

STEVEN
KASHER
GALLERY

Photojournalism Now

Exhibition: New York
Power to the People: The Black Panthers in Photographs by
Stephen Shames and Graphics by Emory Douglas

"Admired, reviled, emulated, misunderstood, the Black Panther Party was one of the most creative and influential responses to racism and economic inequality in American history. Founded in October 1966 by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, the Panthers preached the right of black people to self-determination, which included the right to self defense. They advocated armed self defense to counter police brutality, and initiated a program of patrolling the police with shotguns — and law books."



"The Black Panther Party sought to build a community through service to the people. The Panthers initiated more than 50 community survival programs including Free Breakfast for School Children, Free Medical Clinics, Free Food, Clothing, and Legal Aid programs, sickle cell screening, an award winning charter school. The Panthers electrified a generation of black youth and would become emblematic of the Black Power and anti-imperialist movements that shaped the tumultuous years of the late 1960s and early '70s. The Panthers embraced the ideals of gender equality and gay liberation and sought to forge alliances with women's rights and gay rights organizations."

The exhibition features over 100 black and white images of the Party, many on show for the first time and provides an in-depth chronicle presented at a time when the US is once again grappling with issues of racial injustice. 'Power to the People' also includes 50 vintage copies of The Black Panther, the official Party newspaper with front and back cover graphics by Emory Douglas. The exhibition coincides with the launch of the book, 'Power to the People: The World of the Black Panthers' by Stephen Shames and Bobby Seale.