

ROCK.FUNK.PUNK.

Michael L. Abramson, Susan Barnett, Pep Bonet, Anton Corbijn, Stanley Greene, Bob Gruen, Gijsbert Hanekroot, Barbara Klemm, Günter & Felix Pfanmüller, Derek Ridgers

MICHAEL L. ABRAMSON LIGHT ON THE SOUTH SIDE

In the 1970s Soul, R&B and Funk greatly characterised the style and fashion in nightclubs and dance halls. For the photographer and music lover Michael L. Abramson the South Side of Chicago was his inspiration and playing field. He photographed famous and long forgotten singers and musicians, their audience and captured a mixture of elegance, sex and glamour that defined the disco era. All these images give rare impressions of the music and dance scene and the atmosphere of a culturally diverse yet segregated Chicago in the late 1970s.

VITA

Michael L. Abramson (1948–2011) received his bachelor degree from the Wharton School of Business but his life took a different turn when he was admitted to the Institute for Design at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago where he gained his master degree in 1977. The American photographer became well known for his black-and-white photographs that documented the nightlife of the mid 1970s in the clubs of Chicago's South Side. His photographs of nightlife earned him a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, which enabled him to publish a book with his photographs titled »Light: On the South Side« with Numero Group. Abramson gained international acclaim as a freelance photographer working for national magazines such as TIME, Newsweek, Business Week, and others. Today, his work is archived and represented by the Abramson Arts Foundation.

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SUSAN BARNETT

NOT IN YOUR FACE

With the series »Not In Your Face« the American photographer has opened up unusual insights into the personalities of people since 2009. Here, she doesn't photograph the face of a person but his backside, the T-shirt. What does the T-shirt tell us about the person who is wearing it? What meaning does the writing or logo on the T-shirt signify in reference to its wearer? Every one of these individuals reveals a part of himself or herself through their clothing, his or her hopes, ideals, preferences, dislikes, political views and personal mantras. Susan Barnett's photographs shown in the exhibition focus on the theme of Rock'n'Roll, but especially on those who show their identification with Rock'n'Roll by wearing band T-shirts.

VITA

After her studies in art history and studio art in New York Susan Barnett (born in 1950 in the USA) worked in museums, galleries and auction houses such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art (in the department of medieval art), Perls Galleries, Christie's, and Sotheby's. In 1997 she opened her own gallery dedicated to supporting and presenting her friends' art. During this time Barnett studied fine arts, graphic design, and photography and started to increasingly dedicate herself to her own artistic practice in the fields of photography and sculpture. Her work has been shown in various national and international group and solo exhibitions and has been awarded with different prizes. Her work is included in public collections such as the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (USA), the Center for Fine Art Photography, Ft. Collins (USA) and the Library of Congress, Washington, DC (USA). Her first monograph »T: A Typology of T-Shirts« was published in 2015 with Dewi Lewis Publishing.

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PEP BONET

RÖADKILL, MOTÖRHEAD (2013)

»I admired these people even before I met them and now that I know the reality of the best Rock'n'Roll band in the world I worship them even more.« The Spanish photographer Pep Bonet created an extraordinary, visual document of the famous Rock'n'Roll band Motörhead with his reportage »Röadkill – Motörhead.« Bonet followed the legendary lead singer Lemmy Kilmister for seven years and offered unique insights behind the scenes of the band's world tours between 2008 and 2015. On the road with the band – first he followed the band before he toured with them in the tour bus – he created authentic and moving images from the life of the Rock'n'Roll band. His black-and-white and colour photographs scrutinise the fascination with Motörhead and at the same time capture the distinct character and charm of these cult musicians.

