

THE BEATS



PHOTOGRAPHS BY LARRY FINK

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Photographs by Larry Fink

Published by



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THE BEATS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LARRY FINK
ESSAY AND POEM BY GERALD STERN
ESSAY BY ROBERT CORDIER



Brooklyn, New York



©Robert Cordier

little me aroused and carousing on macdougall street fell into an associative funk with turk and ambrose and mary. et al as if destiny was ordained.

but little me coming from a way left leaning household was a bit out of sync with some of the poetic abstractions or the group

nevertheless i was of them by temperament

one day they all came out to west hempstead long island where my parents lived all 13 of them scraggly haired and rough shod they were unprepared for what was to happen .

my controlling and uber clean.. marxist mother insisted that they all showered and got presentable before the dinner that she served (she was a lousy cook but it was free...)

so one by one they showered in long island style and after a while dinner was served on into the morning we all went back to ny on the way to find the spirit of the road and to reinvent america ...that was that....

we started out clean.....

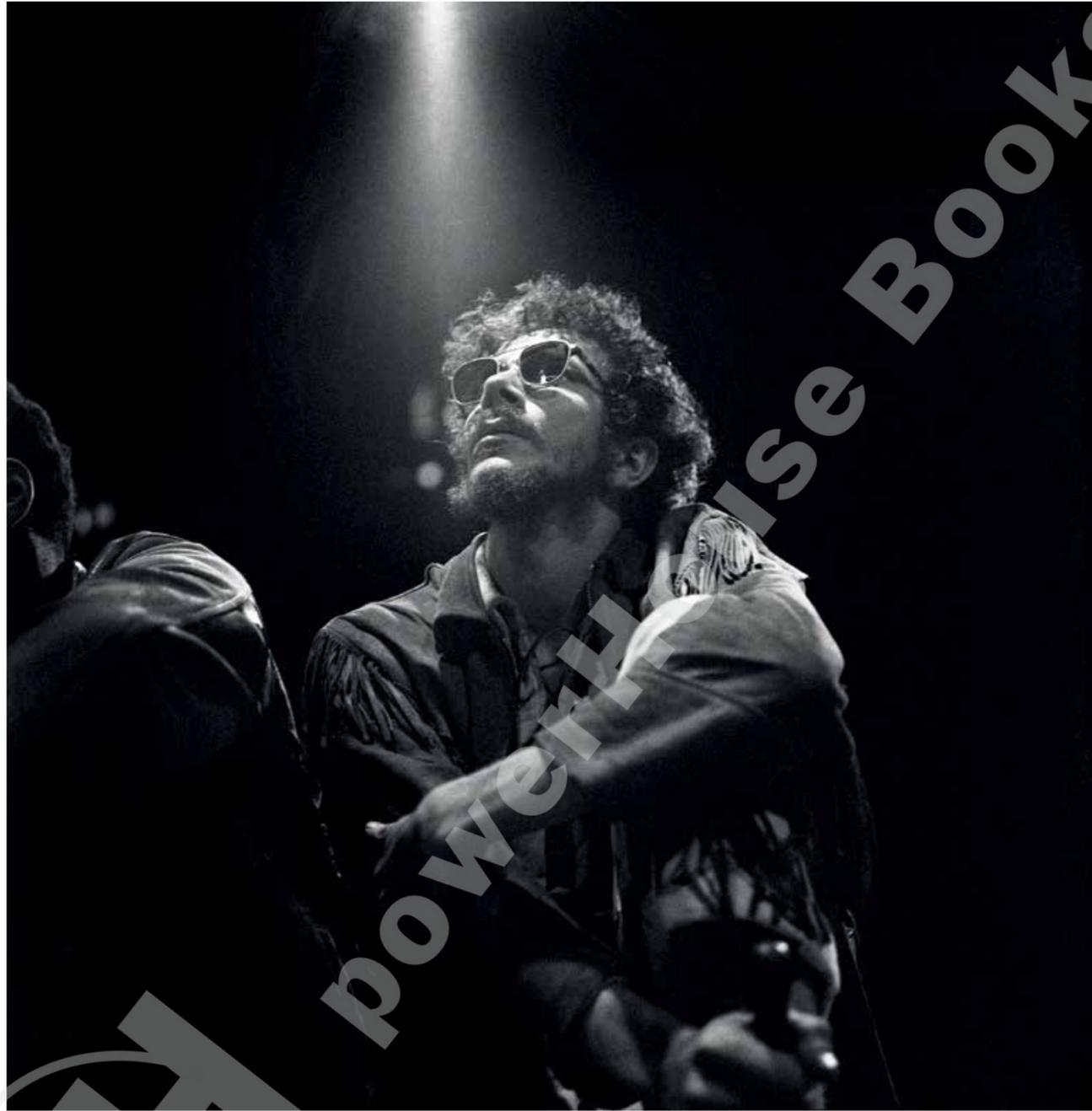
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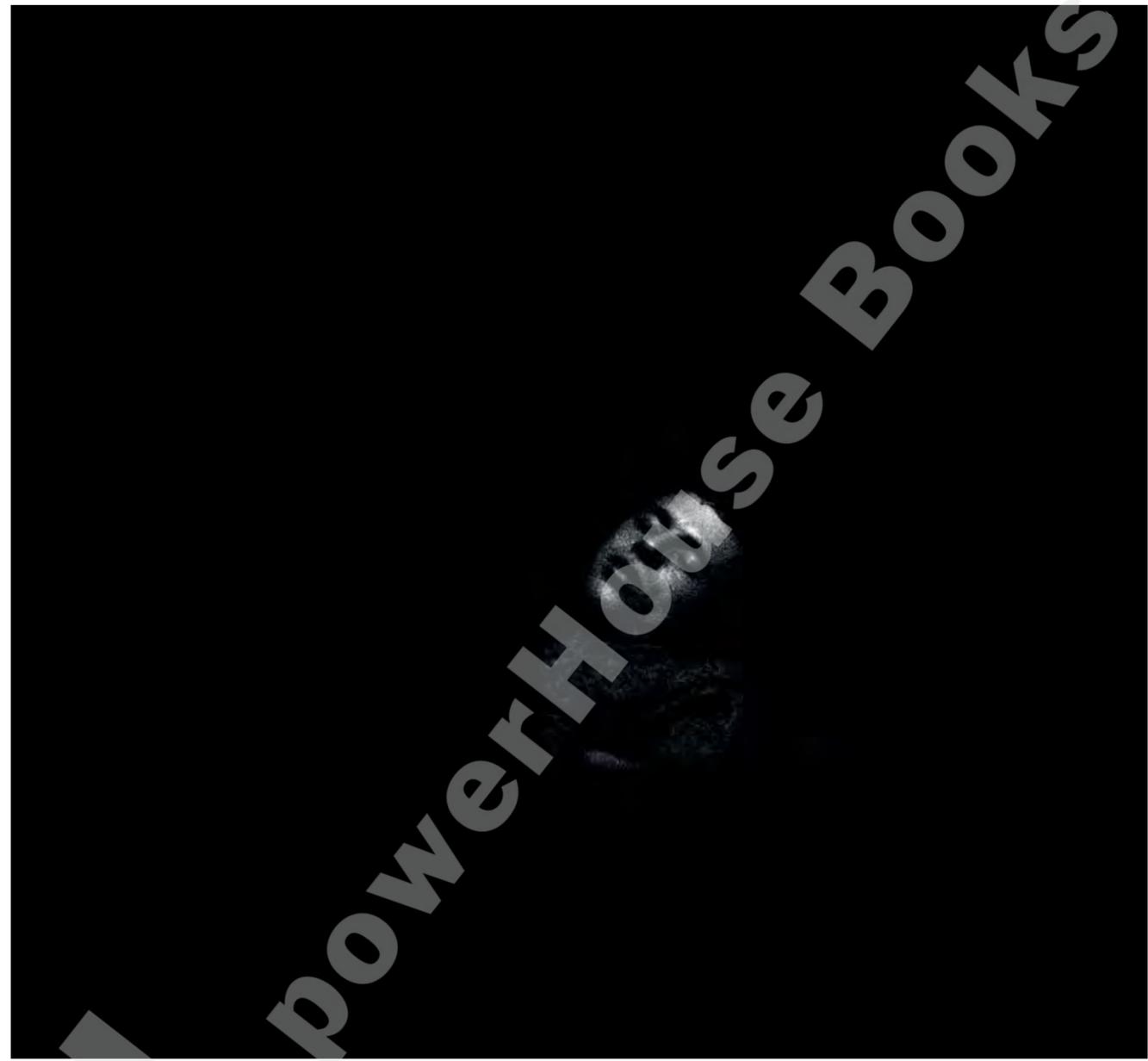


(Here)

the dark + beautiful photographs by Larry Fink, taken, as he says, back in 1958 when he was $2\frac{1}{2}$ or $2\frac{1}{3}$ yrs old, ^{was} of a group of dedicated subterraneans whom Larry identifies as the second generation of Beats. These are artists he lived with, poets, musicians, painters who, by occupying the underground ^{space} beneath the Sullivan Street Theatre, were not just ^{metaphorically} "subterranean" but, most literally, the Sullivan Street Theatre was next door to the Village Gate, the famous jazz club, & by digging their way to the rear of the cellar brick by brick, they were able to hear Coltrane, Mingus & Art Blakey - among others - what Larry describes as "the prince of oppressed freedom". It was at the very time that Kerouac was writing his novel - called The Subterraneans - but certainly no-one in Fink's crowd ^{could have been} was aware of the coincidence.

