

Natural Mystic

The Definitive Images of Bob Marley
by Dennis Morris

5 August 2005 to
20 September 2005

SNAP
GALLERIES

It's a great story. A fourteen year old black kid sitting with his camera outside London's Speakeasy Club in 1973 waiting for one of his musical heroes to turn up. Dennis had bunked off school and was determined to photograph Bob Marley - the camera was his passion. He knew that a career in photography lay ahead. Hell, it was all he wanted to do.

Dennis tells it : "My careers officer asked me what I wanted to do. I told him I wanted to be a photographer, "Don't be silly", he replied, there's no such thing as a black photographer." "Oh yes, there is" I answered, "Don't you know the work of Gordon Parks?"

"So I met with Bob. I was waiting with my camera outside the Speakeasy. He was in England for his first tour of Babylon. He arrived with the Wailers. "Can I take a picture?", I asked, "Yeah Man", he replied, "Come in!". On that first meeting, my life was to change. "Do you know who Gordon Parks is?", I asked. "Do you know who Marcus Garvey is?", he asked. He told me "Don't let them tell you you can't do anything Dennis, you can be anything you want". For me I know that meeting in 1973 was vital, he gave me confidence, he gave me hope, he gave me identity, he made my dream possible. "

That same day, Bob asked Dennis to go on tour with them. He packed a bag and disappeared. He rang his mum from Brighton and told her he was with Bob Marley. She said "Yeah yeah, you wait til you come home, your backside it a gwan buuurn!"

Dennis has exhibited his work all around the world - Sydney Opera House, Laforet Museum in Tokyo, and galleries in London, New York, Paris, San Francisco and Stuttgart to name a few. Well now Birmingham is going to be added to the list. This work is very very special and it is an honour for us to host this important exhibition - the first time that Dennis has held a UK show outside the capital. The roots of reggae run deep in Birmingham, and we think it's the perfect venue. The exhibition is part of the city's International festival of the image, Rhubarb Rhubarb, renowned for it's extraordinary portfolio review, accompanied by vibrant exhibitions at a host of venues around town from 20 July to 13 August. You can find out more about Rhubarb Rhubarb at their website, www.rhubarb-rhubarb.net.

Dennis' Bob Marley photographs in the exhibition are all very large format - measuring 30 x 40 inches unframed - a spectacular size when framed up. The show combines regular photographs with two other presentational techniques - photo-collages and multi image pieces, both very different visually, but with a common theme of combining a number of images together behind a single frame. You can read more about them later in this preview brochure.

The exhibition opens to the public at 10.30am on Friday 5 August. Dennis will be at the show all day on Saturday, 6 August and would be delighted to meet everyone who can make it . Everything is for sale and admission is free. Hope you can make it.

Guy White
Gallery Director

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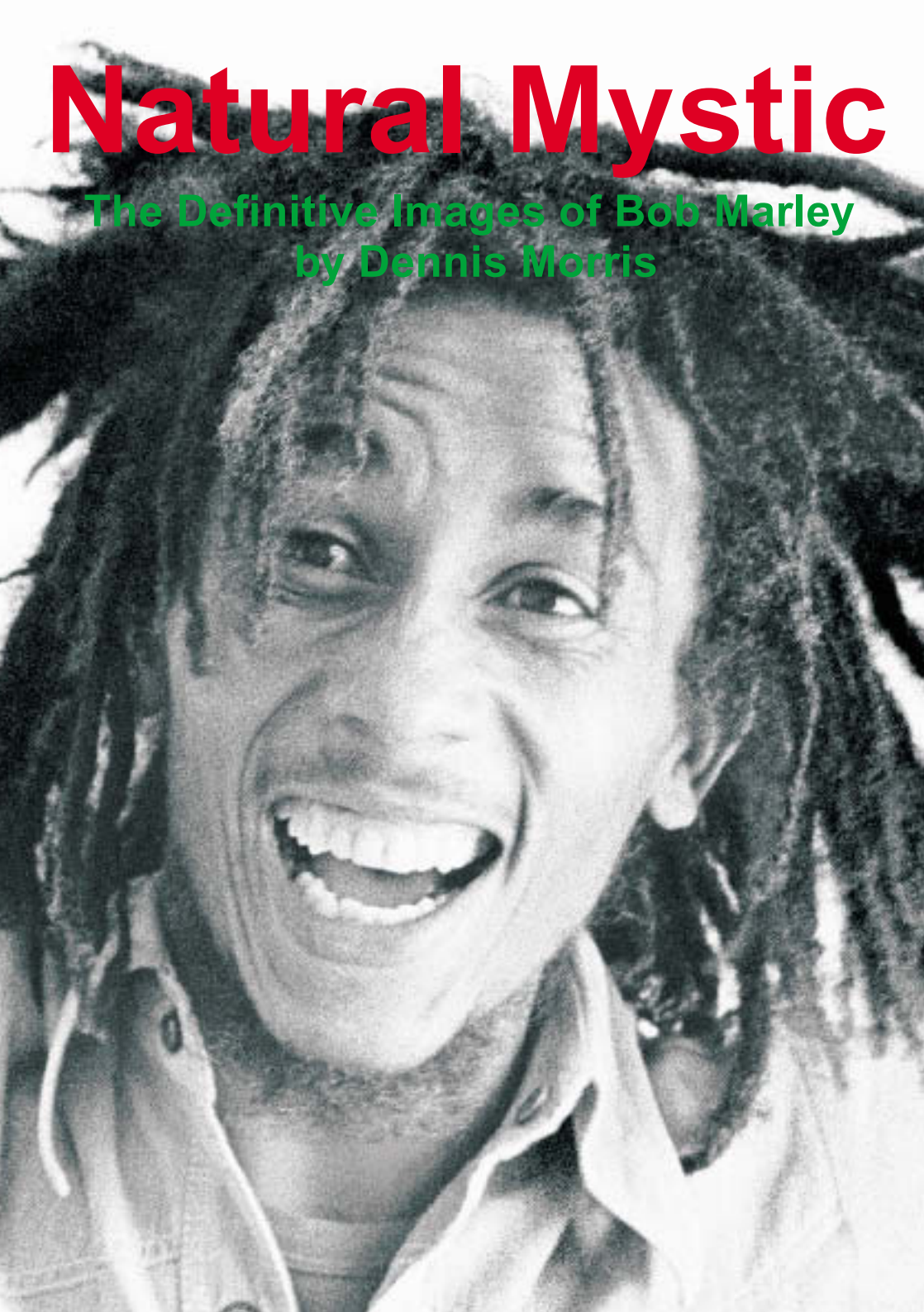


