



**SOUTHAMPTON ARTS CENTER PRESENTS
*A MOMENT IN TIME: ICONIC IMAGES BY HARRY BENSON***

Open through July 15th, 2023, the exhibition presents a survey of the photographer who captured the Beatles, U.S. politicians, and icons of Hollywood for more than 70 years

The exhibition is accompanied by special programming, including a film screening and artist talk.



The Beatles on the night they learned "I Want to Hold Your Hand" was number one on the American Charts.
Photographed at the George V Hotel, Paris @Harry Benson 1964

(Southampton, New York) Currently on view at Southampton Arts Center through July 15th. *A Moment in Time: Iconic Images by Harry Benson* presents a survey of the 93-year-old Scottish photojournalist's photographs of behind-the-scenes moments of some of the most important civil rights leaders, politicians, musicians, celebrities, and athletes from the 1950s to today. Intimate portraits of Jacqueline Kennedy, President John F. Kennedy, Sir Winston Churchill,

Michael Jackson, Dolly Parton, Al Pacino, Arnold Palmer, Queen Elizabeth II, Barbara Streisand, and other headline-grabbing names of history and pop culture are on view. Curated by San Francisco-based curator Sally Martin Katz, the exhibition shares moments from many of the most significant global events in the 20th and 21st centuries, including the Beatles' first U.S. visit; marching with Martin Luther King Jr. for Civil Rights; and the building and later destruction of the Berlin Wall.

Marking Southampton Art Center's second exhibition of its 10th anniversary year, the show offers insights into the award-winning photojournalist through a wide range of works spanning his seven-decade career. Benson began his professional journey in the early 1950s at the weekly Scottish tabloid newspaper *Hamilton Advertiser*, Glasgow, before moving to the British-based *Daily Sketch*, the predecessor of today's *The Daily Mail*, after his 1958 infamous and exclusive interviews in prison with Scottish mass murderer Peter Manual. In 1964, he traveled to the United States with the Beatles, and never looked back.

Given unprecedented access, he has photographed every U.S. president from Eisenhower to Joe Biden; was just feet away from Bobby Kennedy the night he was assassinated; in the room with Richard Nixon when he resigned; next to Coretta Scott King as her husband's coffin exited the plane in Atlanta, GA., on maneuvers with the IRA; and very early on documented the starvation in Somalia and the USA for Africa music fest to help end it. Benson served under contract to *LIFE* magazine for 30 years and has captured iconic images for other major magazines including *Architectural Digest*, *Forbes*, *French Vogue*, *Newsweek*, *Paris Match*, *People*, *Quest*, *The London Sunday Times Magazine*, *TIME*, *Town & Country*, and *Vanity Fair*.

Harry Benson comments, "*It was a challenge to choose photographs from my 75-year career, which hopefully will surprise, delight, and engage the viewer, and lead to animated discussions of memorable times past. It is a challenge I accepted.*"

Executive Director of Southampton Arts Center Christina Mossaides Strassfield shares, "*Visitors have shared with us just how much they enjoy the exhibition, and the chance to see some of the most groundbreaking moments in history through the lens of Harry Benson. Our exhibition highlights so much more than photography — it's about the man behind the camera, his experiences with some of the most notable people, places, and events in a generation.*"

Alongside the exhibition, Southampton Arts Center will present special programming with Harry Benson including a film screening of the Magnolia Pictures' documentary by Matthew Miele and Justin Bare, *Harry Benson: Shoot First!*. In the film, Benson brings viewers behind-the-scenes of the important events of the last half of the 20th century. Notable figures like Joe Namath, Sharon Stone, Bryant Gumbel, and Ralph Lauren, weigh in on working with the legendary photographer. The museum will also host an artist talk with Harry Benson in conversation with curator Sally Martin Katz, before a closing reception on July 15. Each program will include a book signing with Harry Benson for the books *Paul* and *The Beatles*.

Curator Sally Martin Katz shares, "*Benson's work is notable for his ability to be at the right place at the right time and to create images that capture the ethos of their era. His photographs provide insight into the watershed events of his lifetime and into the characters of*

the people who have shaped our culture and our history. It is thrilling to be able to share these images with the visitors of Southampton Arts Center.”

For more information, visit southamptonartscenter.org/harry-benson.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Southampton Arts Center

Southampton Arts Center is committed to community building through the arts. We present and produce inspiring, inclusive, socially and regionally relevant programs across all disciplines – welcoming, connecting, and collaborating with the diverse members of New York’s East End community and beyond. SAC is a not for profit 501(c)(3) organization.

For more information about Southampton Arts Center, located at 25 Jobs Lane, Southampton, New York 11968, visit southamptonartscenter.org or call 631.283.0967. Follow SAC on Facebook and Instagram @southamptonartscenter.

About Harry Benson

Scottish photojournalist Harry Benson has been documenting some history’s most iconic moment for more than seven decades. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including a 2013 Honorary Doctor of Letters from The University of St. Andrews, Scotland. On January 1, 2009, Benson was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and received his honor at Buckingham Palace in March. In London in November 2009 Benson received an Honorary Fellowship in the Royal Photographic Society. Benson was honored with a Doctor of Letters from the Glasgow School of Art and Glasgow University in 2007. Twice named NPPA Magazine Photographer of the Year, he received the 2005 LUCIE Award for Lifetime Achievement in Portrait Photography; the 2005 AMERICAN PHOTO Magazine Award for Achievement in Photography; the 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Scottish Press Photographers Association; and has twice received the Leica Medal of Excellence.

He has had 40 gallery solo exhibitions and fourteen books of his photographs have been published. His photographs are in the permanent collection of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh, and the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, both museums hosted his *Harry Benson: Being There* exhibition (2006-7). A major retrospective exhibition of Harry’s photographs was at Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow from June to September, 2008. Benson lives in Wellington, Florida with his wife, Gigi, who works with him on his book and exhibition projects. Their two daughters, Wendy and Tessa, live and work in Los Angeles.

About Sally Martin Katz

Sally Martin Katz is a curator based in San Francisco. For the past five years she has been working in the photography department at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA). Concurrently, she is a PhD candidate in Art History, specializing in History of Photography, at the Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne. As an independent curator, one of

her current projects is guest curating the Louis Stettner retrospective at the Fundación MAPFRE in Madrid, opening May 2023, and she is the author of the exhibition catalogue. She has co-edited several books, including *American Geography: Photographs of Land Use from 1840 to the Present* (2021), *snap+share: transmitting photographs from mail art to social networks* (2019), and *Louis Stettner: Traveling Light* (2018), which accompanied the exhibitions at SFMOMA. While living in Paris, she worked at the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson and the Musée du Louvre. Originally from New York City, Martin Katz received a BA in Art History and French Literature from Brown University and earned an MA in Art History and an MFA in Photography from the Sorbonne.

Sponsors

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Upcoming Programming and Events

Friday, July 7th, 6 pm

'Harry Benson: Shoot First' Film Screening with the artist in attendance
Book signing to follow

Saturday, July 15th, 4 pm

Harry Benson & Sally Martin Katz in-conversation, booksigning to follow.
Closing reception to be held from 5 to 7 pm.

Please RSVP to ttrauner@fitzandco.com

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