

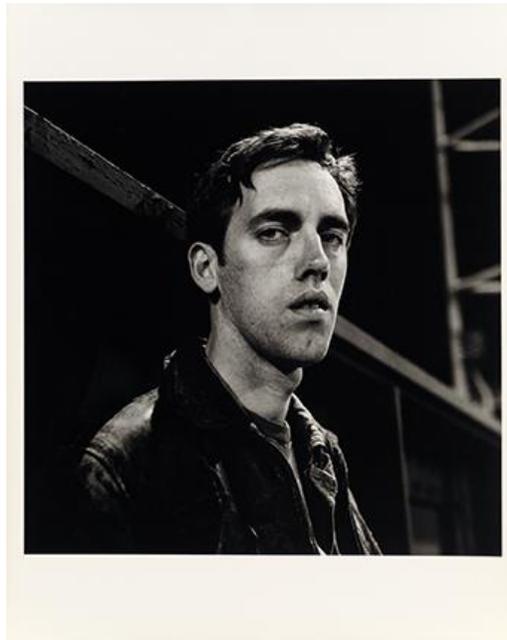


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Historic Pride Sale at Swann Brings Market Premiers and Auction Records



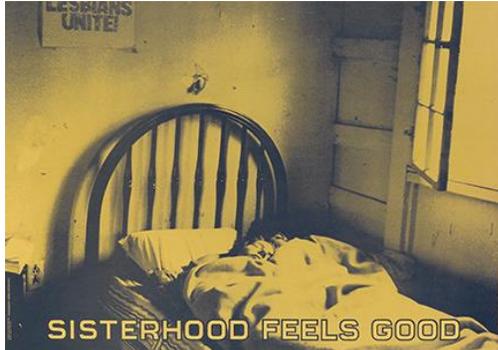
New York—The **Pride Sale** at **Swann Galleries** on **Thursday, June 20** offered a curated selection of LGBTQ+ art, photography, literature, autographs and ephemera from the past 200 years, with many first-time appearances on the market. The sale was a resounding success with 75% of the lots finding buyers, bringing a total of \$950,833.

Topping the sale was **Peter Hujar**'s portrait of David Wojnarowicz. The 1985 silver print sold after aggressive bidding between two collectors on the phone for \$106,250, a record for the artist. "Hujar's compelling portrait captures an intimate moment in 1985, a few years after the couple first met. Hujar, who was 20 years Wojnarowicz's senior, was initially a mentor, introducing him to photography and darkroom practices; soon after they became lovers. The strong bond between the two is encapsulated in David poignant statement, 'Everything I made, I made for Peter.' It was deeply satisfying to bear witness and see these two giants of the LGBTQ+ and photographic communities generously recognized," noted Daile Kaplan, Swann VP and Director of Photographs.

Additional works by Hujar included *Come Out!*, 1969, an iconic-image that was used for numerous Gay Liberation Front posters (\$10,000). David Wojnarowicz also featured in the sale with *True Myth / Domino Sugar*, a 1983 screenprint on a supermarket poster, that earned \$13,000, a record for the print, and

Neon Dancer, a 1982 postcard to activist Jim Fouratt with a multimedia drawing by the artist, which brought \$17,500.

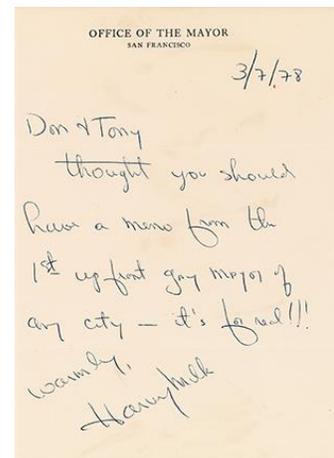
Further photographic material included an important selection of works by Robert Mapplethorpe: *Jim and Tim in Sausalito*, 1977, which brought a record for the silver print at \$25,000. The artist's complete



1981 *Z Portfolio* reached \$47,500, and a selection of four works from the 1978 *X Portfolio* sold for \$21,250. Duane Michals' *Narcissus*, 1985, earned a record for the sequence at \$27,500. There was a frenzy of bidding as works by **Donna Gottschalk** and Joan E. Biren (JEB) came across the block. High points of the run were *Sisterhood Feels Good*, a 1971 poster by Times Change Press which utilized Gottschalk's *Sleepers*, *Limerick*, *Pennsylvania* photograph (\$1,125), and JEB's 1971, printed 1997, silver print *Charlotte Bunch with members of the Furies in the living room of one of their collective houses* (\$3,000). Works by Don Herron, Annie

Leibovitz and Jack Smith rounded out a standout offering.

Autograph material proved to be popular as well, with an autograph letter signed by **Harvey Milk** on March 7, 1978, as the acting Mayor of San Francisco, garnered a record for an autograph by the politician at \$11,250. The note was written to Don Amador, a leading LA-based activist, and his husband Tony Karnes, and exclaims: "Thought you should have a memo from the 1st upfront gay mayor of any city—it's for real!!!" An archive of personal effects of trans icon Candy Darling, which included letters, photographs, and her personal datebook and diary for 1970, was won for \$19,500.



Literary highlights featured a remembrance copy of Walt Whitman's *Memoranda of the War*, 1875-76, inscribed by the author, "with his love," to his partner Peter Doyle, which brought a record for the work at \$70,000. Also of note was a marker and graphite study for *Frog and Toad Together*, 1972, by Arnold Lobel (\$9,375).

Fine art from the early-twentieth century included a pen, ink and pencil preliminary sketch for *Horseplay*, 1935, by Paul Cadmus (\$47,000) and Gerda Wegener's circa 1920 crayon, charcoal and wash drawing, *Two Women in a Window*, which featured her partner Lili Elbe (\$20,000). Works from the latter half of the twentieth century included pieces by Andy Warhol, Michael Leonard and Henry Scott.

Of the sale, Nicholas D. Lowry, Swann President, said, "It is validating as a specialist to discover that you can still be pleasantly surprised at an auction. The catalogue was extremely well received, the exhibition was well attended and the auction itself was busy and the bidding was active. Works from every single one of our areas of specialty achieved prices that helped us to decide to turn this auction into a yearly event. The sale was a historic, artistic and cultural exploration for the whole company. We were proud to be able to do it and delighted it turned out so well."

Swann Galleries is currently accepting quality consignments. Inquiries for future auctions can be directed to pride@swannalleries.com. Visit swannalleries.com or download the Swann Galleries App for catalogues and bidding.

Additional highlights can be found [here](#).

Captions:

Lot 154: Peter Hujar, *David Wojnarowicz: Manhattan-Night (III)*, silver print, 1985. Sold for \$106,250, a record for the artist.

Lot 127: Donna Gottschalk, *Sisterhood Feels Good*, poster by Times Change Press, 1971. Sold for \$1,125.

[Lot 144](#): Harvey Milk, autograph letter signed, as acting Mayor of San Francisco, March 7, 1978. Sold for \$11,250, a record for an autograph by Milk.

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Social media: @swannalleries, #ThePrideSale

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Swann Auction Galleries is a third-generation family business as well as the world's largest auction house for works on paper. In the last 75 years, Swann has repeatedly revolutionized the trade with such innovations as the first U.S. auction dedicated to photographs and the world's only department of African-American Fine Art. More than 30 auctions and previews are held annually in Swann Galleries' two-floor exhibition space in Midtown Manhattan, and online worldwide. Visit swannalleries.com for more information.