

# PETER FETTERMAN GALLERY

“As a photographer, Joel shoots like a fellow musician. Bernstein blends in, using all the resources of his understanding of the songs, the instruments, the subject, and the people. There is soul and movement and most of all, music, in every one of Joel’s images. This is what it looked like, and this is what it felt like. These are truthful angels.”

--- Cameron Crowe, director of “Almost Famous” and “Jerry Maguire”

Joel Bernstein is an acclaimed photographer whose work, spanning more than three decades, chronicles the inner lives and public moments of some of the most important singer-songwriters, performers and musicians of our time. They include Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, David Crosby, Stephen Stills, Graham Nash, Prince, Jackson Browne, Laura Nyro, Tom Petty and many others. A self-taught photographer and printer, Bernstein's perspective on these artists is unique. He has been part of their intimate circle since age 16, when Joni Mitchell, then at the beginning of her exceptional recording career, asked him to be her photographer. Since then, he has become the most comprehensive photographer of Ms. Mitchell's life and work, and shot several of her album covers, as well as being the acknowledged expert on her guitar compositions. Bernstein also became a close friend and musical collaborator with many of his other subjects, playing and singing on their albums and concert tours. But his most important work remains his up close-and-personal photographs of these singular artists. His preferred method has been to spend as much time as possible with his subjects until the right instant—the perfect moment of intimacy—reveals itself. Bernstein's work is well known within the world of music, and is included in the permanent collection of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. He has been published in a wide spectrum of books on music, musicians, and the music business, as well as in Time, The New York Times and Rolling Stone. He was profiled in MOJO, the esteemed British music publication, which extensively featured his photos of Neil Young.

Bernstein's many album covers are commonly listed among the most influential in rock's visual history. His first, at age 18, was Neil Young's *After the Gold Rush*, often cited in Best Album Covers Of All Time lists. His work was featured in the album cover for Joni Mitchell's *Hejira*, nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Album Cover. Bernstein's photos of Tom Petty for the *Refugee* inspired the singer's influential music video. Bernstein's work was also the inspiration for the look of Cameron Crowe's rock film *Almost Famous*, in which many scenes were precise re-creations of Bernstein's photographs. Bernstein has continued working with these artists as archivist, editor and producer of their CD boxed sets and DVD retrospectives. His work as archivist and co-producer of the Buffalo Springfield box set, a history of the '60s band Buffalo Springfield, was hailed by the San Francisco Chronicle as "setting new standards of excellence for archival CD releases." Later, he was co-producer of *Woman of Heart and Mind*, an Emmy Award-winning documentary on the life of Joni Mitchell for PBS' American Masters series that was met with critical and audience acclaim and became a worldwide DVD release. He has served as archivist for Neil Young since 1990, including on his historic multi-disc Archives Volume I, as well as subsequent Archives releases. He has also co-produced multi-disc CD box sets for David Crosby and for Graham Nash, with whom he has collaborated on the editing for a monograph of Bernstein's photographs of musicians, a work currently in progress. He currently lives in Oakland, California.