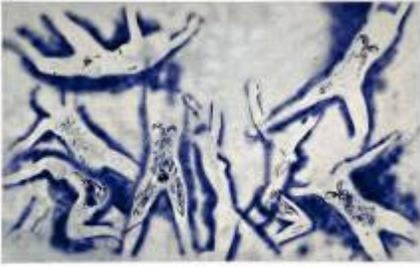
Yves Klein: With the Void, Full Powers . . . is as fine a show as anyone has seen, anywhere, ever."
 —Blake Gopnik, *Washington Post*



"La Rêve du Feu" [The Dream of Fire], c. 1961
 Black-and-white photograph
 9-7/16 x 7-1/16 in. (24 x 17.9 cm)
 Courtesy Yves Klein Archives © 2010 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/ADAGP, Paris. Photo by Shunk-Kender, Photo © Roy Lichtenstein Foundation

Minneapolis, September 24, 2010—The critically acclaimed exhibition **Yves Klein: With the Void, Full Powers** makes its final stop at the Walker Art Center October 23, 2010–February 13, 2011, following its premiere at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. Showcasing the prolific but brief career (1954–1962) of one of the 20th century's most influential artists, this major U.S. retrospective—Klein's first since 1982—was co-organized by the Walker and the Hirshhorn, and co-curated by Dia Art Foundation director Philippe Vergne, formerly chief curator and deputy director at the Walker, and the Hirshhorn's deputy director and chief curator Kerry Brougher.

Through some 200 works, *Yves Klein: With the Void, Full Powers* explores the full range of the artist's body of work and offers an essential examination of a career that was a pivotal moment in contemporary art history. Featuring examples from all of Klein's major series—from his iconic blue monochromes and Anthropometries to his sponge reliefs, Fire Paintings, "air architecture" projects, Cosmogonies, and planetary reliefs—the installation also provides insight into Klein's process and conceptual endeavors through an array of ephemera, including sketches, photographs, letters, and writings. Several films, which document his working methods, further demonstrate both the range and the radical nature of his creative practice, which included painting, sculpture, performance, photography, music, architecture, and writing as well as plans for projects in theater, dance, and cinema.



Yves Klein
People Begin to Fly, 1961
 Oil on paper on canvas
 98-1/2 x 156-1/2 in. (250.2 x 397.5 cm)
 Courtesy The Menil Collection, Houston © 2010
 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/ADAGP,
 Paris



Yves Klein
Untitled Blue Sponge Sculpture, 1961
 Dry pigment and synthetic resin on natural sponge
 on plaster base
 16-9/16 x 14-9/16 x 7-7/8 in. (42.1 x 37 x 20 cm)
 Courtesy Yves Klein Archives © 2010 Yves Klein and
 Artists Rights Society (ARS) New York/ADAGP,
 Paris



Yves Klein
Le Rose du Bleu [The Pink of the Blue], 1960
 Dry pigment and synthetic resin on natural
 sponges and stones on panel
 78-3/8 x 60-1/4 x 6-5/16 in. (199.1 x 153 x 16
 cm)
 Courtesy Yves Klein Archives © 2010 Yves
 Klein and Artists Rights Society (ARS) New
 York/ADAGP, Paris

“Klein’s work corresponds beautifully with the Walker’s history and mission,” says Olga Viso, Walker director. “His practice was radically cross-disciplinary and central to the evolution of much art made after 1960. The Walker has long championed the work of artists who bucked artistic trends and defy categorization and I’m thrilled we are one of the organizing institutions of this exhibition.”

Defying common notions of art—from his experiments with architecture made of air to his leap into the void—Klein aimed to rethink the world in spiritual and aesthetic terms. Self-identified as “the painter of space,” he sought to achieve immaterial sensibility through pure color, primarily an ultramarine blue of his own invention—International Klein Blue (IKB). Part shaman, part showman, a trickster, and at times, even a magician, Klein’s philosophy was revolutionary and demonstrated his acute grasp of the contemporary moment, from the horror of the Second World War to the promise of space travel. As Vergne observes, “I would like that when people leave the exhibition they leap into a void, leaving behind traditional notions of art and representation, but even more importantly, questioning the notion of materiality and materialism in art as well as in their lives. Ultimately, Klein’s lesson is about a different way of being together.”