VITA

Pep Bonet was born in Mallorca, Spain in 1974 and is a prized photographer and filmmaker. His photographic works show a very personal approach to his subjects. Next to his documentation of the band Motörhead he has become well known for his social documentary projects in which he addresses inequality throughout the world. His work has been awarded with a great number of prizes. In 2003 he won the Kodak Young Photographer of the Year Award and the Luchetta Foundation awarded him as Best Press Photographer 2004. In 2009 he won the World Press Photo Award for his work »Forced Identity,« a portrait series documenting the transsexual community in Honduras. His works have also been accompanied with publications such as »Generacion Perdida« (2010), »Remarkable South Africans« (2009), »Pep Bonet: Edition Photobolsillo« (2007), »One Goal« (2007), »Somalia: The Invisible Trace« (2007), »Quadern de Bitacola,« with the author Carles Domenec, »POSITHIV+« (2005), »Watching in Silence« (2011), »We the People of Wacken« (2014), and »Röadkill, Motörhead« (2013). Pep Bonet lives and works in Mallorca, Spain and is a member of NOOR photo agency.

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ANTON CORBIJN KURT COBAIN

VITA

There is hardly a musical icon that the Dutch photographer and filmmaker Anton Corbijn (* 1955) hasn't photographed. The photographic legend Corbijn is especially connected with U2 and Depeche Mode and accompanied the band as their Art Director. Many record covers were created by him, he directed numerous music videos, for Depeche Mode he made the concert documentaries »Devotional« (1993) und »One Night in Paris« (2001). In 1994 he received the MTV Award for the music video of Nirvana's song »Heart Shaped Box«. With his film »Control« (2007), which tells the story of Ian Curtis, the singer of the band »Joy Division«, the multi talent has become an indispensable part of the film scene. He achieved further critical acclaim as a feature film director with movies such as »The American« (2010) and »A Most Wanted Man« (2014), the film adaptation of the John-le-Carré novel with Philip Seymour Hoffman and Nina Hoss in the leading roles. Both film scores were composed by the German musician Herbert Grönemeyer. Corbijn's films and photographs have been featured in numerous photo books.

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STANLEY GREENE THE WESTERN FRONT

With »The Western Front« the American photo journalist Stanley Greene created a unique documentation of the Punk scene in San Francisco. From 1975–85 he turned to this project again and again and through this established an authentic insight into the sub culture and music scene of the time. His works take us to the Mabuhay Gardens Night Club and Savoy Tivoli and shows us the madness of art, music and performance that together formed Punk. Nick Cave, The Ramones, the Cramps und Metallica are just a few of the protagonists.

VITA

The photojournalist Stanley Greene (born 1949 in Brooklyn, New York, died 2017 in Paris) developed his political engagement as a youth and was a member of the Black Panthers as well as an anti-Vietnam-war activist. He gained first recognition through his unique photographic documentation of the Punk scene in San Francisco of the 70s and 80s. This extensive series led to the publication »The Western Front« (André Frère Éditions, 2014). Greene studied in the 1970s with fellow photographers Nan Goldin and Godlis. His encounter with the photographer W. Eugene Smith ignited his passion for photojournalism. Soon after he started to document countless aspects of the downfall of communism and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Later he photographed in India, Rwanda, former Zaire, Iraq, Sudan, Darfur, Afghanistan, Kashmir and Lebanon. From 1994 to 2001 he dedicated himself to the photographic documentation of the war in Chechnya. In 2009 his autobiographical photo book »Black Passport« was published by Schilt Publishing, Amsterdam, edited by Teun van der Heijden (concept and interviews).

Greene who was co-founder of the photo agency NOOR won numerous awards with his photographic work: He won the World Press Photo Award five times, was awarded with the W. Eugene Smith Grant in Humanistic Photography. In 2011 he was honoured with the Pipak (International Prize Albert Kahn Planet), the Katrina Media Fellowship of the Open Society Institute in 2006 and the Alicia Patterson Fellowship in 2004. In 2013 he received the Aftermath Project scholarship in order to continue his work in Caucasus. This year he held the Sem Presser keynote during the 2017 World Press Photo Award ceremony. Stanley Greene recently passed away on 19 May in Paris.

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BOB GRUEN

JOHN LENNON

In the 1970s Bob Gruen became a close friend of John Lennon and Yoko Ono and became their personal photographer. During this time, he captured numerous moments of their personal and professional life. In 1974 he created the iconic image of John Lennon standing in front of the skyline with folded arms wearing a New York T-shirt. Undoubtedly Gruen is considered one of the most important photographers of the US music scene in the 1970s.

