

NEW YORKER

STEPHEN SHAMES September 16 2016 – October 29 2016



The New York photographer got his start in 1966, documenting the founding and growth of the Black Panther Party, in pictures that emphasized substance while admiring style. Any show of that series of Shames's can't avoid the trivializing tug of radical chic (Angela Davis, Huey Newton, and Bobby Seale are dazzlingly charismatic), but the focus of this smart exhibition is on the Panthers' community service—schools, clinics, and free-food programs—as well as its armed resistance. In light of the Black Lives Matter movement, the show and its related book do more than mark a fiftieth anniversary—they're an inspired call to continue the fight against poverty, racism, and police brutality.