

## Sale of the week

# Behind the scenes of a cinematic masterpiece

**Sale:** *The Godfather*:

photographs by Steve Schapiro

**Location:** Hamiltons Gallery,

13 Carlos Place, London W1,

tel: +44 (0)20-7499 9493/4

www.hamiltonsgallery.com

**Date:** Until March 28

**Need to know:** It was Jefferson Airplane musician Paul Kantner who said that "if you can remember anything about the sixties, you weren't really there". But American photographer Steve Schapiro most definitely was there, and he can remember a great deal about it because he spent years

travelling through the United States documenting some of the most important events of that decade and the one that followed. He used his camera to capture Bobby Kennedy's presidential campaign, the plight of the beleaguered Sioux Indians of Pine Ridge and the emergence of San Francisco as the hub of the Summer of Love. He snapped Andy Warhol and friends at the Factory, Mohammed Ali at home with his children, Martin Luther King shortly before his assassination and Ike and Tina Turner when they were still an item. His reputation resulted in him

being made "special photographer" during the making of more than 200 Hollywood movies, most notably *The Godfather* and its two sequels. The results were recently published by Taschen in a £400, limited edition book called *The Godfather Family Album* – but this selling exhibition marks the first public showing of original colour photographs from *The Godfather* assignment made using Schapiro's original negatives.

**Highlights:** The 30 different prints represent a rare opportunity to glimpse behind the scenes of the

making of what many people regard as one of the greatest masterpieces in cinema history. A number of the photographs were captured at final rehearsals or even during takes that were actually used in the film, meaning Schapiro worked with his camera inside a so-called "blimp" box that muffled the sound of the shutter. Some of the seminal images on offer include the scene of Marlon Brando's Don Vito Corleone lying in the gutter having been shot five times, one of his son, Michael (Al Pacino), being inducted as the new Don and one of Corleone at the wedding of his