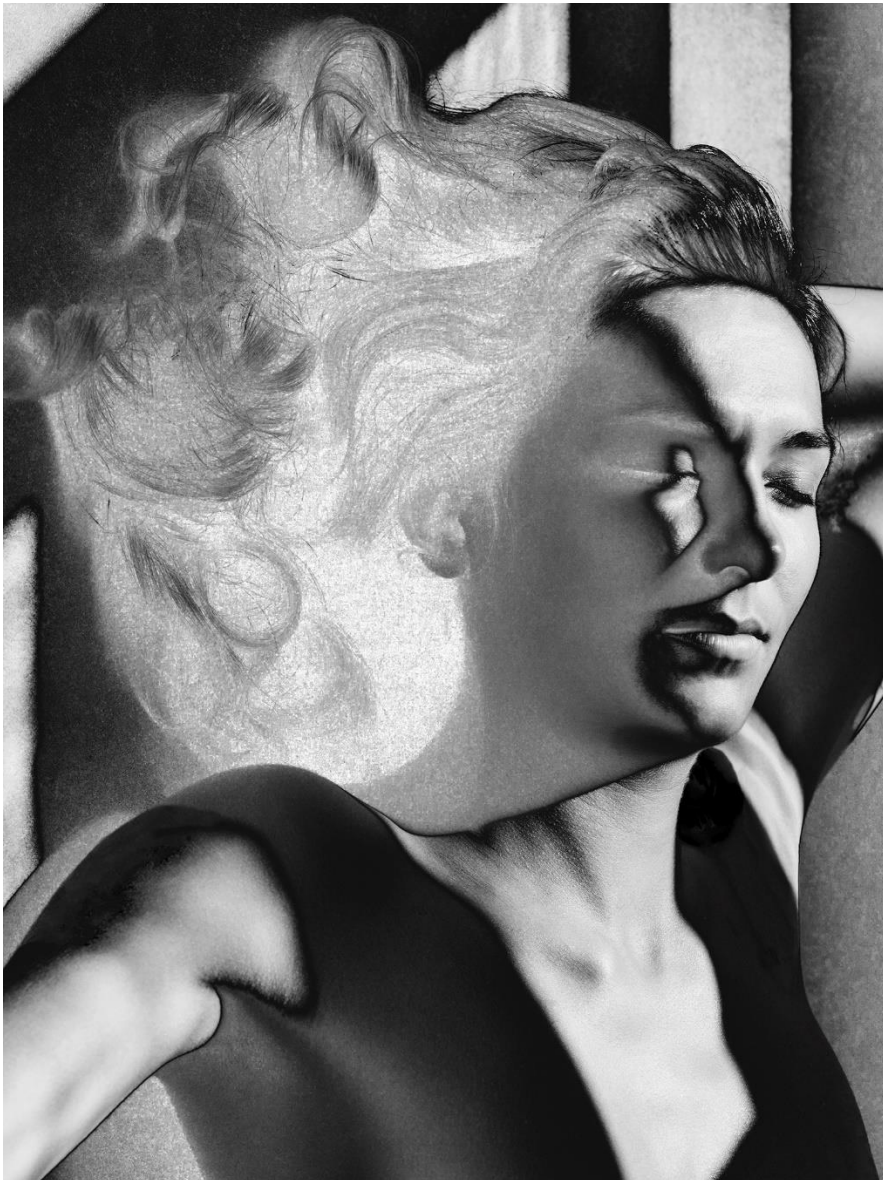


Galerie XII  
Paris

## MONA KUHN KINGS ROAD

Exhibition November 7, 2023 to January 13, 2024

We are delighted to present the new solo exhibition Mona Kuhn's **KINGS ROAD** at Galerie XII Paris. The exhibition includes photographs, video projection and sound installation.



This exhibition follows Mona Kuhn's museum exhibitions in the USA and Europe. Earlier this year, her thought-provoking series was curated by Gerhard Steidl in a site-specific museum installation spanning three floors at the Kunsthaus-Göttingen in Germany. And in 2022 at the Art, Design & Architecture Museum at the University of California, USA. These exhibitions, with their multimedia and sound installation, pushed the boundaries of how photography and architecture are presented in museums.

For over 20 years, Mona Kuhn has used photography and lens-based media art to re-examine figurative discourse, rendering the physical and metaphysical presence in the human figure. Through her lens, Kuhn invites viewers to contemplate the intricacies of our existence, unveiling the hidden depths of our shared humanity. For her latest exhibition, Kings Road, Mona Kuhn has taken the subjects of LOVE and FATE as her primary subject of study. The series takes place at The Kings Road House, built by architect Rudolph Schindler in 1922 in West Hollywood.



**About the Kings Road house:** The Kings Road house was a radical architectural experiment made with the use of industrial materials such as bare concrete walls, untreated redwood, Japanese-inspired sliding canvas panels, glass; and served as a cooperative live/work space for two young families. When first entering the house, Kuhn was drawn to this Spartan dwelling, devoid of any ornament and built with exposed materials. Between the 1920s and 1950s, Kings Road became a place of future-oriented aesthetic, cultural and political creativity, an avant-garde hub for artists and intellectuals, unhinged by any formal conventions of society, with whom Schindler surrounded himself with, from Albert Einstein to Aldous Huxley, Marlene Dietrich to Greta Garbo, Richard Neutra, Imogen Cunningham and Edward Weston.

**About the architect:** Rudolph M. Schindler (Vienna, 1887 - Los Angeles, 1953) was an Austrian architect who lived and worked in California. In 1914, at the age of 26, Schindler emigrated to the U.S. and joined Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural studio. In 1922, Schindler built his home at 835 Kings Road, conceived as both a design and social

experiment. Schindler's dream was to build a house which shall be open just as some people's hearts are open, to friends of all classes and types, a democratic meeting place, where millionaires and laborers, professors and illiterates, the splendid and the ignoble, meet constantly together. Today, Rudolph Schindler's house is considered the birthplace of American mid-century modernism.

**About the mysterious woman:** Upon examining Rudolph Schindler's architectural archives, Mona Kuhn selected private letters, sketches, and notes intended as personal reminders. Among those records, Kuhn drew inspiration from a handwritten letter that Schindler wrote to an unknown woman, in which he renounces her romantic aspirations. Revealing in its content, the letter became a pivotal entryway into Kuhn's work, who proceeds to bring this mysterious woman, embodied as Schindler's lover, into the house. As the woman moves through the residence, her presence partly blends with the house's own exposed skin and bare structures. By using solarization, an experimental photographic darkroom technique, Kuhn pushes representation further into a metaphysical realm. This ethereal process, first employed by the Photo-Surrealists at the time the house was built, oxidizes the photographic silver in unpredictable ways, partially dematerializing the image. Kuhn's intention, to push the boundaries of photography, architecture, and conservation, is palpable. And by preceding a living layer into architecture, while also dematerializing the figure, Kuhn withdraws from our physical reality and conceives a new narrative in which intangible spirits cross time and space, to meet each other again.



#### Hours and location

Galerie XII Paris  
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Wednesday - Friday, 14h-19h  
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