

THE BEATLES *NOT* FOR SALE

The Beatles NOT For Sale is a series looking at Beatles items in museums and private collections.

We are encouraging our members to search out Beatles goodies in their local museums and contribute that information to this series.

One of the many joys of working at a national museum is the ability to gain a sneak preview into recently acquired objects that have yet to go on display before the public. When the Victoria & Albert Museum's recent acquisition of 40 original Linda McCartney photographs and prints (kindly donated by Sir Paul) was announced, I was lucky enough to gain an up close and personal insight with the prints themselves, along with my colleagues Eleanor Atkins and Terry Bloxham. Viewing images on a computer screen is a great quick and efficient way of observing photographs but there is nothing quite like seeing and handling an original print in real life. As a lifelong Beatles fan, and a professional photographer for nearly 15 years, I was keen to observe the quality and techniques of these McCartney originals. I thought I would share my experiences with *The British Beatles Fan Club*.

Perhaps the first thing you notice when studying Linda's images is the closeness and intimacy she obviously shared with her subjects. Clearly you would expect this with her shots of Paul and her young family, especially up at home in Mull. But even with other sitters, the Rolling Stones, the artist Brian Clarke, even the double act Gilbert and George, there is a real connection and insight that you don't always necessarily see in other photographers' works. As a photographer myself, I can genuinely attribute a real talent and quality to her images that implies a greater talent than, which some may assume, 'just' being the wife of a Beatle.

