

IN FOCUS

PROTEST

Photographs not only capture a nation's values and beliefs but also help shape them. Camera in hand, photographers often take to the streets, recording protests and demonstrations or bearing witness to daily injustices to make them more widely known. Such images have inspired change for generations.

The late United States Congressman John Lewis emphasized the crucial role photography played in the civil rights struggles of the 1960s. "The unbelievable photographs published in newspapers and magazines...brought people from around the globe to small Southern towns to join the movement," he said. "These photographs told us that those who expressed themselves by standing in unmovable lines...must be looked upon as the founding mothers and fathers of a new America."

This exhibition highlights how photographers have recorded periods of social struggle and transformation in the United States. Amid the country's current and ongoing efforts to address and rectify injustice and systemic racism, and as the United States continues to grapple with how best to forge a new and better future, these images help us consider the myriad roles photography plays in shaping our understanding of American life.

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