

August 21, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Rachel Ervin 253-272-4258 x3047 | rervin@tacomaartmuseum.org

“Charles Peterson’s Nirvana” Showcases Photography’s Contributions to Grunge



All photographs © Charles Peterson from *Charles Peterson’s Nirvana*, and courtesy Minor Matters

TACOMA, WA (August 13, 2024) – Tacoma Art Museum, in collaboration with Minor Matters, proudly presents ***Charles Peterson’s Nirvana: On Photography and Performance, opening on October 5th***. Synonymous with the sounds, styles, movement, and attitude known as “grunge,” Peterson’s artful and organic photographs hold the spirit of the 90s Northwest music scene in a visceral, timeless present. This first museum exhibition on the west coast dedicated to Peterson’s work is based on a book of the same name. Both reflect years of editing to arrive at a selection of both iconic and never before seen photographs.

In this exhibition, Michelle Dunn Marsh of Minor Matters merges a selection of Peterson's gelatin-silver and pigment prints with photographs, sculpture and video by five artists including Sylvia Plachy, Nicholas Galanin, Jeffry Mitchell, and Peterson's photography professor, Paul Berger, among others to draw out visual and contextual nuances of Peterson's photographs.

Details:

- **Press Preview:** Join us for a sneak peek for Press on Thursday, October 3rd, at 11am. Email rervin@tacomaartmuseum.org to secure your spot.
- **Opening Event:** Join Tacoma Art Museum members and special guests for an unforgettable evening as we celebrate the opening of Charles Peterson's Nirvana at 6pm on Friday, October 4th.
- **Exhibition Opening:** The exhibition opens to the public on **Saturday, October 5th**.
- **Programming:** Programming for Charles Peterson's Nirvana will include artist talks, workshops, and additional programming exploring the intersection of music, photography, and cultural impact.

Join us as we celebrate the timeless archive of a local visionary photographer.

For press inquiries, high-resolution images, or interview requests, please contact: Rachel Ervin – rervin@tacomaartmuseum.org

The *Charles Peterson's Nirvana* exhibition is generously supported by Propel Insurance, Tacoma Creates, ArtsFund, Cascade PBS, and our wonderful Tacoma Art Museum Members.

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

###

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 Seattle in 2013 by Michelle Dunn Marsh and Steve McIntyre, Minor Matters is a collaborative publishing platform producing exquisite art books. Their audience engagement 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*, *Rolling Stone* online, and other channels of knowledge and culture. Publications are in the permanent 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 5,400 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader western region, 25% of which consists of studio glass. 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.

Visit Tacoma Art Museum

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

Contact: 253-272-4258 / www.tacomaartmuseum.org

Admission:

\$18 Adult, \$15 Senior (65+), \$15 Military (active duty or retired with ID), \$10 (youth 6-18), free for TAM members