

## Fashion Photography

Fashion photographers, such as Horst P Horst, John French, Corinne Day and Nick Knight have often explored different techniques and have challenged convention in their work.

Visit the [V&A](#) theme tour of fashion photographs for a provocative look at some key images.

Click [here](#) for information about the FASHINATION exhibition at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television.



Horst P. Horst - Corset

Click [here](#) to visit the Horst P. Horst Classic Photography site.

Horst P. Horst - Chanel Beauty, 1987



Corinne Day - Tania, 1995

Corinne Day - Tara, 1997



Corinne Day - Kate Moss, 1990

William Klein - Barbara with hat and five roses, 1956



John French, 1953

Click [here](#) to see a range of John French's photographs.

### John French

John French was one of London's top fashion photographers of the 1950s and 1960s, an era when those who wore and photographed clothing for a living could become famous overnight. The models he worked with included the most famous of the time, many were debutantes who went on to become well-known society figures. French persuaded the art editors of the national press to use his flawlessly lit images of top models and his work appeared in virtually every newspaper and magazine. After his death the John French archive was presented to the Victoria and Albert Museum, the world's greatest museum of decorative arts and design, and his work has been celebrated as part of a major exhibition 'The Golden Age of Couture'.



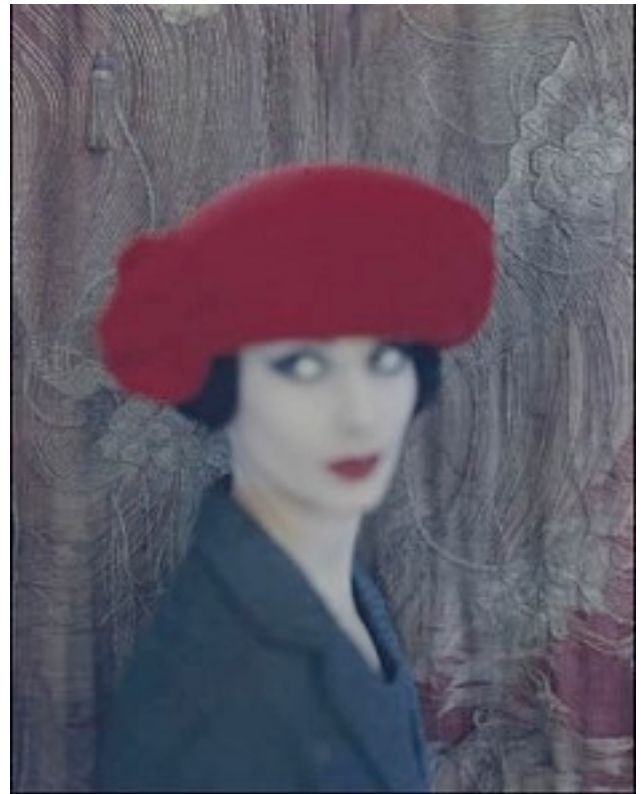
Rankin - Obsessive Behaviour, Dazed and Confused magazine, November 1996

Click [here](#) for an interesting interview with William Klein - a pioneer of a new kind of fashion photography in the 1950s and 60s.

Norman Parkinson - Adele Collins, Vogue, 1959

Norman Parkinson was a dazzling fashion and portrait photographer who worked on the British edition of Harper's Bazaar in the 1930s before joining Vogue in the 1940s. Later he worked for Queen, and the American magazine Town & Country. His work was famous for its liveliness, spontaneity and humour, and for his creative use of outdoor locations.

'I was hardly aware of other photographers' work until I went to Harper's, when I learnt about Steichen, Hoyningen-Huene, Durst and Beaton. But the women in their photographs were a rarefied few, an elitist handful. My women behaved quite differently - they drove cars, went shopping, had children and kicked the dog. I wanted to capture that side of women. I wanted them out in the fields jumping over the haycocks - I did not think they needed their knees bolted together. There was always room in a magazine for the scent-laden marble-floored studios with lilies falling out of great bowls of flowers. but there was also room for my sort of photography.'



Lillian Bassman - More Fashion Mileage per Dress, Barbara Vaughn, New York, 1956

Richard Avedon - Dovima with Elephants, Evening Dress by Dior, Cirque d'Hiver, Paris, 1955

'His pictures showed young ladies enjoying life to the full as they preened and jumped with joy in their Paris confections. Avedon's photographs did not perhaps have technical perfection, and they were all the better for this, for they created the statement that he wished to make-of movement caught forever by his lens.'

--Cecil Beaton

Dovima with Elephants is one of his most celebrated pictures. The image is well-crafted, but its main appeal seems to be that it was the first time anyone had taken a high fashion model together with elephants. It had a certain shock value. Richard Avedon's modernism, had sweeping effect on photography, and there was a consequent rejection of the earlier, more "classical" style:





Michael Graf

Erwin Blumenfeld - Model on the Eiffel Tower, Vogue, 1939



Jacques Villegle - Rue de Belleville, 29 Janvier 1991  
Decollage mounted on canvas

David Bailey - Jean Shrimpton at 91 Heigham Road, 1961





Mario Testino - Kate Moss, French Vogue, November 2004

Nick Knight

