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A Pair of New York Exhibitions Revisit Peter Hujar's Photographs and Friends



Left: Peter Hujar's "Diana Vreeland" (1975). Right: Sheyla Baykal's "Angel Jack and Hibiscus, Angels of Light performance" (1972). Left: © 2026 The Peter Hujar Archive, LLC. Courtesy of the Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, and Ortuzar, New York. Right: courtesy of Penny Arcade, Marcelo Gabriel Yáñez, Soft Network and Ortuzar, New York

By Jameson Montgomery

It's been 40 years since the exhibition "Peter Hujar: Recent Photographs" was presented at Gracie Mansion Gallery in New York's East Village. That show, the last solo exhibition of the New Jersey-born artist's work before he died of AIDS-related complications in November 1987, featured 70 photographs taken between 1965 and 1986 that ranged in subject matter from slaughterhouse-bound cows to crumbling structures across New Jersey and portraits of noted figures like the fashion editor Diana Vreeland and the artist Greer Lankton, as well as anonymous sitters including a group of mental outpatients. Now, the seminal show will be remounted at Ortuzar in New York following a run at San Francisco's Fraenkel

Gallery, which ended this past fall. The TriBeCa-based Ortuzar will concurrently present “How Beautiful This Living Thing Is,” a show curated by the author and editor Andrew Durbin that assembles artwork by some Hujar contemporaries. It includes a sculptural installation by the artist (and Hujar’s onetime lover) Paul Thek, as well as photographs by the artists Susan Brockman and Sheyla Baykal. Durbin hopes the show will give visitors a fuller context for Hujar’s life and work, and bring attention to some of his lesser-known friends and collaborators. “Some of the artists here are rarely exhibited these days,” he says. “I hope people leave the exhibition with some names written down and plans to do their own research, because this isn’t even the tip of the iceberg.” *“The Gracie Mansion Show” and “How Beautiful This Living This Is” will be on view at Ortuzar, New York, from April 22 through May 30, ortuzar.com.*