VITA

The photographic oeuvre of the US-American Bob Gruen mostly consists of images showing famous Rock'n'Roll musicians such as John Lennon, Led Zeppelin, The Rolling Stones, Elton John or Tina Turner, just to name a few. The self-taught photographer documented over 40 years of music history and achieved worldwide acclaim for his photographs. In the 1970s he was the chief photographer of »Rock Scene Magazine« and dedicated himself to authentic photo features revealing the life of musicians behind the scenes. During this time, he toured with emerging Punk and New Wave bands, including the New York Dolls, Sex Pistols, Clash, Ramones, Patti Smith Group and Blondie.

His works have been featured in national and international exhibitions, including Sotheby's S/2 Gallery, London (2015), the Centro Cultural, Borges, (2011), the Folkwang Museum, Essen (2010), and the Brooklyn Museum of Art (2009). Additionally, his work has been published in books, such as »See Hear Yoko« by Bob Gruen and Jody Denberg (Harper Collins, Spring 2015), »Rock Seen« (Harry Abrams, Inc, Fall 2011), »John Lennon: The New York Years« (becker&mayer!, 2005), or »The Clash: Photographs by Bob Gruen« (Music Sales, 2004).

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GIJSBERT HANEKROOT

1970s VINTAGE PORTRAITS AND DAVID BOWIE

The photographs of Gijsbert Hanekroot capture moments of concerts, studio recordings, portraits, and images that were created during press conferences. The core selection for **ROCK.PUNK.FUNK.** presents vintage photographs that were originally published in various magazines. The presentation of his work is complemented by unique portraits of David Bowie.

VITA

The Dutch photographer Gijsbert Hanekroot was born in Brussels in 1945 and is a great example of a career Rock'n'Roll photographer. Since the end of the 1960s he has accumulated an astounding photo archive with images from the 1960s to the 1980s. His career began before the establishment of the commercial musical industry, as we know it today. Hanekroot's development as a photographer paralleled the analogue music scene in which a new music group was discovered on an almost weekly basis. On his many trips he photographed musical icons of the time that he met along the way. After Hanekroot ended his career as a photographer in 1983, he dedicated himself to the digitalization of his archive and published the book »Abba to Zappa: Seventies Rock Photography« in 2008 with the unique design of SYB, Sybren Kuiper. In 2017 he published the book »David Bowie – The Seventies« and a new publication is in the making, »Patti Smith by Hanekroot.« His works have been presented in international solo and group exhibitions at venues including Noorderlicht Photography in Groningen, Blitz Gallery in Tokyo and the Lumiere Brothers Center for Photography in Moscow.

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BARBARA KLEMM

PORTRAITS, CONCERTS, AND CLUBS

With her ability to capture the moment Barbara Klemm hasn't only documented scenes of political life but also concerts, icons of music culture and the opening of the legendary club Dorian Gray in Frankfurt. She photographed the most radiant goddesses and gods of Rock music on stage such as Tina Turner, Janis Joplin, The Rolling Stones, Udo Lindenberg, Pink Floyd, Isaac Hayes, Bob Dylan, and Sade.

VITA

Barbara Klemm was born in Münster/Westphalia in 1939 and is a renowned German photojournalist. After her training in a studio for portrait photography in Karlsruhe, she moved to Frankfurt/Main and worked in the photo lab of the newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ). Inspired by the photographer Wolfgang Haut she dedicated herself to journalistic photography and worked as a freelance photographer. From 1970 she worked as an editorial photographer for the FAZ. Her black-and-white photographs were to be found in the political and cultural newspaper sections and some of her images have become image icons within collective memory. Moreover, she created imposing portraits and landscape photographs that reflect the cultural impressions of her travels. Klemm's works have been presented in many national and international group and solo exhibitions and have been honoured with a great number of accolades. The opening exhibition of the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt in 1984 presented a retrospective of her images; in 2012 thousands of visitors came to see her retrospective at the Martin Gropius Bau in Berlin. Barbara Klemm is a member of the Akademie der Künste in Berlin and an honorary professor at the University of Applied Sciences Darmstadt. The photographer lives and works in Frankfurt/Main.

