David Bailey and Blow-Up

1966 contexts

- Threat of nuclear war (Cuban Missile Crisis)
- □ The Vietnam War
- Retro culture
- Young people's increasing economic marginality

1960s music

- Shift in popular music: Beatles' "Strawberry Fields Forever"; Stones' "19th Nervous Breakdown"
- love songs for "the unloved, the despised, the rejected": e.g., "Eleanor Rigby," "Walk on the Wild Side" (BBC documentary)
- Studio work supersedes live shows: Sgt. Pepper's Lonelyhearts Club Band
- 1966: the last year that singles would outsell albums

Countercultural contexts

- youth culture of Swinging London
- photographers create the scene and document it
- art cinema = fashion + sex + rock music + ambiguity + metaphysics
- art cinema is commercially viable
- censorship standards loosening in literature as well as film (Lady Chatterley, 1960)

Countercultural contexts

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sexual liberation
      the Pill (1961)
       decriminalization of homosexuality (1967)
   "classlessness"
   outsiders in the 1950s become insiders in the 1960s
       EastEnders
       Jews
       Gays
   drug use: altering perception
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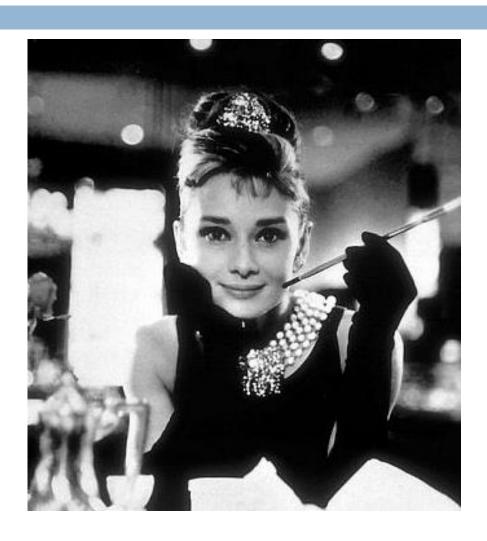
David Bailey

- The model for all of Swinging London
- Lower-class boy dominates a previously posh field
- Flaunts his wealth and expensive cars
- Sleeps with beautiful models
- □ Had a "look," a personal style
 - Jeans
 - Leather jacket
 - Long hair

Cecil Beaton, the previous model



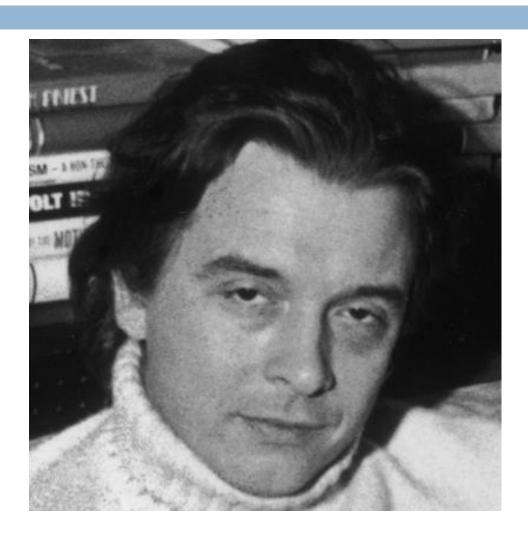
an iconic Beaton photo



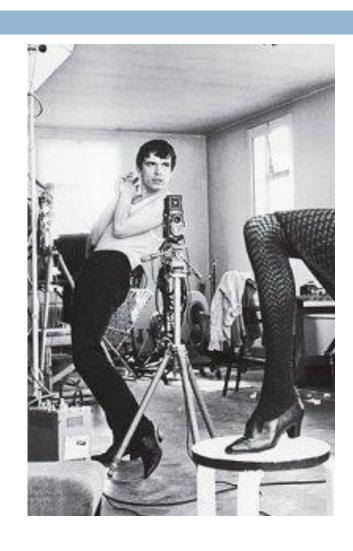
Twiggy by Beaton



David Bailey



David Bailey in his studio, 1960s



Bailey's style

- Photo shoot as erotic dance
- Bailey calls his tripod a "three-legged phallus"
- Bailey as El Cordobés
- Bailey's e-type Jaguar car
- Discovers Jean Shrimpton, the first supermodel

