

# Book review: 'Soul Rebel'

By GENEVIEVE LONG  
Epoch Times Staff

Some of the most iconic images ever taken of singer-songwriter Bob Marley were photographed at the height of his career by renowned photographer David Burnett. Burnett, who is co-founder of the photo agency Contact Press Images, and a veteran of decades in the photography industry, chronicles these images in a recent book, "Soul Rebel."

The photos, taken on assignment for Time magazine in 1976, and during the European leg of Marley's Exodus tour in spring 1977, are both iconic and timeless. The book includes nearly 200 photographs, only a few of which were used for the Time article.

Other reggae legends captured in the large, heavy book include Peter Tosh, Lee "Scratch" Perry, Burning Spear, and Ras Michael. The book was published on the anniversary of what would have been Marley's 60th birthday.

Interspersed with the images, which were mostly taken with the available natural light, are Burnett's musings and memories from the sessions. He recalls with great detail the setting of the places where the photographs were taken, the mood of Marley and those around him, and his own feelings about the work he was undertaking.

The natural light Burnett used in

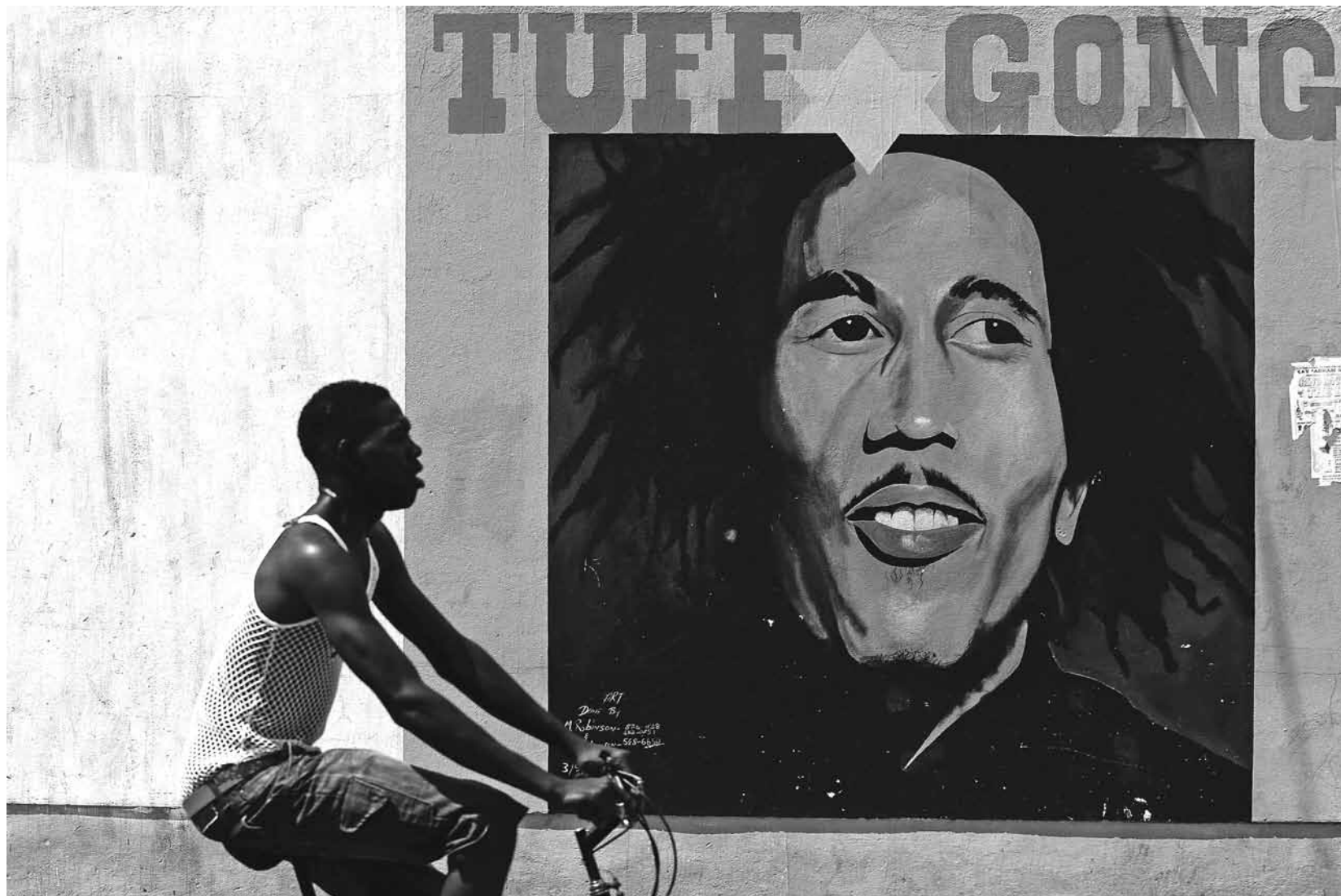
the series of pictures of Marley at his home in Jamaica has the effect of making a man—who even decades later is considered a musical legend—completely down to earth and human.

"I think that rarely do you find journalists as sharp-eyed as photographers," said Burnett in an interview about his craft. "We are paid to look, and look around, we do. We notice little things that sometimes become very telling in a story."

