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Announcing Elaine Mayes, Photographer Who Captured 1960s Rock and Roll, as FotoFocus's Spring Visiting Artist

Mayes Joins Kevin Moore in Conversation at FotoFocus on Tuesday, April 14, Followed by the SECOND SCREENS Film Presentation of Monterey Pop



Elaine Mayes, Robert Mapplethorpe, 1982. © Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation

(Cincinnati, OH — March 3, 2020) — [FotoFocus](#), the nonprofit arts organization championing photography and lens-based art, is pleased to announce that renowned American photographer **Elaine Mayes** will be the next artist in the organization's **Lecture and Visiting Artist Series**.

Mayes will join FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator Kevin Moore for a conversation at **FotoFocus** in the **Lightborne Studios** on **Tuesday, April 14**, at **7PM**, and show a selection of her Monterey Pop Festival photographs in the new FotoFocus Gallery. The talk will be followed by a screening of *Monterey Pop* (1968), presented as part of FotoFocus's free monthly film series *SECOND SCREENS*, and a Q&A session with the artist.

Elaine Mayes began her extensive career in the 1960s, capturing intimate portraits of youth counterculture during the 'Summer of Love' in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury District. She documented the thousands of like-minded people who ushered in a new American era, and Mayes' powerful black-and-white photographs went on to be exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York decades later.

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Mayes turned her lens toward music also in the late 1960s, capturing rock and roll musicians at a turning point in music history. Her photographs of Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, The Mamas and The Papas, and Otis Redding from the 1967 Monterey Pop Festival remain among the period's most notable artifacts. She eventually became Steve Miller Band's official photographer and continued to shoot the music scene in the 1980s, capturing New York's thriving Punk and New-Wave era. More recently, she produced the conceptual documentary *Summers with Helen* (2017) about her friendship with artist and photographer Helen Levitt (1912-2009).

The conversation with Mayes and Moore will be followed by a screening of *Monterey Pop* (1968), D.A. Pennebaker's concert film documenting the same 1967 Monterey Pop Festival that Mayes recorded on camera. The film will be a new 4k restoration that highlights performances by Janis Joplin, Otis Redding and more in glorious surround sound. This will be the fourth screening in FotoFocus's *SECOND SCREENS* series, which launched in January 2020 to celebrate the non-profit organization's tenth anniversary and expand its mission of promoting lens-based art to fully encompass film, video, and the moving image.

"We are honored to welcome Elaine to Cincinnati and announce her addition to our ever-expanding lecture series. Few artists have been able to translate the feeling of the Summer of Love quite the way she has, and I look forward to watching *Monterey Pop* having listened to her recollections in person. It will be a very special evening," says **Mary Ellen Goeke, FotoFocus Executive Director**.

SCHEDULE - TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020

FotoFocus, 212 East 14th Street, Cincinnati, OH

- 6:00PM - Free public reception and exhibition opening
- 7:00PM - Elaine Mayes in conversation with Kevin Moore
- 7:30PM - *SECOND SCREENS* film: *Monterey Pop*
- 9:00PM - Q&A and final thoughts

The exhibition of Mayes' photographs will be on view from **April 14 through August 31, 2020**.

The evening's events are **free and open to the public**. For more information, please visit fotofocus.org.



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Elaine Mayes' photographs from the 1967 Monterey Pop Music Festival. **Left:** Otis Redding. **Middle top:** Jimi Hendrix. **Middle bottom:** Janis Joplin. **Right:** Pete Townshend of *The Who*.

ABOUT ELAINE MAYES

Elaine Mayes (b. 1936, Berkeley, CA) has been an active visual artist since 1960. Mayes majored in painting and art history at Stanford University and then studied at the San Francisco Art Institute with John Collier, Jr. Paul Hassel, Minor White, Nathan Oliviera and Richard Diebenkorn. Between 1961 and 1968 she was an independent photographer working for San Francisco magazines and graphic designers. In 1967 and 1968 she photographed rock and roll, the 'Summer of Love', and San Francisco's Haight Ashbury District scene. One of her assignments was to photograph the Monterey Pop Festival, a benchmark for rock and popular music, and these photographs were published in her book *It Happened In Monterey* (Britannia Press, 2003).

Mayes' photographs have been exhibited extensively with recent major installations at the Contemporary Museum in Honolulu, Fototage Internationale in Mannheim, Germany, a showing at Robert Burge Twentieth Century Photographs in New York City, and inclusion in a group exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Elaine has received a number of awards including three grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship. She also was awarded funding for Hawaiian images and book production from The Atherton Foundation. Her work is included in a number of nationwide museum collections including The Boston Museum of Fine Arts, The Museum of Modern Art and The Metropolitan Museum in New York City.

Mayes is Professor Emerita at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she was Chair of the Photography Department from 1997 until her retirement in 2001.

ABOUT FOTOFOCUS

FotoFocus is a Cincinnati-based nonprofit arts organization that champions photography and lens-based art through exhibitions and public programming. Since 2010, the organization has engaged art and educational institutions throughout the region to support and expand the cultural dialogue around the medium that has come to define our time. With an emphasis on intellectually and academically rigorous programs, the organization provides uniquely enriching access to lens-based art, film, and practices inspired by photography. FotoFocus has collaborated with hundreds of organizations, curators, academics, and artists to present more than **1000** exhibitions and programs, having contributed funding for the majority. The organization has brought hundreds of internationally-renowned photographers to the Greater Cincinnati region. Signature programming includes **FotoFocus Biennial**, the **FotoFocus Symposium**, the **FotoFocus Lecture and Visiting Artist Series**, and **SECOND SCREENS**.

FotoFocus brings photography and lens-based art programming to its hometown of Cincinnati year-round. In 1996, FotoFocus founders launched the Lecture and Visiting Artist Series. Every lecture is free and open to the public with a special emphasis on student engagement. Previous speakers in the series have included Zoe Leonard, Doug Aitken, Jo Ann Callis, Gregory Crewdson, Thomas Demand, Philip-Lorca diCorcia, Roe Ethridge, Larry Fink, Michael Kenna, Laurie Simmons, David Benjamin Sherry, Paul Graham, Barbara Kasten, Todd Hido, Tina Barney, Alec Soth, John Waters, Doug + Mike Starn, Joyce Tenneson, and William Wegman.

ABOUT SECOND SCREENS

SECOND SCREENS is a new free monthly film series presented by FotoFocus across Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky every second Tuesday in 2020. Spearheaded by FotoFocus Film Curator at

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Large, C. Jacqueline Wood, *SECOND SCREENS* celebrates the non-profit organization's tenth anniversary and expands its mission of promoting lens-based art to fully encompass film, video, and the moving image. Screenings include *Varda by Agnès* (2019), *Days of Heaven* (1978), since its inception in January 2020.

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PRESS CONTACTS

Jill Robinson

Senior Account Executive, Cultural Counsel

jill@culturalcounsel.com

Isinsu Kuzalti

Account Coordinator

isinsu@culturalcounsel.com