

HAL BROMM

Est. Tribeca 1975

HAL BROMM GALLERY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Queer Show Part I



John Ashbury, *Dark Decollation*, 2015, Collage, 11"x8.5"

Hal Bromm Gallery is excited to present THE QUEER SHOW, Part I, the first exhibition in a new series which traces the formation of our modern notion of queerness through 50 years of contemporary art. We observe the ways in which these artists break down topics of identity,

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and sexuality, rejecting normative modes of representation in favor of imagining new forms of expression. Part I features the works of Carlos Alfonzo, John Ashbury, Christian Brechneff, Keith Davis, Darrell Ellis, Miguel Ferrando, Luis Frangella, Mark Golderman, Roni Horn, Jess, Tim Lovejoy, Slava Mogutin, Dirk Rowntree, Russell Sharon, Pamela Sneed, Larry Stanton, Gail Thacker, and David Wojnarowicz.

Over the last 50 years, the word “Queer” has become prevalent within our culture as both an identity and an ideology. Queer scholarship since the 1990s has sought to shift our cultural understanding of non-heteronormative sexual identities by reading against existing material, unearthing the queerness that has been ever-present within our culture, yet has been suppressed. Queerness then becomes a way to both see the world and exist within it. To see the world through a queer lens is to see below the surface of things,

questioning their motives and imagining ways in which they can be transformed to reveal new meanings. To identify as queer is to not only identify outside of heteronormative sexual expression, but to identify oneself as part of a larger intersectional community that seeks to work against ascribed norms of representation and understanding. To ‘queer’ something is to understand it within a context of infinite possibilities, and infinite identities. Queerness, in terms of sexual identity, is an understanding of human sexuality that moves beyond the binary of straight/gay, recognizing the varied social dimensions present within the formation of identity. It acts as a political category, a



Russell Sharon, *Untitled*, 1985, watercolor on paper, 14"x11"

philosophy, a state of being, a means through which those outside of the heteronormative mode of existence can find community.

Queer people, despite being on the margins of society, have always been at the forefront of the avant-garde, smuggling narratives of queerness into the greater canon of contemporary art.

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exhibition celebrates the legacy of queer artists seeking to develop new modes of expression, reevaluating the works of these artists with a contemporary queer perspective. Allowing them to transform through and beyond binary gay/straight narratives and to recognize them for their radical work in redefining how queer people are represented within visual culture.

Now more than ever is the time to forefront the queerness of society. In a time of unprecedented political division and an increasingly intolerant social climate where the rights of queer and transgender people are at risk across the globe, we must work harder than ever to support those whose work pushes back against bigotry, and celebrates the joy and freedom within queer existence. Building on Hal Bromm's historic legacy of supporting queer artists, this exhibition serves as a reminder that queer people are not new, but that they have always been here, and they will continue to be here despite efforts to silence and eradicate them.

The Queer Show, Part I will be open 22 November, 2024 - 25 January, 2025.

For inquiries please contact Gary Whitt: Garywhitt1101@gmail.com



Keith Davis, *Untitled*, Mixed media on canvas, 18"x18"

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About Hal Bromm:

A downtown pioneer, Hal Bromm established Tribeca's first contemporary gallery in 1975, followed by an East Village branch in 1984. Since its establishment, Hal Bromm Gallery has organized historically significant exhibitions in New York City and beyond, presenting and championing the early work of many important contemporary artists, among them Alice Adams, Carlos Alfonzo, Mike Bidlo, Andre Cadere, Rosemarie Castoro, Peter Downsbrough, Joel Fisher, Linda Francis, Luis Frangella, Judy Glantzman, Michael Goldberg, Keith Haring, Suzanne Harris, Paolo Icaro, Derek Jarman, Alain Kirili, Greer Lankton, Nicholas Moufarrege, Richard Nonas, Jody Pinto, Lucio Pozzi, Rick Prol, Walter Robinson, Russell Sharon, Kiki Smith, Ted Stamm, Lynn Umlauf, Jeff Wall, Krzysztof Wodiczko, David Wojnarowicz, Martin Wong, and Joe Zucker, highlighting the creative energy and depth of talent surfacing in Downtown Manhattan throughout the 1970s, 80s and beyond. For nearly five decades, Hal Bromm's rich history of collaborating with artists, galleries, museums and institutions on the development and curation of avant-garde exhibitions, has provided meaningful context around storied moments in



David Wojnarowicz, *Untitled (USA)*, 1989, mixed media, 36"x36"