



Exhibitions: **Punk Passage: California and Beyond, 1977-1981**
Photographs by Ruby Ray
Mining Denver's Underground Rock Photography: seldom seen scenes in local music. Group show curated by Cinthea Fiss

Dates: March 29–May 12, 2012

Public Reception: Thursday, March 29, 6-9 pm. Featuring live music by Fritz Fox of The Mutants. Members' Preview Reception 5-6 pm.

Organized by: Rupert Jenkins & Richard Peterson

Place: Colorado Photographic Arts Center, 445 South Saulsbury Street, Lakewood, CO 80226

Hours: TU–SA 12–5.30 pm

Events: **Music Scene: Presentations and Critiques by Ruby Ray, Richard Peterson, and Cinthea Fiss**

Date: Saturday March 31, 1-4.30 pm. Place: CPAC
Cost: \$10/5 presentations only; \$25/15 with portfolio critique

Punk Passage: California and Beyond, 1977-1981 will be shown at CPAC alongside *Mining Denver's Underground Rock Photography: seldom seen scenes in local music*, an exhibition of new Denver music photography curated by Cinthea Fiss. Both exhibitions are presented in collaboration with *Search & Destroy*, a series of citywide exhibitions, concerts and events in Denver exploring punk's historical and ongoing relationship to visual art, coordinated around the exhibition *Bruce Conner and the Primal Scene of Punk Rock* at the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. Partner institutions include Art-Plant, Carmen Wiedenhoeft Gallery, Colorado Photographic Arts Center, Gildar Gallery, Hi-Dive, Lion's Lair, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver and Underground Music Showcase.

Mining Denver Rock Photography artists: Trip@PUNKassPHOTOS.com, John Schoenwalter, Jason Bye, Brenda LaBier, Spike

Photography Exhibition celebrates San Francisco's explosive Punk Scene of the late 70s

In 1977, punk broke through the world psyche like a jackhammer. While the rest of the world listened to disco, a generation of disaffected artists, musicians, filmmakers, and their fans created a new music and look, and a philosophy to embrace it.

In 1977, San Francisco was the center of a vibrant punk scene rivaling Los Angeles and New York. *Punk Passage: California and Beyond, 1977-1981*, opening at CPAC March 29, 2012, features more than 40 images by pivotal Bay Area punk-scene photographer Ruby Ray from her forthcoming book of the same name.

Ray began chronicling San Francisco's punk scene from the beginning. She helped create the look of the seminal punk culture magazine *Search & Destroy*, and later *RE/Search Publications*, of which she was a founding member. Her home and office became a perpetual salon giving her access to many of the punk-era's musicians and artists.

The *Punk Passage* collection consists of live B&W and color music shots set within a 20th century landscape of decay, with portraits of the musicians, artists, and fans who were the driving force of the San Francisco and Los Angeles punk scene. Featured bands include The Screamers, Avengers, Mutants, Dead Kennedys (with singer Jello Biafra from Boulder, CO), and Flipper; and people like William Burroughs, Sid Vicious, Darby Crash of The Germs, and Silver Plume, CO resident Fritz Fox of The Mutants.

Ray's images have appeared in many magazines and books about the punk rock era. (Her iconic photo of Darby Crash is on the cover of his biography "Lexicon Devil.") They transcend mere band photography and capture the energetic scene with an eye-grabbingly graphic and severe beauty. Her historic documentation of San Francisco's 1970s & 80s underground music, art, and culture scene provides a rare insider's look at this pivotal time in the city's musical history.

Many of these photos will be appearing in her hardback photo book "From the edge of the world, West Coast Punk 1977-81," and in her epic online e-book, "Punk Passage," with over 250 photographs (both due out this spring 2012). A version of this exhibit was viewed by almost 10,000 people when it was shown at the San Francisco Public Library's Jewett Gallery in 2009. Punk Lives!!

SPECIAL EVENT:

Music Scene: Presentations and Critiques by Ruby Ray, Richard Peterson, and Cinthea Fiss

Date: Saturday March 31, 1-3 pm. Place: CPAC

Cost: \$10/5 members and students (presentations only); \$20/10 with portfolio critique (limit 12 people)

Punk Passage photographer Ruby Ray joins curator/photographer Richard Peterson and curator/media artist Cinthea Fiss for an afternoon of presentations related to their punk rock photography and experiences with the San Francisco and Denver music scenes. Attendees are invited to bring their own music photography portfolios and have their work reviewed by the speakers following their presentations (\$10/5 surcharge applies).

Matt Kennedy at La Luz de Jesus Gallery in LA says:

"Multimedia artist, photographer, and journalist Ruby Ray may not be a household name, but with a body of work like hers, she ought to be. In the late '70s, she managed the SF outpost of London-based Rough Trade Records while documenting the city's burgeoning punk scene, eventually helping V. Vale establish the legendary alt-culture publication, *RE/Search*... That Ruby Ray has been influential to the counter-culture is indisputable, but the extent of her influence is criminally underrated."

The Colorado Photographic Arts Center is dedicated to fostering the understanding and appreciation of photography in all aspects and genres through promotion, exhibition, and education. Our purpose is to be a premier destination for the photographic arts and to benefit our existing photographic culture by nurturing new talent, expanding concepts, generating skills, piquing interest, and contributing to a sustainable market for collectors and artists. Funding is provided by income from classes and workshops, annual membership dues, donations, and grants. CPAC receives grants from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), Tier III.