

# Peter Hujar

## Master Class

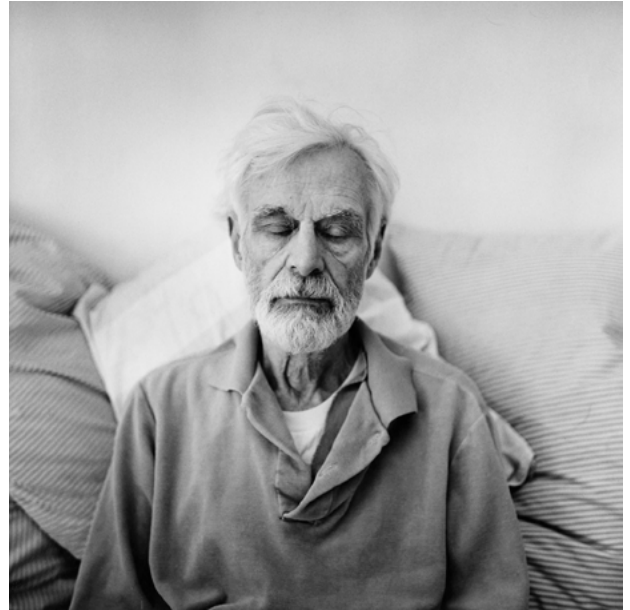
Presented in Collaboration with Pace/MacGill

September 14 – October 19, 2019

540 West 25th Street

Third Floor

Peter Hujar, *Edwin Denby*, 1975 © The Peter Hujar Archive; courtesy Pace/MacGill Gallery, New York



New York — For the public opening of 540 West 25th Street on Saturday, September 14, 2019, Pace and Pace/MacGill will present *Peter Hujar: Master Class*. Featuring a selection of Hujar’s black-and-white portraits acquired by Richard Avedon in the 1970s, the exhibition examines the photographer’s idiomatic approach to portraiture that treated each photograph as a stand-alone object, capable of evoking complex emotions and expressions. The influence of Avedon’s acclaimed Master Class, a weekly seminar taught by Avedon and art director Marvin Israel at Avedon’s New York City studio and in which Hujar was enrolled in 1967, will also be examined through scholarly research.

The Master Class included visiting speakers such as Diane Arbus and Lucas Samaras, and opened doors for a number of young photographers.

Avedon and Hujar remained friends following the workshop’s close and, over time, Avedon acquired the eight superb prints on view, each of which deftly captures Hujar’s avant-garde circle with penetrating sensitivity and psychological depth. The exhibition will also include Hujar’s four-part work made during the Master Class, *Nude Self-Portrait Series #1, #2, #3, #4*, 1967.

**Peter Hujar** (1934–1987) was born in New Jersey and moved to Manhattan as a teenager. He studied at the High School of Art and Design and shortly thereafter worked as a photographer’s assistant. Throughout the 1960s, Hujar served as an apprentice for a number of commercial photographers and did a large amount of fashion work for Harper’s Bazaar. He was a leading figure in the group of artists, musicians, writers, and performers at the forefront of downtown New York’s cultural scene in the 1970s and early ‘80s, and died of AIDS at the age of 53, leaving behind a complex and profound body of work. His photographs have been the subject of solo exhibitions throughout the United States and Europe, and are held in the permanent collections of institutions

worldwide, including the Art Institute of Chicago; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Morgan Library and Museum, New York; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and Tate Modern, London.

Selected publications include the first and only monograph made during Hujar's lifetime, *Portraits in Life and Death* (Da Capo Press, 1976), and the posthumous works: *Peter Hujar* (Grey Art Gallery and Study Center, New York University, 1990), *Peter Hujar: A Retrospective* (Scalo Publishers, 1994), *Animals and Nudes* (Twin Palms Publishers, 2002), *Animals* (BukAmerica, 2006), and *Peter Hujar: Speed of Life* (Aperture 2017).



**Pace/MacGill** is a premier gallery dealing in modern and contemporary photography. The gallery presents the work of its artists to museums, individual collectors, and private collections around the world. Under the leadership and dedication of Peter MacGill, Pace/MacGill has helped bring the medium of photography to the forefront worldwide. Pace/MacGill has contributed to the growth of photography by mounting exhibitions featuring the most distinguished practitioners of the medium and has assisted in the development of many new artists' careers. In addition to its museum-quality exhibitions, the gallery has become a leader in placing important collections and archives into major public institutions and private foundations. Representing the most significant photographers of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, Pace/MacGill's mission is inspired by the work of the artists it represents.


**Pace** is a leading contemporary art gallery representing many of the most significant international artists and estates of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.


Under the leadership of President and CEO Marc Glimcher, Pace is a vital force within the art world and plays a critical role in shaping the history, creation, and engagement with modern and contemporary art. Since its founding by Arne Glimcher in 1960, Pace has developed a distinguished legacy for vibrant and dedicated relationships with renowned artists. As the gallery approaches the start of its seventh decade, Pace's mission continues to be inspired by our drive to support the world's most influential and innovative artists and to share their visionary work with people around the world.

Pace advances this mission through its dynamic global program, comprising ambitious exhibitions, artist projects, public installations, institutional collaborations, and curatorial research and writing. Today, Pace has seven locations worldwide: two galleries in New York, including its newly opened global headquarters at 540 West 25th Street; one in London; one in Geneva; one in Palo Alto, California; one in Hong Kong; and one in Seoul.

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