

Anthropometries Revisited - A Homage to Yves Klein

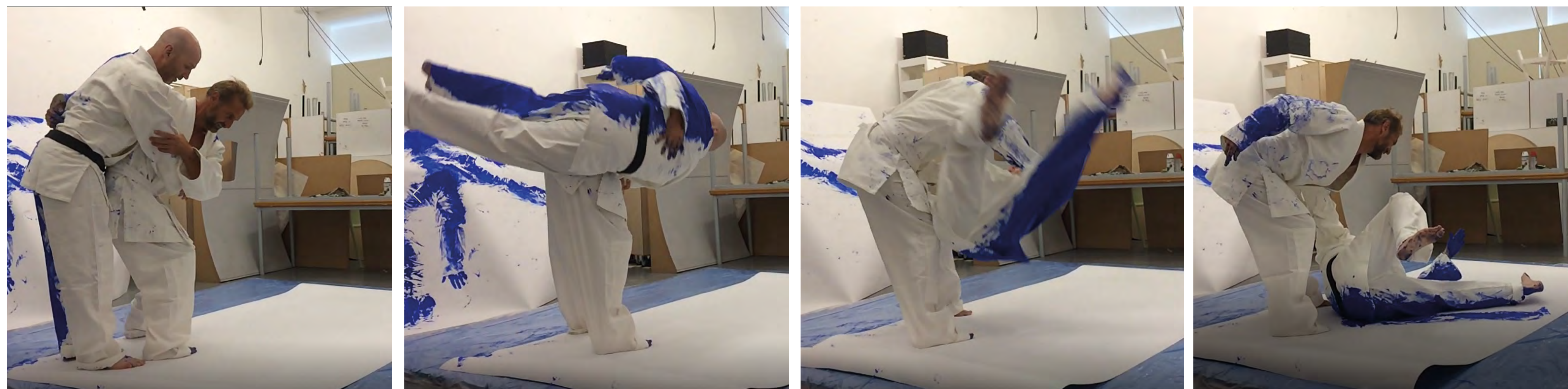
Ian Lambert & Fabian Galama



Top row L-R: Klein as black belt; Klein performing a judo throw (tai o toshi); Front Cover of Les Fondements du Judo (1954); Making the photograph Leap Into the Void (1960); Anthropometries performance (1960); from Anthropometries series (1960)

Middle Row: Initial experiments for Lambert and Galama's performative homage through judo (2017)

Bottom: Initial piece from Anthropometry revisited (2017)



This project is presented as a homage to Yves Klein's *Anthropometries* series (1960), but with reference to Klein's devotion to judo. Klein was a 4th dan black belt in judo, and wrote a book: *Les Fondements du Judo* (1954; recently republished in English as *The Foundations of Judo*, 2010).

Klein said of Judo that it, "... helped me to understand pictorial space and the discovery of the human body in a spiritual space." [1]. This project explores potential links between the physicality of judo and Klein's work as an artist. It also speculates on how the *Anthropometries* series may have evolved had he not died prematurely at the age of 34, in 1962.

In the *Anthropometries* series Klein painted his models - or 'human paint brushes' - in his own *International Klein Blue* before having them press themselves against canvases or drag each other across canvases on the floor, in a choreographed performance to the soundtrack of his *Monotone Symphony*.

There is evidence of Klein's fearless physicality in other elements of his work. *Leap Into the Void*, the famously staged photograph of Klein falling off a building (Harry Shunk, 1960; see top row, 4th and 5th images from the left), actually involved Klein falling onto a taught tarpaulin from the second floor of a building, a feat likely aided by Klein's confidence, through learning to fall (*ukemi*) in Judo.

The images on the right are from a recent experiment using *International Klein Blue*, conducted with designer and judo 1st dan Ian Lambert (acting as human paint brush) and spatial designer, choreographer and former dancer Fabian Galama. Here, Lambert, clothed in a Judo suit (or *gi*) has paint applied to the left side of his body before being thrown to the canvas to make an imprint. The resulting images are a form of mark-making through performance.

Following Klein's highly physical spectacle Lambert and Galama are developing the project as a performance piece in a inspired by Klein's performances. The performance, choreographed by Galama and art directed by Lambert will use a designed space and set, with other performers to create a number of Anthropometric human prints or *disegno* derived from Judo.

[1] <http://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-liverpool/exhibition/yves-klein/five-things>

