

# DANNY LYON

## 291 GRAND STREET, NEW YORK

On January 18th, Gavin Brown's enterprise presents an exhibition of works by Danny Lyon. This marks Lyon's first exhibition with the gallery and is centered around his filmed conversation *One Man One Vote: Danny Lyon in conversation with Julian Bond*. This is the first time this work has been shown publicly.

There is perhaps no photographer who has more persistently documented the complex and dark realities of 20th and 21st-century American life than Danny Lyon. His astoundingly singular body of work extends from the early 1960s to the present day, shaped by a fierce lifelong commitment to social causes, civil rights, and the most marginalized members of society.

In the summer of 1962, Lyon hitchhiked to Cairo, Illinois to witness demonstrations and a speech by John Lewis, then chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), one of the most important organizations driving the civil rights movement of the early 1960s. The following year, Lyon became SNCC's first staff photographer and worked directly with Julian Bond in the Atlanta office. A 20-year-old University of Chicago student at the time, Lyon travelled throughout the South with the SNCC, documenting sit-ins, marches, funerals, and violent clashes with the police, often developing his own negatives in makeshift darkrooms.

Julian Bond was a founding member of the SNCC, and head of their communications department from 1961 to 1965. Bond and Lyon remained friends from this moment on.

Following these early years together, Bond went on from the SNCC to an inspiring career as one of the great liberal and radical spokespeople in America, serving twenty years in the Georgia State Legislature and twelve as head of the NAACP, while later becoming the first head of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which he co-founded.

On January 23rd, 2014, Lyon, equipped with a Panasonic DVX 100, sat down

with Bond in a room at the American University in Washington to make a film record of the man he had met two generations before. *One Man One Vote: Danny Lyon in conversation with Julian Bond*, is the footage of this meeting.

The 30-minute film of Bond and Lyon covers everything from the Occupy Wall Street movement, Edward Snowden, and the legitimacy of breaking the law, to their own personal backgrounds, presenting unique insight into both their relationship, and key milestones of our recent history. Alongside this film, the exhibition features a selection of photographs and rarely seen documents from the Civil Rights movement, including SNCC posters made by Lyon while he worked with Bond.

Julian Bond wrote of Lyon's works: "They put faces on the movement, put courage in the fearful, shone light on darkness, and helped to make the movement move."

Danny Lyon (born Brooklyn, NY 1942) has been the subject of several major international exhibitions at institutions including; Whitney Museum of American Art; the Art Institute of Chicago; and the Menil Collection. A major travelling retrospective was organized in 1990 by the Folkwang Museum in Essen, Germany, and the Center for Creative Photography in Tucson, Arizona. *Danny Lyon: Message to the Future*, a retrospective of Lyon's work, is currently on view at the de Young Museum in San Francisco, having debuted at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, in the summer of 2016.

Following the de Young, the exhibition will travel to Fotomuseum Winterthur in the summer of 2017, and then on to C/O Berlin Foundation in the Fall of 2017.