



aperturefoundation

**MEDIA ALERT**



**APERTURE AND  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARY PRESENT**

***THE BLACK PANTHERS:  
MAKING SENSE OF HISTORY***  
**Photographs by Stephen Shames**

Aperture is pleased to announce **The Black Panthers** exhibition featuring photographs by **Stephen Shames** from his Aperture book of the same title. During the height of the Civil Rights movement, from 1967 to 1973, photographer Stephen Shames had unprecedented access to the Black Panther Party through his close friendship with the Panthers and Bobby Seale in particular, and captured not only its public face—street demonstrations, protests, and militant armed posturing—but also unscripted behind-the-scenes moments, from private Party meetings held in its headquarters to Bobby Seale at work on his mayoral campaign in Oakland. Shames’s work offers an uncommonly nuanced portrait of this dynamic social movement, during one of the most tumultuous periods in U.S. history.

Coinciding with the show and the celebration of the **40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party’s Seattle Chapter**, Aperture is organizing a panel discussion on **Thursday, April 24**, gathering key figures and experts of this chapter: **Aaron Dixon**, co-founder of the Party’s Seattle Chapter; Seattle City Councilmember **Larry Gossett**, co-founder of the University of Washington Black Student Union; **James Gregory**, director of the Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project; and **Janet Jones**, coordinator of the Seattle Black Panther Party History and Memory Project.

On **Friday, April 25**, **Stephen Shames** will discuss his intensely engaging work through an exhibit tour of the show and what he learned from the Panthers about leadership and community.

**Stephen Shames** is an award-winning photographer and social activist whose photographs have been published in numerous major publications and are in the permanent collections of the International Center of Photography, New York; National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.; Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego; and Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. He has received awards from Kodak (Crystal Eagle for Impact in Photojournalism), World Hunger Year, Leica, International Center of Photography, and the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Foundation. Shames's other publications with Aperture are: *Pursuing the Dream*, *Outside the Dream*, and *Empower Zone*. He is represented by Polaris Images, and the Stephen Kasher Gallery, New York.

**WHEN AND WHERE:**

**Exhibition on view:**

**Wednesday, April 2, 2008 — Saturday, May 31, 2008**

**Exhibit Tour with Stephen Shames:**

**Friday, April 25, 4:00 p.m.**

**Odegaard Library**

University of Washington Library  
Seattle, Washington  
(206) 543-2990

**Panel Discussion: Thursday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.**

**Henry Art Gallery**

University of Washington  
15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE & NE 41<sup>st</sup> St.  
Seattle, Washington  
(206) 543-2280

**FREE**

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