



PICTURE THIS

MONA KUHN

**Solar flare**

'An excuse to record, / a desire to retrace. /  
An attempt to cross / time and space.'

Photographer Mona Kuhn opens her new book *Kings Road* with this elegant quatrain. It gracefully encapsulates the premise of her latest work.

When Kuhn first visited 835 Kings Road in West Hollywood, she felt an instant regression to a past that she had not lived

but had often imagined. Built by Austrian architect Rudolph Schindler in 1922, this iconic house was both a social and design experiment and an avant-garde hub for intellectuals and artists in the 1920s and 1930s. It was more than just a home, it was part of a movement.

The enigmatic subject of Kuhn's solarised pictures is a fictional figure inspired by a letter from Schindler to

a mysterious woman. Kuhn's impressionistic photos render this female presence physical, even as it seems to be dematerialising. The results are both beautiful and bewildering. **H** *'Royal Flush: Kings Road'* by Mona Kuhn is published by Steidl – it accompanies the exhibition *835 Kings Road* at the Art Design & Architecture Museum in Santa Barbara, CA running until 1 May 2022. For more information, see [steidl.de](http://steidl.de)

# SHORTS



H

“ *Kubm’s impressionistic photos render the female presence physical, even as it seems to be dematerialising.* ”

SOLAR FLARE . 023