

“SORRY YOU MISSED THE 60’S”

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED EDITION PHOTOGRAPHY AND BOOK LAUNCH BY UK LEGENDARY PHOTOGRAPHER PHILIP TOWNSEND



“There was life before The Beatles and Swingin’ London and living it was Philip Townsend”
Andrew Loog Oldham, the original manager and genius of The Rolling Stones

The Philip Townsend Archive, a collection of photographs taken by celebrated 60’s photographer Philip Townsend, documenting Sixties London in full swing and capturing some of the most iconic faces of the era, will make an exclusive public appearance in Denmark at Nexus Art Gallery, Uge Bygade 7, 6360 Tinglev.

Townsend’s unique collection of shots includes rock stars, society darlings, models and the political movers and shakers of the day. The rescued works, hidden for forty years, are now being sought by institutions like the National Portrait Gallery and serious print collectors alike. The reason is simple: Philip Townsend’s pictures are the Sixties.

While other photographers took portraits, often closely cropped, Townsend instinctively widened his frame to include backgrounds, landscapes and the sheer feel of the period. A fine example is his portfolio of the fledgling Rolling Stones, including their **first ever** photo sessions in March 1963, when they were broke and hungry, without a recording contract: a band not yet on the run. Townsend bought the young band barbecued chicken and set about fostering the semi-delinquent image which they still cultivate today: through his percipient lens, we see the Stones slouching in an underpass, unsmiling and menacingly backlit, or tilted at a surreal angle against a wall.



As the Sixties swung and the world subverted the old order, Townsend continued to record all the prime people of the time. He moved effortlessly into this nascent world, photographing the Beatles many times, most memorably their first encounter with the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in 1967. He documented the peacock gear they wore, the sleek cars they drove, and the aeroplanes that flew them to fresh horizons.



Philip Townsend Biography

At the age of 20, based in the South of France, Townsend photographed the beautiful people who wintered and watered on the Riviera: Prince Rainier and his Hollywood wife, Princess Grace; Maria Callas, Glenn Ford, German actor Curt Jürgens, David Niven and Sir Alec Guinness. Years later, when the sixties were losing their swing, he returned to capture a memorable shot of a visibly out-of-love Richard Burton at a party with Elizabeth Taylor. Other celebrities of the era who received the Townsend treatment were Twiggy, then a very young ingenue model in the hands of her manager and boyfriend Justin de Villeneuve; Charlotte Rampling, cool and miniskirted; Prince Philip talking to rescue staff, actress Susannah Yorke, Nico before she went to New York and became the muse for Andy Warhol and billionaire Jean Paul Getty.

The exhibition of limited edition silver gelatine prints is also timed to coincide with the release earlier this year of Townsend's first published book, **'Sorry You Missed the Sixties: A Collection of Limited Edition Photographs from The Philip Townsend Archive 1960 - 1970'**. The book chronicles much of Townsend's archive, and is an impressive reflection of not just his work but an observation on the 60's pioneering optimism.

DETAIL:

"Sorry You Missed The 60's" by Philip Townsend – Nexus Kunstcenter, Uge Bygade 7, 6360 Tinglev, Denmark, 6th November – 19th December 2009

*** Philip will be signing copies of his book "Sorry You Missed The '60's" from 2 p.m. till 5 p.m. Friday 6th November at Nexus Kunstcenter (11a.m on 13th June and 14th June)***
(www.nexuskunstcenter.dk | www.philiptownsend.com)

****Exclusives available ** for press enquiries please contact Kent Lauritsen mail@nexuskunstcenter.dk, +45 23 27 25 12 or Russell Parker Russell_parker1979@yahoo.co.uk +44 7595 302 472.**



"A treasure trove of rock history" The London Times | "An amazing archive of evocative images that have been hidden for 40 years" Sunday Express | "One of the World's most celebrated showbiz photographers" The Daily Mirror | "Philip Townsend, one of the era's most acclaimed photographers" Yorkshire Post | "Philip Townsend, world class portrait photographer" GQ