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On behalf of Tacoma Art Museum

***Charles Peterson's Nirvana Showcases
Dynamic Photography at Tacoma Art Museum in October***

TACOMA, WA (February 15, 2024) – Tacoma Art Museum, in collaboration with Minor Matters, will open an exhibition of the work of Northwest photographer Charles Peterson on October 5, 2024. *Charles Peterson's Nirvana* highlights the dynamic energy of Peterson's black-and-white photographs, which have become synonymous with the sounds, styles, movement, and attitude known as grunge.

"Photography is still underrepresented in many contemporary art spheres. Music photography in particular is often dismissed as being more about its subjects than the unique specificities and artistry of how they are seen by a particular practitioner. The approach to Charles Peterson's most recent publication, and now this exciting exhibition opening at Tacoma Art Museum with the goal of traveling thereafter, centers the relationship between his photography, and the music of Nirvana, a short-lived yet iconic contributor to the culture of the late 20th century.

"The exhibition also places Peterson's photographs — some of which have never before been printed — in dialogue with select works by other resonant artists to draw out specific qualities in his work."

—Michelle Dunn Marsh, Minor Matters

"People will see and feel Charles Peterson's ability to capture the emotional power of a live music performance within a thoughtfully composed photograph. While depicting a very specific moment in time these works vibrate with the enduring energy of the music itself. *Charles Peterson's Nirvana* is an exhibition that will resonate with fans of music and of photography alike."

—Andy Maus, TAM Executive Director

Charles Peterson's Nirvana will be on view at TAM from October 5, 2024 to May 25, 2025. The exhibition is based on the forthcoming publication *Charles Peterson's Nirvana* (Minor Matters, 2024).

Charles Peterson's Nirvana at TAM is generously supported by Propel Insurance and the members and donors of Tacoma Art Museum.

Visit Tacoma Art Museum

• **Hours** –

Wednesday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Thursday 10 a.m.–8 p.m., free admission 5 p.m.–8 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Closed Monday and Tuesday

- **Admission** – \$18 Adult, \$15 Senior (65+), \$15 Military (active duty or retired with ID), \$10 (youth 6-18), free for TAM members
- **Contact** – 253-272-4258 / www.tacomaartmuseum.org

Charles Peterson (b.1964, Longview, Washington) is internationally known for his photographs of the Seattle music scene of the late '80s and '90s. He began making photographs while a student at Bothell High School, and then went on to study photography at the University of Washington, where he first met as friends many of his future subjects. Peterson's distinct visual style and early work for Sub Pop Records became an important signifier of the phenomenon known as grunge. His photographs have been featured in numerous publications, as well as exhibited in group and solo exhibitions around the world. They are included in many private collections and the permanent collections of the Seattle Art Museum and MoPOP. Previous books include *Screaming Life* (Harper Collins, 1996) *Pearl Jam: Place Date* (Rizzoli/Ten, 1998), *Touch Me I'm Sick*, *Cypher* (powerhouse, 2003, 2008), and *Genius* (Frye Art Museum, 2015). He lives in Seattle with his family. www.charlespeterson.net

About Minor Matters: Founded in 2013, Minor Matters is a collaborative publishing platform producing exquisite art books often by underrepresented voices through its collaborative publishing model, preselling books to the general public and naming those purchasers within the books they facilitate. Their model has resulted in "first books" for over 10 authors, with half of their monographs featuring practitioners from the west coast of the United States.

Minor Matters publications have been featured on *The New York Times* Lensblog, the *New Yorker* Photo Booth, NPR, *The Atlantic*, Slate.com, *Rolling Stone* online, and other channels of knowledge and culture. Publications are in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Watson Library, the Getty Research Institute, the Seattle Public Library, the New York Public Library, and the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, among others.

About Tacoma Art Museum: Celebrating over 85 years, Tacoma Art Museum is the leading resource for art of the Pacific Northwest and greater western region. TAM's mission is to transform our communities by sharing art that inspires broader perspectives and cultivates a compassionate future. TAM's collection contains more than 5,300 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader western region. The collection includes the largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on permanent view; the most significant collection of studio art jewelry by Northwest artists; key holdings in 19th century European and 20th century American art; and one of the finest collections of Japanese woodblock prints on the West Coast. TAM is in the heart of Tacoma's vibrant Museum District, which consists of six museums.

Photo credit: All photographs © Charles Peterson from *Charles Peterson's Nirvana*, and courtesy Minor Matters