With a special focus on Klein’s conceptual and performative projects, this presentation of his full oeuvre marks a key moment in the shift from modern to contemporary artistic practice and reveals the full extent of the artist’s lasting influence. Says Brougher, “Klein’s work questioned what art and even society could be in the future, and it provided new pathways leading to Pop Art, Minimalism, conceptual art, installation, and performance.”

Numerous objects on view are on loan directly from the Yves Klein Archives, which was a full collaborator in developing the exhibition. The show will also feature many works that have rarely been shown. Additional loans come from the Musée national d’art moderne, Centre Pompidou in Paris, Kunstmuseen Krefeld in Krefeld, Germany, The Menil Collection in Houston, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and a host of international private collections, including a rare loan from the Monastery of Saint Rita in Cascia, Italy.

Exhibition Catalogue

A fully illustrated catalogue accompanies the exhibition, containing critical essays by curators Vergne and Brougher, Klein scholar Klaus Ottmann, art historian Kaira Cabañas, and curator Andria Hickey. The book also includes archival materials and translations of Klein’s published and unpublished writings. The catalogue is designed to evoke *Untitled Sculpture* (1957), Klein’s wall installation of blue cubes, a work included in the exhibition, for the blue exterior bears no text and the page edges are printed to match the cover, giving the appearance of a solid block of International Klein Blue. Distributed by D.A.P./Distributed Art Publishers, Inc., 155 Sixth Avenue, Second Floor, New York, NY 10013, 800.338.2665 (phone), 800.478.3128 (fax), artbook.com, and available at the Walker Art Center Shop, 612.375.7633 (phone), 612.375.7565 (fax). ISBN 978-0-935640-94-6 \$65 (\$58.50 Walker members).



Yves Klein
Untitled Fire-Color Painting, 1961
Dry pigment and synthetic resin on scorched
cardboard on panel
55-1/2 x 117-15/16 in. (141 x 299.6 cm)
Courtesy Yves Klein Archives © 2010 Artists
Rights Society (ARS), New York/ADAGP, Paris

iPhone and iPad Apps

The *Yves Klein: With the Void, Full Powers* iPhone and iPad apps give users a full overview of the exhibition and insight into selected artworks with images, video, and quotes from the artist Yves Klein himself.

Acknowledgments

Yves Klein: With the Void, Full Powers is co-organized by the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

The exhibition is made possible with generous support from Martha and Bruce Atwater, Judy Dayton, and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Additional support provided by Constance R. Caplan and Lewis and Barbara Shrensky. Major support for the catalogue is provided by Sotheby's, with additional support from L & M Arts in New York and Heather James Fine Arts.

The Walker Art Center's presentation is sponsored by



RBC Wealth Management

Additional generous support for the Walker Art Center's presentation is provided by Lisa and Pat Denzer, the Martin and Brown Foundation, Dr. William W. and Nadine M. McGuire, Donna and Jim Pohlad, the Shank Family Foundation, and John L. Thomson. Media partner *Mpls.St.Paul Magazine*.

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RELATED EVENTS

Opening Weekend



Yves Klein and a model during an Anthropometry performance at the Galerie internationale d'art contemporain, March 9, 1960
Courtesy Yves Klein Archive © 2010 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/ADAGP, Paris. Photo by Shunk-Kender, Photo © Roy Lichtenstein Foundation

Walker After Hours Preview Party: Into the Blue

Friday, October 22, 9 pm–12 midnight

\$35 (\$20 Walker members)

Tickets: walkerart.org/tickets or 612.375.7600.

Tour the galleries and celebrate with cocktails and complimentary Wolfgang Puck appetizers. Enjoy music and creative antics in the Star Tribune Foundation Art Lab, Party People Pictures, and more.

New members receive one free party ticket (or other premium) for joining, while supplies last.

