



Evening Standard

EVENING STANDARD FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER 2007

In London tonight

Shots that mark the years

EXHIBITION

Remember Love:

John Lennon

Proud Galleries, W1

★★★★☆

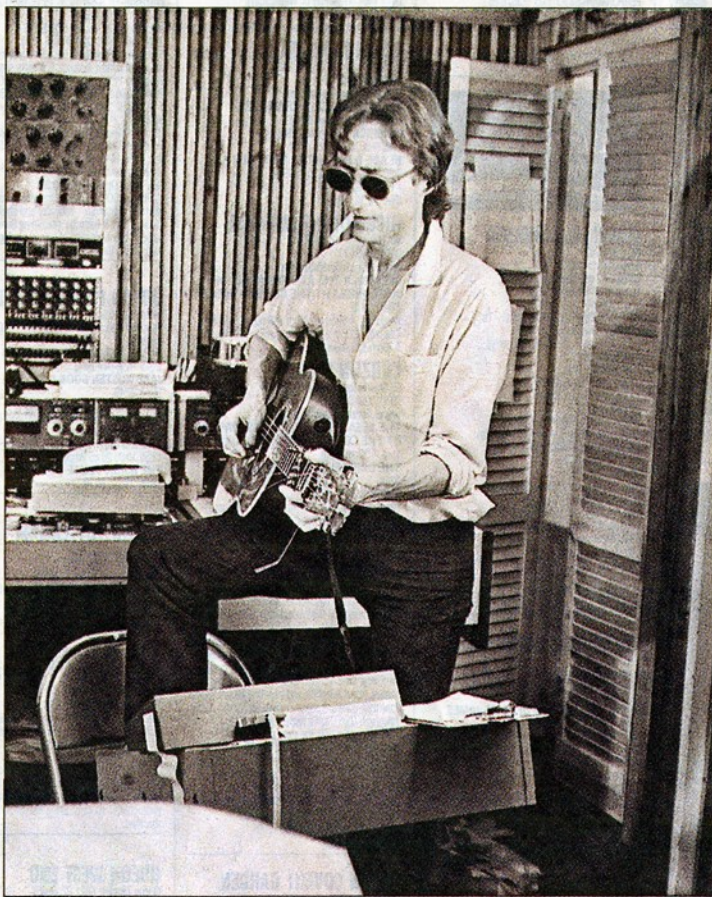
SUE STEWARD

ICONIC photographs of superstars such as John Lennon are carried from generation to generation by fans who never tire of seeing the same poses, hair styles, outfits and concerts. This exhibition commemorates the anniversary of Lennon's death — 27 years ago tomorrow — in work by seven international photographers. They include several previously unseen portraits, and to (us) fans, are irresistible.

They range from the cute, smart-arsed school boy in uniform to Jurgen Vollmer's cool, *en passant* snap of the unknown rocker posing like James Dean outside a Hamburg club (1961), to Terry O'Neill's sharp Beatle-hero, posing with guitar and cigarette. Most pleasingly, they emphasise Lennon's life with his creative partner, Yoko Ono.

An early documenter and friend, Tom Hanley entered the couple's domestic domain to expose surprisingly unhip décor: One photograph presents Lennon in the kitchen, reading the Left-wing newspaper, *Red Mole*; it contextualises him beyond pop and is a perfect time-piece.

Hanley also documented the tank-top era when Lennon recorded *Imagine* at his white piano; the informality of these shots contrasts beautifully with David M Spindel's slicker studio sessions with the leaner, cleaner, shirt-wearing "Double Fantasy" Lennon. Barry Plummer's live shot of a 1969 Lennon-Ono Live Peace



Just like starting over: David M Spindel's studio shot from the *Double Fantasy* sessions captures a lean, clean Lennon

performance preserves Yoko's contribution, performed from inside a white sack.

Most interesting are Polly Moseley's previously unseen informal records of the Lennons editing their film, *Give Peace a Chance*. They allow us to spy on Lennon, crop-headed and now dressed in black, in his element — editing

and discussing, as Ono writes placards for the end titles, chaotically efficient and very un-rock 'n' roll.

Remember Love coincides with the launch of the Mark Chapman biopic, *The Killing of John Lennon*. That shocking event is referenced here in a single photograph by Jim Marchese. His use of infra-red film on the stunned

crowd outside the Dakota that night lends the building a spectral gothic presence. In the foreground, a chestnut seller plies his wares, launching the trade in Lennon's memory.

■ Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun until 7pm. Until 2 March. Information: 020 7839 4942, www.proud.co.uk.