



## PANOPTICON GALLERY

Hotel Commonwealth • 502c Commonwealth Avenue • Boston, MA 02215  
Phone: 617-267-8929 • Fax: 617-267-8920  
www.panopt.com • gallery@panopt.com

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Isa Leshko ([marketing@panopt.com](mailto:marketing@panopt.com))

*The Whole World Was Watching*  
**Images from the 1968 Chicago Riots**  
August 21-October 6, 2008  
Reception: Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> 5-7 PM

**July 21, 2008, Boston, MA**-Panopticon Gallery is pleased to present "The Whole World Was Watching: Images from the 1968 Chicago Riots", which consists of dramatic black and white photographs taken by Ron Pownall. The raw and gritty images immediately transport the viewer to a turbulent time in American history and serve as a striking juxtaposition to next month's Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado.

The title of the exhibit refers to the chant used by anti-war protesters taking to the streets in Chicago during the 1968 Democratic National Convention. They had gathered to rally against Hubert Humphrey, who was the presumed (and eventual) Democratic Presidential Nominee, for his support of President Lyndon Johnson's Vietnam War policies. Rioting began when protesters were blocked from marching from Grant Park to the Chicago Convention Center, which was the site of the Democratic Convention. Police used tear gas, mace, and billy clubs against both protesters and innocent bystanders. Footage of the graphic violence was broadcasted unedited by media and captivated the nation. The struggle, which was dubbed the "Battle for Michigan Avenue", became a watershed event in America's cultural consciousness.

In 1968, Pownall had just completed his junior year at Lake Forest College near Chicago when he landed a summer internship with the *Chicago Tribune*. He was initially hired as a darkroom technician but was quickly outfitted with a camera and sent out to cover local news events.

On August 28, 1968, Pownall was assigned to cover a rally for Ted Kennedy but it got cancelled after the Senator declined to pursue the Democratic Presidential Nomination. Looking for a new story, Pownall called the paper and was told to go to Grant Park where an anti-war protest rally was percolating. It wasn't until he reached the park that he appreciated the significance of what was unfolding.

Throughout the day, reporters rendezvoused with Pownall to replenish his film supply and provide food and water so he wouldn't have to leave the park. He had cabbies deliver shot film to the *Chicago Tribune* headquarters for processing. Pownall got through the day unscathed despite his youth and appearance. "I had long hair, but also had press credentials from Mayor Richard Daley's office," recalls Pownall. "The police didn't know what to make of me, but those credentials made me off-limits to their clubs."

That evening when Pownall returned to the paper he was greeted by the paper's photo lab manager Carl Caruso, who said in a concerned voice: "What happened, Kid? Your camera must have jammed!" Pownall nearly fainted before Caruso burst into laughter and showed him the paper's first edition, which was filled with Pownall's images. The images also were distributed by the *Associated Press* and published in newspapers around the world.

Later that summer Pownall began covering music for the *Chicago Tribune*, photographing the likes of Janis Joplin, Jefferson Airplane and Jimi Hendrix. He moved to Boston in 1970, and has worked since then as a freelance music photographer for numerous publications including *Rolling Stone*, *Spin*, *Circus*, *Creem*, *Hit Parader*, *Keyboard*, *People*, and *Newsweek*. In addition, he has been hired by both musicians and major record labels to produce promotional art. His images have been featured on over 300 album and magazine covers. He has photographed many music icons including The Rolling Stones, Bruce Springsteen, Marvin Gaye, Led Zeppelin, Eric Clapton, David Bowie, Ted Nugent, Bob Seger, Bette Midler, Meatloaf, The Cars, Queen, KISS, Tom Petty, and Elton John. In 2001, the Eastman Kodak Company selected six of Pownall's images for their permanent collection entitled, "The Greatest Images of Rock & Roll".

"The Whole World Was Watching" runs concurrently with "Then...Absence", a show consisting of color images of the Ninth Ward in New Orleans taken last year by John Rosenthal. From 5-7 PM on September 18<sup>th</sup>, Panopticon Gallery will host a reception for both shows.

### **About Panopticon Gallery**

Founded in 1971, Panopticon Gallery is one of the oldest galleries in the United States dedicated solely to photography. The gallery specializes in 20th Century American Photography and emerging contemporary photography.

Panopticon Gallery is located in the Hotel Commonwealth at 502c Commonwealth Avenue in Boston. It is conveniently situated near the Kenmore Square T stop on the Green Line. Driving directions are on the gallery web site. The gallery is staffed Tuesday through Friday, 10 AM to 6 PM and Saturday, 11 AM to 5 PM.

### **Photo Captions**

Higher resolution versions attached images are available upon request. When reproducing these images, please use the following captions for these images exactly as they appear below. These images may not be cropped, printed over, or otherwise altered. Reproduction permission is granted only for publicity for this show. No further use of these images is implied or granted without prior written permission.

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"Anti-war Protester Confronts National Guardsmen at Grant Park, Chicago, August 28, 1968" © Ron Pownall courtesy of Panopticon Gallery, Boston, MA

PANOPTICON\_Pownall2.jpg

"Rennie Davis, member of the Chicago Seven, Receives Medical Attention After Being Injured By Police in Grant Park" © Ron Pownall courtesy of Panopticon Gallery, Boston, MA