

LOCAL HISTORY



Yoko Ono and John Lennon in Syracuse for Ono's art exhibition, "This is Not Here," in 1971. *Photo courtesy of Everson Museum*

46 Years Ago: On Oct. 9, 1971, John Lennon came to Syracuse with his wife, Yoko Ono. The Everson Museum was mounting an exhibition by Ono entitled "This is Not Here." Lennon was to celebrate his 31st birthday in Syracuse, and there was a rumor, based on a faint hope, that the occasion might lead to a reunion of at least three of the Beatles for a small, impromptu concert at the museum. The rumor led to a near-riot at the Everson so Lennon, Ono, and several of their guests retreated to a room at the Hotel Syracuse for Lennon's party. There, with other musicians, (including Eric Clapton and Beatle drummer Ringo Starr, who played percussion on a wastebasket) Lennon led the only "near" performance by the Beatles in Syracuse, playing over 20 songs, including "Peggy Sue," "Yellow Submarine," and "Give Peace a Chance."

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