Fink describes himself as a Marxist & red diaper baby, a young, drug-fueled, jazz-loving - & photographing - photographer who set himself the goal of documenting their "visionary plight" across America to Mexico, "in search of ^{not just spiritually or metaphorically, but} literally

had access





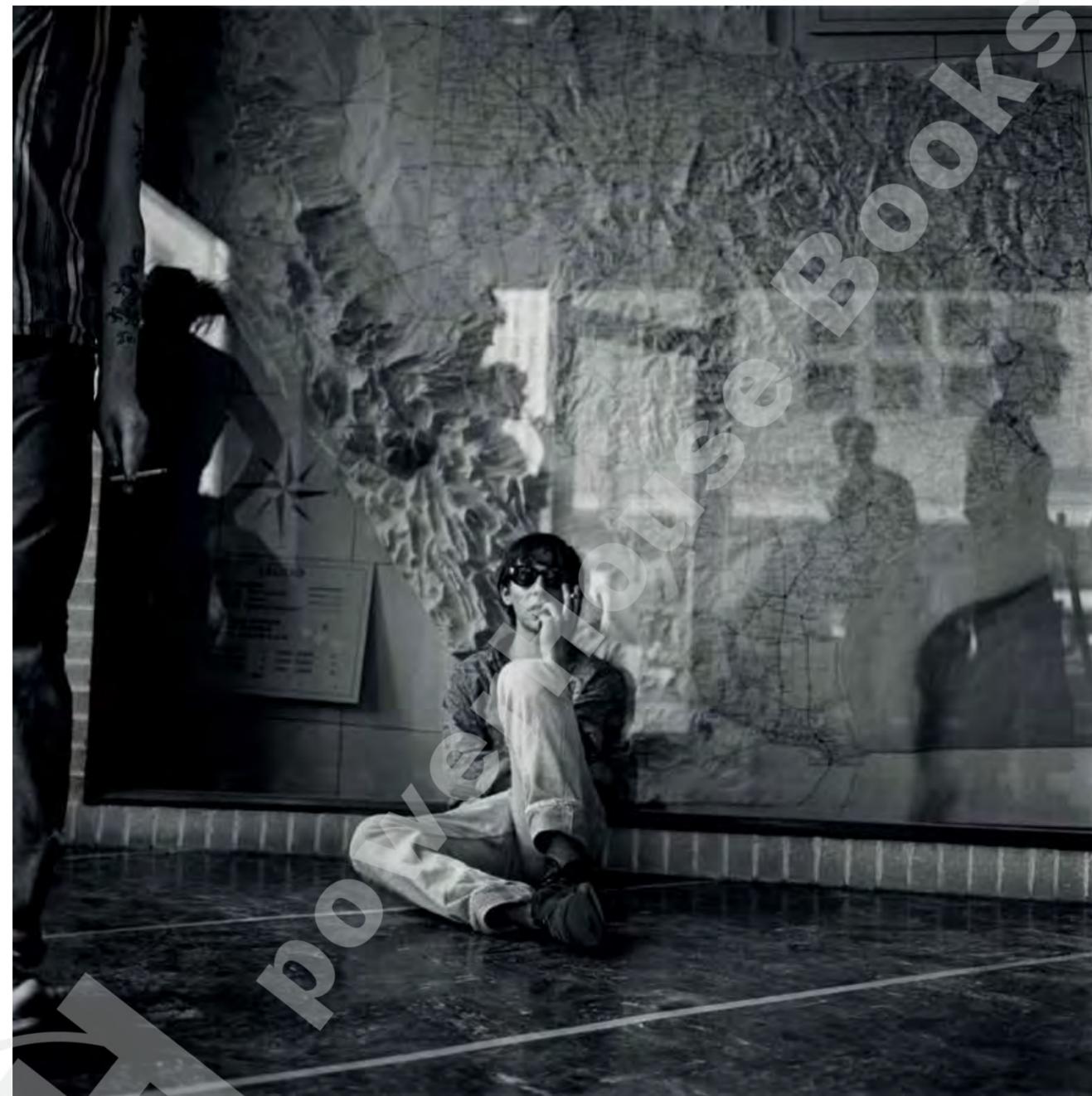


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I really need to thank the United States Department of Justice for having me arrested at the border of Laredo, Texas. They found that I was smuggling one-quarter of an ounce of marijuana. The way that they arrested us—my friends Cleon, the drummer, and Ackerman, the poet—was by rounding us up in a kind of road block and motor assault and as we, hands high above our heads, left our Oldsmobile Super 88, Gatling machine guns were being shot in the ground in front and around us. It was an action fitting for seventeen to twenty-one year old hipster Beatniks, we surmise.

At any rate, this stopped my forward trajectory to be an airheaded wanderer without boundaries. I served five years of federal probation under the tutelage of a very kind probation officer, William Guerra, and settled down to become the photographer who I am today.

The Beats

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Essay © 2014 Robert Cordier
Poem © Gerald Stern and reprinted with permission

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