Opening-Day Talk: Philippe Vergne with Kerry Brougner and Daniel Moquay

Saturday, October 23, 2 pm, \$10 (\$8 Walker members)

Cinema

Daniel Moquay from the Yves Klein Archives discusses Klein's life and work with exhibition curators Philippe Vergne, director of the Dia Art Foundation and former Walker chief curator and deputy director, and Kerry Brougner, deputy director and chief curator of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

Mack Lectures are made possible by the generous support of Aaron and Carol Mack.

Target Free Thursday Nights

Thursday, November 11

Free Verse: John Yau on Yves Klein, 7 pm

Cinema

As an artist who defied the conventions of the art-making of his time, Yves Klein found affinity in the work of mid-century avant-garde writers who sought to disrupt the structures of communication in much the same way that Klein up-turned exhibition practice. For this unique reading, acclaimed poet and art critic John Yau reflects on Klein's literary inclinations in a combination of verse and text. Yau has published over 50 books of poetry, short stories, and criticism, including *A Thing Among Things: The Art of Jasper Johns* (2009), a definitive study of the influential American artist.

Join members of Alliance Française de Minneapolis/St. Paul in the Garden Café for a post-lecture conversation about Klein, *en français*.

Free Verse is co-presented by *Rain Taxi Review of Books*.

Thursday, November 18

Lecture: Screen Performances, 7 pm

Cinema

In the early 1950s Yves Klein was exposed to various avant-garde filmmakers, including Isidore Isou, François Dufrêne, and Guy Debord, who pushed film to its limits and abandoned the traditional means of cinematic representation. Art historian Kaira Cabañas will speak to how Klein's work was informed by the cinema and how he, in turn, recorded his work on film.

Thursday, December 9

Art Activity: Monochromatic Studies, 5–8 pm

Star Tribune Foundation Art Lab

Through color, Klein experienced "a feeling of complete identification with space." In these drop-in art labs, work alongside an artist to make your own pigment and monochrome painting while learning about the symbolic role of color in Klein's work.

Judo Demonstration, 7, 7:30, and 8 pm

Cargill Lounge

"The true *judoka* practices in [a state of] pure spirit and sensibility," said Klein. As a dedicated student of judo—he earned a black belt from the Kōdōkan Institute in Tokyo in 1952 and then wrote the book *Le Fondements du Judo [The Foundations of Judo]*—Klein discovered "the spirit of victory" in body, mind, and heart that would shape his artistic and world view. Watch as local judokas demonstrate the forms of attack and defense (*kata*) and free-style sparring (*randori*).

Thursday, December 16

Gallery Talk: Architecture of Air, 7 pm

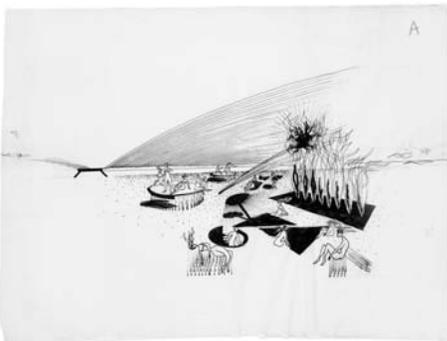
Meet in Bazinet Lobby

At the pinnacle of Klein's utopian vision was his research dedicated to *architecture de l'air* or air architecture. Join professor Leslie Van Duzer, director of the school of architecture and landscape architecture at the University of British Columbia, who will discuss how the elements fire, air, and water are used to construct Klein's "city of tomorrow."

Blue Scream, 8:15 pm

Meet in Bazinet Lobby

In his desire for "direct and immediate perception-assimilation" Klein once proposed a soundtrack of blue cries for a film documenting his blue paintings. Join artist Marcus Young who will lead a chorus of blue screams outdoors in James Turrell's *Sky Peshier*.



Yves Klein
Cité climatisée (toit d'air, murs de feu, lit d'air) [Climatized City (roof of air, walls of fire, bed of air)], 1961
Ink and graphite on paper
19-11/16 x 26-3/4 in. (50 x 67.9 cm)
Courtesy Yves Klein Archives © 2010 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/ADAGP, Paris

Thursday, January 6

Art Activity: Monochromatic Studies, 5–8 pm

Star Tribune Foundation Art Lab

See description above.

