

Renowned rock 'n' roll photographer coming to Cincinnati for FotoFocus lecture, exhibition



By [Nikki Kengery](#) – Projects Editor, Cincinnati Business Courier
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A photographer known for her images of rock 'n' roll icons and '60s counterculture is coming to Cincinnati next month as part of an exhibition and lecture series by FotoFocus, a nonprofit that supports lens-based art.

American photographer Elaine Mayes will join FotoFocus artistic director and curator Kevin Moore for a conversation at 7 p.m. April 14 in the Lightborne Studios, located at 212 E. 14th St. in Over-the-Rhine. The event is free and open to the public.

Mayes will show a selection of her Monterey Pop Festival photographs in the new FotoFocus Gallery. The talk will be followed by a screening of D.A. Pennebaker's

documentary concert film “Monterey Pop” (1968), presented as part of FotoFocus’s free monthly film series Second Screens, as well and a question-and-answer session.

Mayes began her career in the 1960s, capturing portraits of youth counterculture during the “Summer of Love” in San Francisco’s Haight-Ashbury District. Decades later, her black-and-white photographs went on to be exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Mayes also captured rock ‘n’ roll musicians such as Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, the Mamas and the Papas, and Otis Redding. She eventually became the official photographer for the Steve Miller Band. In the 1980s, she captured 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).

“We are honored to welcome Elaine to Cincinnati and announce her addition to our ever-expanding lecture series,” Ellen Goeke, FotoFocus executive director, said in a news release. “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.”

If you go:

- 6 p.m. – Free public reception and exhibition opening
- 7 p.m. Photographer Elaine Mayes in conversation with curator Kevin Moore
- 7:30 p.m. – Showing of documentary “Monterey Pop” as part of Second Screens series
- 9 p.m.: Q&A with Mayes

The exhibition of Mayes’ photographs will be on view from April 14-Aug. 31.