



Photography



STONES AGE  
Norman Parkinson's 1964 picture for *Queen* magazine featuring the Rolling Stones and model Nicole de la Marge. Left: his advert for Daks in 1961

# Bright days ahead

Photographer Norman Parkinson's pioneering, action-packed 1960s fashion shoots were full of the dynamic optimism of the era, as a new retrospective shows

BY REBECCA BROADLEY

Injecting dash and vigour into post-war British fashion photography, Norman Parkinson brought style into action: his girls danced on rooftops, leapt off London buses and splashed in the sea. 'An Eye for Fashion', a retrospective at Bristol's M Shed, features vintage and rare prints from the archive of his former assistant, photographer Angela Williams.

Taken between 1954 and 1964, when Parkinson lived at Farthingworth (the Regency house in Twickenham that shared its name with his racehorse), the images are arranged as a chronicle

of British fashion designers of the 1950s and 1960s, including Jean Muir and Mary Quant.

Parkinson, an associate contributing editor to *Queen* magazine from 1960 to 1964 (before it merged with *Bazaar* in 1970 to become *Harpers & Queen*), played out his penchant for slipping into the frame himself, alongside his discoveries Celia Hammond and Nena von Schlebrügge, Uma Thurman's mother.

'Devastating and fantastic to work for' is how Williams recalls him. He was, of course, also the archetypal English eccentric who, in his cream kaftan, would take eggnog in the rose garden with the day's contact prints to be marked up. 'Although he presented himself as an English dandy,' says Williams, 'he was actually an earthy man, a farmer – even then, he was breeding pigs at a farm in Henley.'

It was at the end of his garden in Farthingworth that Williams lived for a short time, above Parkinson's darkroom in an outhouse with boxes of his prints – now the archive – that he would later give away. 'Once he had done a shoot, that was it,' she says. 'He thought of himself as a photographer. He refused to be called an artist.' □ *An Eye for Fashion: An Exhibition of British Fashion Photography by Norman Parkinson* is at M Shed, Princes Wharf, Wapping Road, Bristol (0117 352 6600; [www.mshed.org](http://www.mshed.org)), until 15 April.

## STYLE AND SUSTENANCE

The coolest spots for a coffee, cake and catch-up between Fashion Week shows

BY HELENA LEE



### DA POLPO

Stop for a quick lunch of parmesan and soft-egg pizzette in between shows at this trendy tapas osteria.  
6 Maiden Lane, London WC2  
([www.dapolpo.co.uk](http://www.dapolpo.co.uk)).



### FERNANDEZ & WELLS

Spot fashion editors sipping their cappuccinos at the new Somerset House outpost of the Soho connoisseur coffee shop.  
Somerset House, the Strand, London WC2  
([www.fernandezandwells.com](http://www.fernandezandwells.com)).



### THE DELAUNAY

Take advantage of takeaway from 'the Counter' at the new brasserie from the Wolseley's Chris Corbin and Jeremy King.  
55 Aldwych, London WC2  
([www.thedelaunay.com](http://www.thedelaunay.com)).