Photo - collages and multi image pieces

The exhibition will feature a number of large format photo-collages and multi image pieces, each of which is a limited edition of just six examples worldwide. These spectacular artworks have been specially created by Dennis using some of his favourite photographs as a starting point.

Photo - collages

Dennis' photo-collages are very special. Each one consists of a central single silver gelatin photograph. Dennis then produces smaller individual silver gelatin photographs from the same shoot to 'frame' the central image. In the example on the opposite page, which is called "Jamming", Bob is shown playing table tennis at home at 56 Hope Road, Kingston, Jamaica.

Each alternate smaller image has been selenium toned to create a degree of contrast with its immediate neighbours. Although each photo-collage is made in a limited edition of six, they are, by their very nature, unique artworks - each one is painstakingly created by hand by Dennis and no two photo-collages in the edition of six will be exactly the same.

Multi images

The multi image pieces in the exhibition have echoes of Andy Warhol, consisting of a number of separate close up photographs which have been combined behind a single frame in a geometric block pattern. The example to the right, "Talking Blues" consists of fifteen individual chromogenic colour photographs.





"Jamming"

**Collage of silver gelatin photographs, edition of six,
dimensions framed 35 x 45 inches**



Bob II

30 x 40 inches (unframed size) on archival fine art paper, limited edition of six,
signed and numbered on the front.

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The Definitive Images of Bob Marley by Dennis Morris



Leeds 1974

30 x 40 inches (unframed size) on archival fine art paper, limited edition of six, signed and numbered on the front.

Dennis recalls "We stopped off on the way back from Leeds, and Bob went shopping in this sports shop, bought a lot of gear, a lot of kit - a football, boots, shorts, shirts. Looking back, and knowing Bob much better, I realise he was probably buying half of Trench Town a football kit!"

www.snapgalleries.com



About Snap

Snap is one of the only galleries in the world to specialise in rare and exclusive rock and roll photography. We showcase the very best work by the cream of the photographers operating in the music genre from the fifties to the present day.

Our mission is to bring you the things you always wanted but never knew you could get.

Opening hours Tuesday to Saturday, 10.30am to 6pm, Thursdays to 7pm.
Any other times by appointment.

Telephone 0121 224 7345

www.snapgalleries.com
info@snapgalleries.com

The Custard Factory website is at www.custardfactory.com

Directions

On foot, The Custard Factory is just a few minutes walk from The Bull Ring and Selfridges. From outside Selfridges, aim yourself downhill towards Digbeth and pick up some momentum. Head straight down Digbeth High Street and The Custard Factory is about a 5 minute walk, straight ahead. On your travels you will pass the bus station on your right and South Birmingham College on your left. Shortly after the College, you'll see a red brick building with a "Custard Factory" banner on it. You're almost there. Turn left when you get to the musical instrument shop and keep going about past the row of green shops - you'll come to a fountain and a row of blue fronted retail units - we are in the first one of those. We're the one with all the photographs.

If you are in the car, drive down Digbeth High Street heading away from the city centre, and turn left at the traffic lights by The Old Crown Pub, into Heath Mill Lane. The car park (pay and display) is just after Air nightclub - the entrance is a collage of crushed cars on the right.



Snap Galleries 12-13 Gibb Square The Custard Factory Birmingham B9 4AA