Jean Shrimpton, 1965



Jean Shrimpton



Jean Shrimpton at home



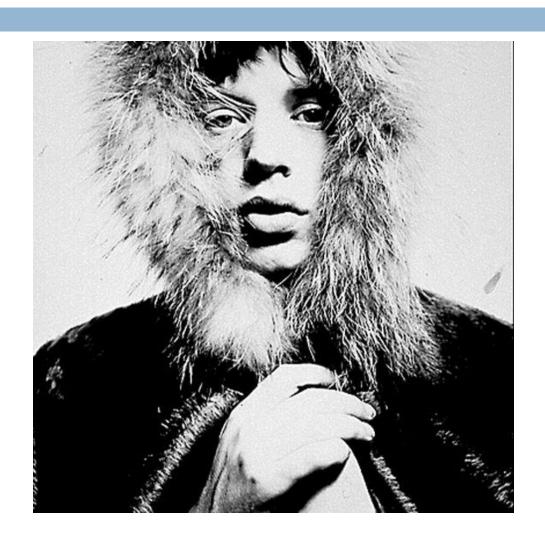
Catherine Deneuve, 1968



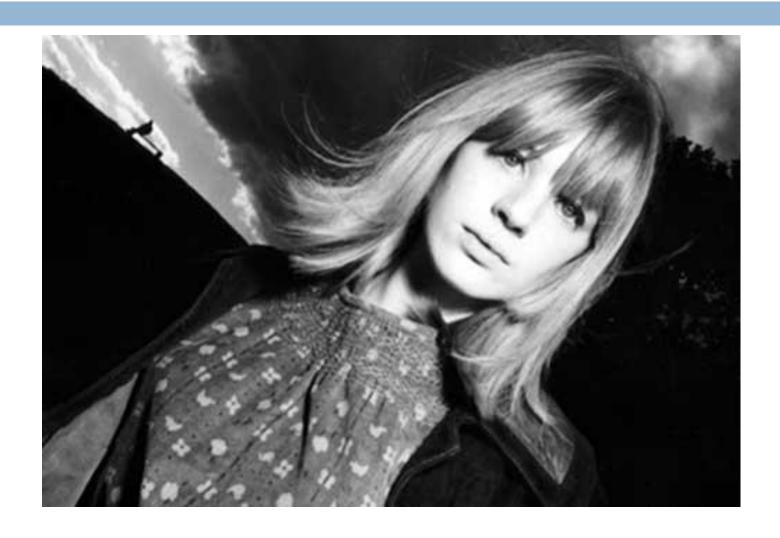
Paul McCartney & John Lennon, 1965



Mick Jagger, 1965



Marianne Faithful



Michael Caine



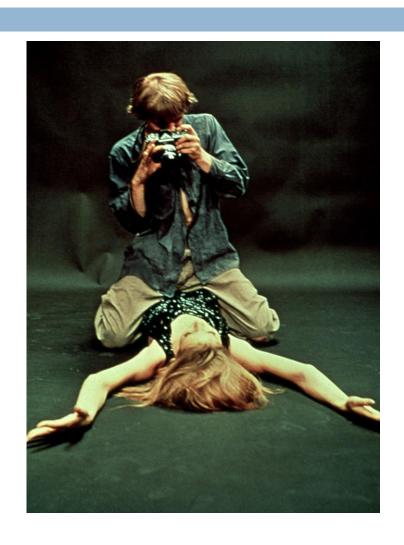
The Kray Twins



Vuitton ad 2013



Blow-Up



Antonioni in London

- Surveyed London photographers
- Painted streets black
- Dyed the pigeons
- Bold primary colors on hydrants and house fronts
- Paid extras to get high for the pot party (5-day shoot)
- Wanted no blue skies

Patterns in Blow-Up

- distractions
- first impressions are wrong
- □ fashion as a uniform or costume
- postponed understanding
- narrative ruptures
- unanswered questions
- ambiguous relationships
- visual fragmentation; pieces of things
- mediated communications

As a treatise on the camera

- □ four ways to use a camera
 - fashion photography (capitalist tool)
 - social critique ("neorealist" documentary)
 - capturing nature (beauty, love, lyricism)
 - exploiting people (paparazzo)

relation to truth

All create false images

appeals to voyeurism (the peeping Thomas)

As a treatise on the camera

"The greatest danger for the filmmaker consists in the extraordinary means the medium provides in order to lie."

Michelangelo Antonioni

Legacies of the 1960s

- Records, films, plays, photos, paintings
- □ Fashions: sexy, practical, fun, affordable
- Resistance to racial and sexual discrimination
- Decriminalization of homosexual behavior
- Banning capital punishment
- Reform of divorce laws
- Relaxation of censorship

Legacy of Swinging London

"Forever after, you would have the license to dress, express, and entertain yourself, give yourself over to sensation, investigate a wider world or the things beyond it. . . . If Swinging London was a place where you got a hip haircut and outfit and danced the latest step to a groovy new 45, it was also the place where you opened your mind to a better world" (Levy, 319)