Lecture: Restoring the Blue, 7 pm

Lecture Room

Join conservator Christa Haiml who will discuss Yves Klein's artistic process, the development of his trademark IKB (International Klein Blue) paint, and the challenges that come with preserving the artist's luminous surfaces.

Thursday, January 13

Gallery Talk: The Science of Klein, 7 pm

Meet in Bazinet Lobby

Discover how scientific thought during the late 1950s and early 1960s can be perceived through Klein's body of work. Walker curatorial assistant Eric Crosby and Michel Janssen, associate professor, history of science, at the University of Minnesota, discuss the connections between Klein's work and physics, astronomy, cosmology, and alchemy.

Join members of Alliance Française de Minneapolis/St. Paul in the Garden Café for a post-lecture conversation about Klein, *en français*.

Thursday, January 20

French-language Exhibition Tour, 6 pm

Meet in Bazinet Lobby

Conversational tours in French, offered once a month throughout the exhibition's run, are free and open to anyone.

Target Free Thursday Nights sponsored by



Yves Klein, 1961
Courtesy Yves Klein Archives © 2010 Artists Rights Society
(ARS), New York/ADAGP, Paris. Photo by Charles Wilp,
Photo © Charles Wilp

Film Screenings

Blue by Derek Jarman

December 16–June 26

Screens continuously during museum hours

Gallery 2

Free with gallery admission

Blue is the 12th and final film by British artist Derek Jarman, completed just before his death in 1994 from AIDS-related complications. The film explores the process of dying, and possibly most importantly for a visual artist, the loss of his sight—ultimately seeing only blue. Jarman made the film as a way to explore, as he termed it, “the world of the painter Yves Klein, inventor of the void, International Blue, the symphony monotone.” The single image on screen is a rectangle of light matched to Klein’s blue. Narration by Jarman, Nigel Terry, John Quentin, and Tilda Swinton tells Jarman’s story through poetic references to the way his sight changes as he succumbs to the disease paired with the everyday events going on around him. 1993, 35mm transferred to video, 72 minutes.

Tours

French-language Tours

Saturdays, November 6, December 4, and February 5, 3 pm

Free with gallery admission

Thursday, January 20, 6 pm, Free

Meet in Bazinet Lobby

Conversational tours in French, offered once a month throughout the exhibition’s run, are free and open to anyone.

Family Programs

Free First Saturday

Imagination and Innovation

Saturday, November 6, Free

Join us for a special family concert and spend the day exploring artist Yves Klein’s fascinating world of walls of fire, ceilings of air, and, of course the color blue.

Free First Saturday is sponsored by

Sponsor

Program support



Arty Pants: Your Tuesday Playdate

Tuesdays, November 9 and 23, December 14 and 28
For kids age 3-5 and their caregivers

Let your imagination soar as you and your tot venture into the exhibition. Enter spaces created with air, play with elements as you make art, study colors in the galleries, and watch a short film about the sea.

Arty Pants: Your Tuesday Playdate is sponsored by



Family Activity Sheet: Blue Revolution

Seek out the art of Yves Klein, imagine works of your own, and learn some fun facts with a new family activity sheet.

Gallery Hours and Admission

\$10 adults; \$8 seniors (65+); \$6 students/teens (with ID)
Free to Walker members and children ages 12 and under.
Free with a paid ticket to a same-day Walker event.
Free to all every Thursday evening (5–9 pm) and on the first Saturday of each month (10 am–5 pm).

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11 am–5 pm
Thursday 11 am–9 pm
Closed Mondays

Walker Art Center Premier Partners



The Walker Art Center is located at 1750 Hennepin Avenue—where Hennepin meets Lyndale—one block off Highways I-94 and I-394, in Minneapolis.

For public information, call 612.375.7600 or visit walkerart.org. Stay connected via your mobile device and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.