You see these little details in the photos in "Soul Rebel." The light in Marley's eyes, the lines in the skin of his hands, the lines of his face in his introspective profile.

Between smaller shots laid out on one side of page with facing text are pictures that fall across the entire width of the book. Looking through the book, it's easy to imagine that Marley is as close and personal as someone sitting in your living room (albeit an enormously talented someone). You almost feel as though they are snapshots taken just last week.

Burnett's thoughts about capturing Marley in such a low-impact environment, decades ago and without the modern hassle of stars' handlers and agents rushing the process are fascinating. He describes the calm atmosphere, the slow pace of the interview, and the hours that he and reporter David DeVoss spent at Marley's



Bob Marley's image, seen here in his hometown of Kingston, Jamaica, still reverberates throughout the world. JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

compound.

"When you consider today that if you get seven minutes for an interview and all the little PR minions are standing around in their cocktail dresses, tapping their feet—I mean, this was really a pretty nice little gig," writes Burnett in the book.

As far as the timing of the publication of his book, Burnett says that he just felt the timing was

right. He thought that he actually did not have enough photographs to do a book until his college student daughter said that a poster in her friend's dorm room was one of his photographs of Marley.

"When it became clear to me that kids born five years after Marley's death regarded him with such esteem, I felt, well, let's try and make a book out of this, after all," said Burnett in an interview.

"And now I see how people from 12 to 70 react to him. It goes beyond my photographs, really."

The book is a mixture of colour and black and white, and is divided into several sections with an introduction by Chris Murray, and followed by sections on Marley's home in Jamaica at Ocho Rios, photos from Kingston, Jamaica; shots of Marley and other icons at the Tuff Gong recording studio;

and the Europe leg of the famed Exodus tour.

"Marley is a beloved iconic figure," says Burnett. "I think my pictures capture him in a very personal way which people relate to."

"Soul Rebel" is published by Insight Editions and is available at [www.insighteditions.com](http://www.insighteditions.com) and at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

# Jewels worth millions up for auction

By NICHOLAS MCLAUGHLIN  
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NEW YORK—Christie's New York will be presenting two extraordinary jewels with fascinating histories this coming spring, the Emperor Maximilian Diamond and the Catherine the Great Emerald and Diamond Brooch. Both jewels will highlight Christie's first major jewelry sale of the year.

"This April we are honoured to present two legendary gems not seen in public for decades, the Emperor Maximilian Diamond of 39.55 carats and the Catherine the Great Emerald and Diamond Brooch, set with a Colombian emerald of over 60 carats," said Rahul Kadakia, head of jewelry at Christie's New York. "Aside from their exceptional rarity, these large stones bear a fascinating history and provenance that renders them truly priceless in the world of fine jewels."

**THE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN DIAMOND**

The Emperor Maximilian Diamond weighing 39.55 carats



Catherine II of Russia was known as one of the greatest jewelry collectors of all time. She owned the famous emerald and diamond brooch around the 1770's. COURTESY OF CHRISTIE'S

is worth an estimated \$1 million-1.5 million.

It is one of two large diamonds the Archduke Maximilian acquired in Brazil in 1860, in the years just before he was named Emperor of Mexico at Napoleon's urging. In 1866, under pressure from the United States, Napoleon backed away from financial and military support for Maxi-

milian, effectively abandoning him. Soon thereafter, republican forces captured and court-martialed the young emperor and sent him before the firing squad. Legend holds that Maximilian was wearing the Emperor Maximilian Diamond in a small satchel tied around his neck when he was executed. The diamond was returned



Laurence Graff after an intense round of bidding. The winning bid was \$726,000, more than twice the estimated price of \$330,000. The following year, Mr. Graff sold the Emperor Maximilian Diamond together with two other important diamonds, to Madame Imelda Marcos, wife of the President of the Philippines.

Subsequent private transactions followed, until it was acquired by the present owner. The upcoming auction marks the first public viewing of this historically significant diamond in 28 years.

**CATHERINE THE GREAT EMERALD AND DIAMOND BROOCH**

Also highlighting the sale is the stunning Catherine the Great Emerald and Diamond Brooch, worth an estimated \$1 million-1.5 million, long considered one of the outstanding jewels of the world.

The brooch centers on a hexagonal-cut Colombian emerald of exceptional quality weighing between 60 and 70 carats. Uniquely precious and suited for imperial elegance, the em-

erald is set within rows of rose and old mine cut diamonds and mounted in silver-topped gold. This imperial gem originally belonged to Catherine II of Russia, who ascended to the Russian throne in 1762. She was known as one of the greatest jewelry collectors of all time, and took great pleasure in her most treasured gems, including the emerald and diamond brooch, which is renowned not only for its quality, but also for its sheer size.

In 1776, Catherine gave the brooch to Sophie Dorothea, princess of Württemberg, as a wedding gift on the occasion of her marriage to Catherine's son and successor Czar Paul I. It was subsequently handed down to the princess's descendants, and remained the property of the noble house of Hohenzollern for the next three generations. In 1972, the brooch was sold to a private American buyer whose estate now offers for auction the historic jewel for the first time in nearly 40 years.

For more information on up and coming auctions visit [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com).

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