

# Black and White

Images from the Archives of Liberation News Service  
Photographer Howard Epstein, 1968–1974

**Photographer: Howard Epstein**

**Introduction: Ken Light • Editor: Grendl Löfkvist**

*Black and White* is a book of 32 evocative images of political conflict and confrontations in the streets taken by Howard Epstein when he was a photographer for Liberation News Service.

The collection of images is a visceral flashback to the political turmoil of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Epstein's photographs will resonate both for people who lived through those struggles and those organizing and protesting today.

## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Howard Epstein** was a collective member and staff photographer at Liberation News Service from 1969 to 1974 and a printer for the politically progressive Inkworks Press collective from 1980 until the shop's closure in 2015. Epstein used his talents as a photojournalist to challenge state power and to promote an alternative vision of social and economic justice during the tumultuous Vietnam War era and the Nixon presidency. His grainy black-and-white images of conflict and challenges to authority still resonate in today's political climate.

During his tenure at Inkworks Press, Epstein worked long hours cranking out political propaganda of all kinds, printing for diverse environmental and social justice groups such as the Black Panther Party, the Bay Area Anarchist Bookfair, ANSWER, the San Francisco Poster Brigade, the ACLU, *Mother Jones*, Black Lives Matter, and many more. Epstein currently lives in Berkeley with his two black cats, Nyx and Nero.

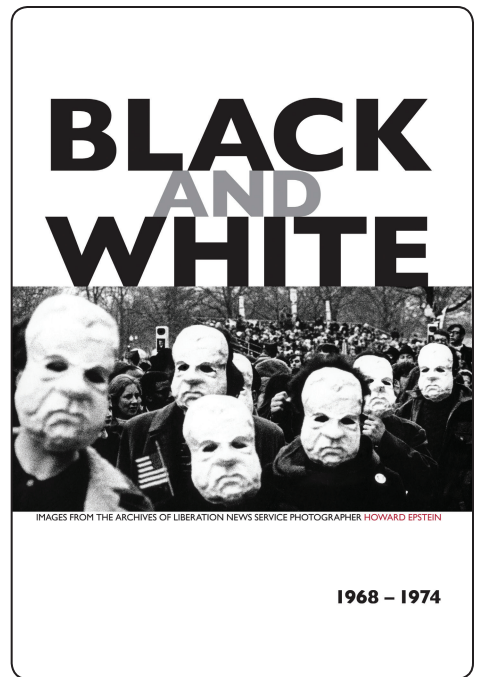
**Ken Light** has worked as a freelance documentary photographer for forty-five years focusing on social issues facing America. His work has been published in nine books, including *Valley of Shadows and Dreams*, *Coal Hollow*, and *Texas Death Row*. His latest book, *What's Going On?* features photographs from 1969 to 1974. His work has been shown in numerous photo essays in magazines and a variety of media, and presented in exhibitions worldwide. He is the Reva and David Logan Professor of Photojournalism at the Graduate School of Journalism at U.C. Berkeley and the 2012 Laventhol Visiting Professor at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism."

**Grendl Löfkvist**, president of APHA's Northern California Chapter, is an instructor in the Visual Media Design Department at City College of San Francisco. She currently teaches courses in graphic design history, letterpress printing, and book arts. She also teaches letterpress printing and blackletter calligraphy at the San Francisco Center for the Book and is a press operator at Inkworks Press.

## ACCOLADES

"Howard Epstein's photos from the late '60s and early '70s are amazingly evocative, even tender, yet without being sentimental. In several, it's as if Epstein caught the protagonists at moments when they were trying to explain themselves and their passions to their uncomprehending antagonists (usually, but not always, police officers). They were angry, fearful, defiant, hopeful, but not cartoonish, versions of those emotions—rather, they were compounds of beliefs and disbeliefs on the part of human beings thinking and feeling their ways toward justice and the public good under high pressure. This is very fine work."

—Todd Gitlin, professor of journalism, Columbia University



## SUBJECT CATEGORY

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