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STEPHEN SHAMES

Shames was a student at U.C. Berkeley in 1967, when he began photographing the Black Panthers, and his pictures of the group and its leaders reflect a shared commitment. His friendship with Panther leader Bobby Seale, whom he calls his “surrogate dad,” gained Shames the sort of behind-the-scenes access every photojournalist dreams of. But the intimate moments here only serve to emphasize the organization’s tough, tenacious public face. For a group so fixated on image, it’s no surprise that what’s most striking about the Panthers today is their flawless style sense. Without compromising his dedication to the cause, Shames took some of the most thrilling fashion photos of his time. Through May 26. (Kasher, 521 W. 23rd St. 212-966-3978.)