



Albany Institute of History & Art

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NEWS

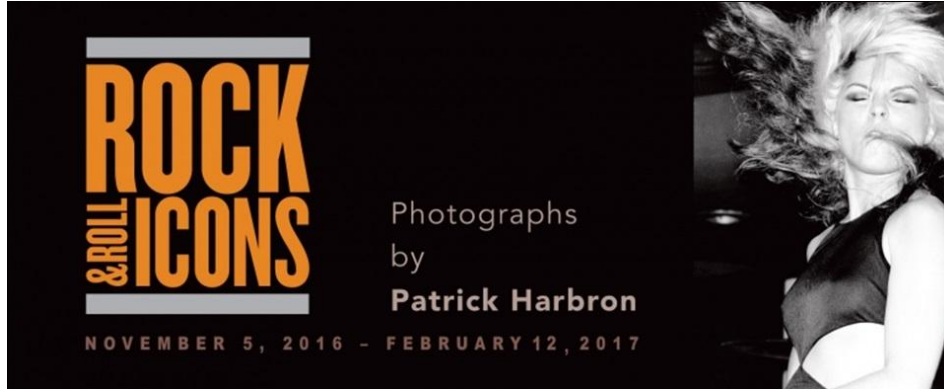
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NEW PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION FOCUSES ON CLASSIC ROCK LEGENDS

Rock and Roll Icons: Photographs by Patrick Harbron is open through February 12, 2017



ALBANY, NEW YORK —Capital region resident Patrick Harbron began his career photographing the luminaries of rock and roll. Rock and Roll Icons: Photographs by Patrick Harbron is an exhibition taken from Harbron's body of concert and portrait photography of influential musicians and groups of the 1970's and 1980's, captured at pivotal moments in their careers. Over 70 prints are paired with the artist's personal collection of concert posters, tickets, press passes, collectibles, and camera equipment. In addition, a selection of important guitars are on loan from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The exhibition is on view at the Albany Institute of History & Art from November 5, 2016— February 12, 2017. Major sponsorship is provided by Bank of America.

He wanted to be a drummer. But in the 1970s, Toronto-born Patrick Harbron traded drum sticks for a camera and hit the road to start photographing rock and roll bands on tour.

“When a friend showed me his camera kit on afternoon, I became fascinated by how the bits and pieces went together,” says Harbron. “Something clicked, no pun intended, and I went downtown and bought a Minolta camera and 136mm lens. That night I photographed The Who. I had no idea what I was doing, but was thrilled by the potential.”

Harbron started experimenting with his photography and soon he found a mentor in an assignment photographer. “Music photography wasn’t really his thing,” Harbron says. “He specialized in fashion and was looking for someone to train and handle the darkroom work in his studio.” This mentorship kick-started Harbron’s photography career and he was soon running his own business.

Employed by record labels and then later acting as an independent consultant, Harbron spent the next two decades on the road and in the studio photographing the most iconic bands of the period. He photographed artists such as Blondie, Rush, Stevie Ray Vaughan, The Police, Bruce Springsteen, and Dire Straits early in their careers, including Rush’s Farewell to Kings tour (1977) and Springsteen’s Darkness On the Edge of Town tour (1978) He followed these artists to prominence but also photographed others that were already well known including The Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Van Halen, Eric Clapton, David Bowie, Queen, The Who, Genesis, KISS, U2, Aerosmith, and Santana. His live performance shots capture the amplified personalities of the musicians onstage as well as the feeling of reverence reverberating through the crowds. “As my work evolved into portraiture for album covers, magazine assignments, and advertising, I realized I was creating photographs and not just taking pictures,” reflects Harbron. His controlled shoots for album covers and promotional pieces gave him rare access to these living legends, an intimacy which is reflected in his work.



Bruce Springsteen by Patrick Harbron, Darkness on the Edge of Town tour, November 16, 1978, Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto



B.B. King by Patrick Harbron, Les Paul and Friends HBO Concert, August 1988, Brooklyn Academy of Music,

All of the images in the exhibition were made on film, some over forty years ago. The work has been published on album, CD and DVD covers, in books, magazines, and for publicity and tour booklets. Over the last several years, Harbron has archived and recreated his negatives and transparencies as high resolution scans. Almost all of the prints shown in Rock & Roll Icons were printed by Harbron in 2016.

Harbron’s photographs have been exhibited in various group collections and solo shows in New York and Los Angeles, most recently at The New York Public Library

of the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center.

“Rock and roll music has been part of the Capital Region for decades,” says Albany Institute curator Diane Shewchuk. “The Who first performed in Albany in 1969 at the Palace Theater. Area residents have also been privileged to have Proctor’s Theater, the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, and the Times Union Center (previously the Knickerbocker Arena and the Pepsi Arena). Everyone from RUSH to Ray Charles to KISS to Bruce Springsteen has performed here. Harbron’s photographs of these musical icons are not only visually stunning, but serve as catalysts for memories of being at concerts with friends. Who doesn’t remember their first concert?”

The exhibition also will include selections from Harbron’s collection of posters and ephemera gathered throughout his career as well as guitars borrowed from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. “We’re honored that the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is lending three guitars to the exhibition,” says Shewchuk. One of the guitars on loan is an autographed Fender Custom Shop Stratocaster from 1988, the first black custom Eric Clapton Signature Strat.



Autographed Fender Custom Shop Stratocaster “Eric Clapton Signature Model,” 1988, Collection of The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, Cleveland, Ohio

Major sponsorship for this exhibition was provided by Bank of America. Additional support has been provided by David & Lois Swawite, Jean & Peter Maloy, Lavelle & Finn, LLP, William M. Harris & Holly A. Katz, Campito Plumbing & Heating, and Digitalx-Press.

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The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. Free parking is available in the museum’s lot at the corner of Elk and Dove Streets.

The exhibition galleries, Museum Shop, and the new Crisan Café at the Albany Institute are open Wednesday 10am-5pm, Thursday 10am-8pm, Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sunday noon-5pm. In addition, the café and museum shop are open Tuesdays from 10am-5pm. The Research Library is open on Thursdays from 1pm-4:30pm and by appointment.

Current admission rates are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students with ID, \$6 for children aged 6-12, and free for children under 6. Albany Institute members are admitted for free. There is no charge to visit the café or museum shop. The museum offers free admission to the galleries on Thursdays from 5pm-8pm and on the First Fridays of the month from 5pm-8pm. In addition, in 2016 admission will be \$2.25 on Saturdays as part of the museum’s 225 anniversary celebration. To learn about other discounts and free admission days, please refer to the Visit section of www.albanyinstitute.org.

For more information, visit www.albanyinstitute.org or call (518) 463-4478.

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Founded in 1791, the Albany Institute of History & Art is New York’s oldest museum. Its collections document the Hudson Valley as a crossroads of culture, influencing the art and history of the region, the state, and the nation. With more than 35,000 objects and one million documents in the library, it is an important resource for the region, giving our community a

sense of the part the Hudson Valley played in the American story, and our own place in history. Permanent and temporary exhibitions are open year-round and create a sense of place, allowing visitors to meet the people who helped shape this region. Among the museum's best-known and most-loved collections are the 19th century Hudson River School landscape paintings by artists like Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, the 19th century sculpture collections, and, of course, the famous Albany Mummies that came to the museum in 1909 and have been on view ever since. For more information, please visit www.albanyinstitute.org and be sure to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute) and Twitter (@AlbanyInstitute).