

THE SUN ATL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chuck Stewart: *Framing the Sound*

A landmark exhibition of photographs by one of the most celebrated music photographers in American history opens August 8 at The Sun ATL in Atlanta

ATLANTA, GA — The Sun ATL, Atlanta’s contemporary art gallery and event venue located in the historic Sweet Auburn neighborhood, is honored to present *Chuck Stewart: Framing the Sound*, an exhibition of photographs by the late Chuck Stewart (1927–2017), widely regarded as the most prolific and consequential music photographer of the twentieth century. The exhibition opens to the public on Saturday, August 8, and runs through September 26, 2026.

Stewart’s photographs appeared on more than 2,000 album covers over a career spanning seven decades, and his portraits of the era’s greatest musicians remain among the most recognized images in American cultural history. Twenty-five of his prints are held in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History. His work has been exhibited at Jazz at Lincoln Center and recognized by institutions across the United States and Europe.

Framing the Sound opens at a singular moment: 2026 marks the centenary of both John Coltrane and Miles Davis — both born in 1926 — and Stewart’s portraits of each are among the highlights of the exhibition. The show also features arresting photographs of Nina Simone, Astrud Gilberto, and Tina Turner, among many others, offering a sweeping visual record of an era that permanently shaped American music and culture.

“It’s probably easier to ask me whom I haven’t photographed than to tell you who I have. But if there’s a historic moment in American music, social or cultural history that you’re curious about, chances are I was there or have photographs of somebody who was.”

— Chuck Stewart

That breadth is reflected in the exhibition itself. *Framing the Sound* presents a curated selection of Stewart’s portrait work alongside a wall of album covers drawn from his extraordinary catalog — spanning Impulse!, Verve, Mercury, Reprise, Chess, and other labels that defined the golden era of recorded jazz.

Framing the Sound will serve as the opening event in a year of international gallery and museum exhibitions celebrating the centenary of Chuck Stewart’s birth in 2027. The Sun ATL is honored to help kick off that celebration in Atlanta.

Framing the Sound is conceived and curated by Kim Stewart, Director of the Chuck Stewart Archive, in collaboration with The Sun ATL Director Shawn Vinson, and is presented with the full support of the Chuck Stewart Estate.

The Sun ATL gratefully acknowledges WCLK 91.9 FM (Jazz WCLK, Clark Atlanta University) as media sponsor and Fireball Entertainment Group LLC as presenting sponsor.

EXHIBITION DETAILS

Exhibition: Chuck Stewart: *Framing the Sound*

Public opening: Saturday, August 8, 2026

Closing date: September 26, 2026

Location: The Sun ATL, 399 Edgewood Avenue SE, Atlanta, GA 30312

Gallery hours: Friday–Saturday 11am–5pm; Sunday–Thursday by appointment

Media sponsor: WCLK 91.9 FM, Jazz WCLK, Clark Atlanta University

Presenting sponsor: Fireball Entertainment Group LLC

About The Sun ATL

The Sun ATL is a 9,200 sq. ft. contemporary art gallery and event venue at 399 Edgewood Avenue SE in Atlanta's Sweet Auburn neighborhood, one block from The King Center. Founded by Shawn Vinson, the gallery presents local and international artists with a curatorial emphasis on depth, historical context, and accessibility. The Sun ATL co-founded the Edgewood Arts District and the Edgewood ArtWalk, and maintains institutional partnerships with Georgia State University and media partnerships with WCLK. The gallery is available for private events, fundraisers, brand activations, and film productions. Instagram: @thesunatl | thesunatl.com

About Chuck Stewart

Chuck Stewart (May 21, 1927 – January 20, 2017) was one of the most prolific and celebrated photographers in the history of American music. Born in Henrietta, Texas and raised in Tucson, Arizona, Stewart sold photographs on his very first day behind a camera at age 13. He studied photography at Ohio University, served as a U.S. Army combat photographer, and was among the few photographers to document the postwar atomic bomb tests in 1952. He was the sole photographer at the 1964 recording session for John Coltrane's *A Love Supreme*. He received the Milt Hinton Award for Excellence in Jazz Photography in 2008.

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