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GÜNTER & FELIX PFANNMÜLLER

ROCK AM RING / ROCK IM PARK

The legendary German Rock festival »Rock am Ring« attracts over 100,000 people each year. The Frankfurt-based photographer Günter Pfannmüller and his son have had free access to the front and back of the stage since 2009 and have photographed rock legends such as Metallica, Jay Z and Seeded. The magnificent images of the crowd and elaborate stage settings from unusual perspectives give a feeling for the surreal atmospheric experience of this mega music event.

VITA

Günter Pfannmüller was born in Frankfurt am Main in 1950. In 1980 – after his training in photo design – he established the photo studio Pfannmüller in Frankfurt. Commissioned works for national and international corporations, advertising agencies, magazines and newspapers such as Zeit Magazin, Frankfurter Rundschau, Brigitte, Cosmopolitan, Stern, Marie Claire, or Le Figaro take him across the world to this day. In 1992 he initiated the long-term project »In Search of Dignity.« Equipped with a mobile photo studio he travels through Bangladesh, Bhutan, Ethiopia, India, Myanmar or Thailand. Next to his commission work, he has also published a number of photo books about Burma (1982), Ceylon (1985), Rajasthan (1988), and Bhutan (2006). In 2002 he published the book »In Search of Dignity« with the Zweitausendeins publishing house. In 2005 the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt dedicated a one-man show to this series. In 2017 his large scale photographic portraits of Myanmar were exhibited at the 2017 Yangon Photo Festival in Yangon (Rangoon). Since 2009 he has been working on the project documenting the festivals Rock am Ring and Rock im Park with his son Felix. In 2011 the photo book »25 Jahre Rock am Ring« (25 years of Rock am Ring) was published.

VITA

Felix Pfannmüller was born in Frankfurt am Main in 1982. In 2009 he finished his studies of visual communication at the European School of Design in Frankfurt. During his studies he was awarded by the Art Directors Club for his work »Der Gläserne Bürger« (the transparent citizen). In the same year he changed to the Staatliche Hochschule für Gestaltung in Karlsruhe led by Professor Peter Sloterdijk. He completed his studies with photographic and graphic works under the professors Florian Pfeffer (Amsterdam), Tania Prill (Zurich), and Chris Rehberger (Berlin). He launched his career at Jung von Matt in Berlin, where he was responsible for clients such as the Sparkasse and Nikon. Since 2014 he is a creative director at the Berlin advertising agency Heimat where he is responsible for the client Hornbach.

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DEREK RIDGERS LONDON PUNK

Fascinated by the music and punk scene of the 1970s in London, the British photographer Derek Ridgers documented the beginnings of Adam and the Ants, The Slits, Penetration, The Clash, and Damn. With a selection of his street portraits **ROCK.FUNK.PUNK.** gives insights into the London Punk scene of the 1970s. Additionally, the exhibition shows unique views of music icons including Debbie Harry, Iggy Pop, and Nina Hagen.

VITA

Derek Ridgers, born 1952 in Chiswick, West London, studied graphic design at the Ealing School of Art, London from 1967–71. After completing his studies he worked in the advertising industry and was an art director for ten years before he solely dedicated himself to photography. At this time he worked for the British music magazines NME and The Face. He became well known for his photographs of the music, film, and club/street culture – he photographed stars such as James Brown, Clint Eastwood and Johnny Depp, but also gangsters, artists, and athletes. He also photographed the subcultures of British society: Skinheads, the Fetish scene, Clubs, Punks, and New Romantics. Next to his editorial work Ridgers also is commissioned to photograph music, film stars and fashion. He primarily works for NME, but also other national newspapers and publications. He has photographed artists such as Frank Zappa, John Lee Hooker, The Ramones, Prince, The Spice Girls, JG Ballard, Richard Harris, and Martin Amis.