



The Music Photo Gallery breaks the artificial glass ceiling of the photo art world with its presentation of the powerful photographs by Bob Gruen and Daniel Kramer of music legends. Photography, like much else, has its hierarchies and photographs of musicians have traditionally been left out of the history of photography books. But, a photograph of Tina Turner on stage by Bob Gruen is as monumental as a mountain by Ansel Adams and a picture of Bob Dylan embracing Joan Baez backstage by Dan Kramer is as tender and as beautiful as a photograph by W. Eugene Smith, who, incidentally was Kramer's mentor.

Connection is at the heart of music - both the sound and the image. Mick Jagger noted that the goal of rock and roll is to keep it "real, sincere and heartfelt" and there cannot be a better description of the intimate, exhilarating and rare vintage photographs by Gruen and Kramer, many of which are on exhibition in Europe for the first time.

Bob Gruen's photographs are the result of, not just his all-access press pass, but of who he is: a master photographer with sensitivity, understanding and the ability to connect in an honest way with person in front of his camera. Bob Gruen's "super power" is that he is truly liked by musicians. He understands them as performers and as individuals. Just look at his photographs of John and Yoko. Because John and Yoko let Bob into their lives, we can experience the joy of their love and creativity. Gruen's photographs are exhilarating and it is a rare and beautiful privilege to see them at the Music Photo Gallery.

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The young Daniel Kramer and the young Bob Dylan shared a year of creativity and exploration. They connected in 1964-1965 as they were becoming masters of their crafts. Kramer described his work as documenting Dylan's "state of creative evolution" as he went from being a folk-music hero to a rock and roller. Dylan did not like being photographed. It was, as he said, "a waste of his precious time."

Kramer, who apprenticed with Allan and Diane Arbus and Philippe Halsman, regularly showed his Dylan photographs to W. Eugene Smith, the most demanding of mentors. It hardly mattered to Smith the subject of the picture. It was the power of the photograph that was relevant - and the quality of the print. Smith went frame by frame through the Dylan contact sheets and was constantly tearing up Kramer's prints and demanding he go back into the darkroom and do better. On exhibition in London this May are the results of Kramer's hours in the darkroom.

Music photographs have traditionally been known through reproduction: magazines, album covers, posters and newly made digital prints. The Music Photo Gallery has championed vintage gelatine-silver prints, made close to the time the negative was exposed. There is something magical knowing that the light that bounced off these musical "gods" has made its way onto the prints on view at the Music Photo Gallery this May at Photo London.

Gail Buckland, former curator of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain, is an author, professor and curator. She is the author and curator of *Who Shot Rock & Roll: A Photographic History, 1955-Present* which opened at the Brooklyn Museum in 2009 and traveled to numerous art museums.



BOB GRUEN
Chuck Berry. NYC, 1971
One of a Kind Vintage Work
Silver Gelatin Print Mounted on Masonite
Size: 30 x 40inch
Stamped & signed on verso by the artist



BOB GRUEN
Tina Turner. NYC, 1970
One of a Kind Vintage Work
Silver Gelatin Print Mounted on Masonite
Size: 30 x 40inch
Stamped & signed on verso by the artist



BOB GRUEN
Debbie Harry. NYC, 1976
One of a Kind Vintage Artwork
Silver Gelatin Print Mounted on Masonite
Size: 30 x 40 inch
Stamped & signed on verso by the artist



BOB GRUEN

Born in New York in 1945, is one of the most respected and well-known photographers in rock and roll. He has captured the music scene for forty years in photographs that have gained worldwide recognition. He began photographing rock stars with Bob Dylan and served as John Lennon's personal photographer during his time in New York City.

As chief photographer for Rock Scene Magazine in the 70s, Bob specialized in behind the scenes photo features. He toured extensive with major rock acts such as Led Zeppelin, The Who, David Bowie, Tina Turner, Elton John, Aerosmith, Kiss and Alice Cooper as well as with the emerging punk and new wave bands including the New York Dolls, Sex Pistols, Clash, Ramones, Patti Smith Group and Blondie. As an active freelancer for other magazines like Cream, Melody Maker and Rolling Stone among others.

Bob's photographs have appeared on the covers and filled the pages of many of these seminal publications capturing the whole scene; on stage, offstage, on tour, at parties, at play, at home and relaxing.

His unassuming behind-the-lens figure embedded himself with rock bands so deeply that in some cases he was regarded as a virtual member.



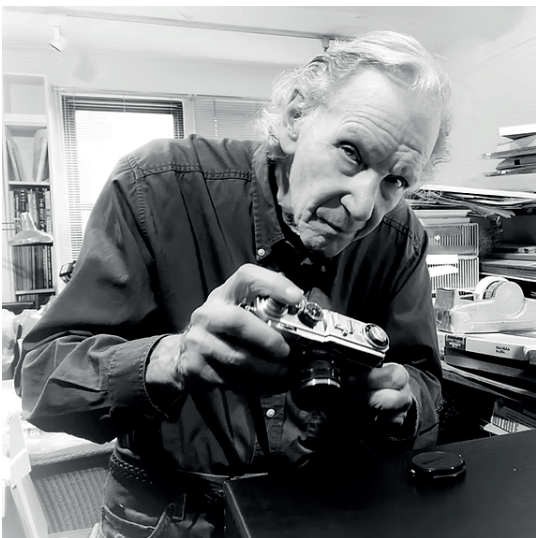
DANIEL KRAMER
Bob Dylan Portrait with Dark Glasses
New York, 1964
One of a Kind Vintage Work
Silver Gelatin Print | Size: 11x 14 inch
Stamped & signed on verso by the artist



DANIEL KRAMER
Bob Dylan and Joan Baez Dancing
New York, 1964
One of a Kind Vintage Work
Silver Gelatin Print | Size: 11x 14 inch
Stamped & signed on verso by the artist



DANIEL KRAMER
Bob Dylan at "Bringing it All Back Home"
Recording Session, New York, 1965
One of a Kind Vintage Work
Silver Gelatin Print | Size: 11x 14 inch
Stamped & signed on verso by the artist



Daniel Kramer

We are honored to continue the legacy of the late Daniel Kramer — a master photographer, expert printer, and dear friend whose talent left a lasting impact on photography.

Best known for his iconic collaboration with Bob Dylan in the early 1960s, Daniel's creative work extended far beyond. A self-taught artist born in Brooklyn in 1932, he apprenticed with Philippe Halsman and Allan and Diane Arbus before gaining international acclaim. Over the years, he photographed major cultural figures such as Janis Joplin, Johnny Cash, Joan Baez, Pete Seeger, and many others, and also directed several documentaries.

Most of Daniel's archive remained unpublished during his lifetime, as per his wishes. Today, in close collaboration with his family, The Music Photo Gallery is proud to unveil this extraordinary body of work and ensure his legacy continues to inspire future generations.

Since 2020, we have proudly represented his vintage archive and remain committed to preserving and sharing his contribution to the art of photography.



Bob Gruen at his exhibition at Greenwich Art Barn in Greenwich CT, 1974

ABOUT THE MUSIC PHOTO GALLERY

The Music Photo Gallery (TMPG) seeks to validate music photography as Fine Art Photography. Representing the most important photographers of music history worldwide, whose work captured the culture and popular idols of the 60's, 70's and 80's in the USA.

Based in New York City and co-working from Buenos Aires, TMPG creates, produces, and develops original cultural content in innovative formats partnering with artists, photographers, filmmakers, curators, local producers, writers, designers, and professionals from all related areas, in order to legitimize the music photography genre as an accepted fine art expression.

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