

# Dennis Stock

## ALTERED STATES

May 22 – July 11, 2009

Artist Reception  
Thursday, May 21, 6-8pm



Corona del Mar, 1968

Howard Greenberg Gallery is pleased to announce the first New York solo exhibition in ten years of Dennis Stock's photographs. Known for evoking the spirit of America through his iconic portraits of Hollywood stars--most notably James Dean--Stock has also produced impressive portraits of jazz and blues singers, and documentary photographs of California in the late 60s. These subjects – artists, bikers, hippies, musicians, and road people – shared a common, non-conformist approach to life that fascinated Stock and inspired him to document.

Dennis Stock was born in New York City in 1928. In 1947 he became an apprentice to photographer Gjon Mili and won first prize in *Life Magazine's* Young Photographers contest. As a result, in 1951 Robert Capa invited Stock to become a member of Magnum and subsequently encouraged him to move to Hollywood to shoot production stills on movie sets. There, he met James Dean and proposed shooting a photo-essay about the up-and-coming star for *Life*, resulting in what turned out to be the most celebrated photographs ever published of the actor. Stock spent the next several years photographing in Japan and the Far East and then returned to the U.S. and began an ambitious documentation of the jazz world. This project resulted in the publication of *Jazz Street*, a book that captures the vitality and essence of jazz, with intimate close-ups of the faces and hands of the musicians.

Stock returned to Hollywood in 1968 to photograph on the set of the classic science fiction film, "The Planet of the Apes." On an innovative impulse, he photographed the actors in full costume and makeup on the streets of Los Angeles and, struck by the nonchalance on the part of bystanders, was inspired to explore what he called the

"surrealism of every day life," particularly in California. He embarked on a five week road trip across the state documenting the eccentricity of West Coast culture, the energy of its music festivals and the revolutionary spirit of hippie communes. He comically juxtaposed these images in his 1970 book, California Trip.

In 1968, Stock took leave from Magnum to create Visual Objectives, a film production company, and produced several documentaries. He has worked as a writer, director and producer for television and films, and published numerous books of his work. Stock's photographs have been exhibited widely in France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the U.S. and collected by many major museums including The National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.; The Art Institute of Chicago, and the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris.

For further information, or to request visuals for press, contact Ali Price at 212 334 0010 or [ali@howardgreenberg.com](mailto:ali@howardgreenberg.com)  
Starting May 21st, the exhibition can be viewed at [www.howardgreenberg.com](http://www.howardgreenberg.com)