

Basic Detail Report

Portrait of guitarist Frank Zappa with

American rock band The Mothers of Invention

Date

1969-1979

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

Frank Zappa was an American musician, songwriter, composer, record producer, actor and filmmaker. The Mothers of Invention were an American rock band from California that served as the backing musicians for Frank Zappa. Their work is marked by the use of sonic experimentation, innovative album art, and elaborate live shows. Originally an R&B band called The Soul Giants, the band's original lineup included Ray Collins, David Coronado, Ray Hunt, Roy Estrada and Jimmy Carl Black. Zappa was asked to take over as the guitarist following a fight between Collins and Coronado, the band's original saxophonist/leader. Zappa insisted that they perform his original material, changing their name on Mothers Day to The Mothers (which for legal liability reasons was morphed by record executive decision into The Mothers of Invention), and leading them to substantial popular commercial success. Originally formed in 1964, the band first became popular playing in California's underground music scene in the late 1960s. Under Zappa's helm, it was signed to jazz label Verve Records as part of the label's diversification plans. Verve released the Mothers of Invention's début album *Freak Out!* in 1966, featuring a lineup including Zappa, Collins, Black, Estrada and Elliot Ingber.

Dimensions

Overall: 30.4 x 24.9 cm (12 x 9 6/8 in.)