

Paul McCartney Photographs 1963–64: Eyes of the Storm

November 6, 2025–January 26, 2026 • Upper-Level Galleries



Paul McCartney. *Self-portrait*. London, 1963. © 1963–1964 Paul McCartney under exclusive license to MPL Archive LLP

Organized by the National Portrait Gallery, London, this exhibition is an intimate and historic opportunity to see the extraordinary archive of recently discovered photographs taken by Paul McCartney between December 1963 and February 1964. Over the course of these three short months, The Beatles—Paul McCartney, John Lennon, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr—were propelled from being the most popular band in Britain to an unprecedented international cultural phenomenon.

The photographs in this exhibition, taken by McCartney with his own camera, provide a uniquely personal perspective on what it was like to be a Beatle at the start of Beatlemania—from gigs in Liverpool and London to performing on the Ed Sullivan show in New York for a then unparalleled television audience of 73 million people.

Drawn from McCartney's personal archive, the majority of these images have never been seen before this exhibition. They allow us to experience The Beatles' extraordinarily rapid rise from a successful regional band to global stardom through McCartney's eyes. At a time when so many camera lenses were on them, this perspective—from the inside—brings fresh insight to the band, their experiences, the fans, and the early 1960s.

Paul McCartney Photographs 1963–64: Eyes of the Storm has been organized by the National Portrait Gallery, London, England, in collaboration with Sir Paul McCartney. It is curated by Sir Paul McCartney with Sarah Brown for MPL Communications and Rosie Broadley for the National Portrait Gallery.

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Curriculum Connections: *Paul McCartney Photographs 1963–64: Eyes of the Storm*

Tennessee Academic Standards

Fine Arts Standards for Visual Arts

Grades K-12

CREATE: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.; Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.; Refine and complete artistic work.

PRESENT: Select, analyze and interpret artistic work for production.; Develop and refine artistic work for production.; Convey and express meaning through the production of artistic work.

RESPOND: Perceive and analyze artistic work.; Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.; Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

CONNECT: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to artistic endeavors.; Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context.