

'Donald and Victor: Under The Influence'

Victor Arimondi Retrospective Tribute 'Donald and Victor: Under The Influence' to Premiere at Artist Don Hershman's Salomon Arts Gallery Exhibit in May

NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES, May 10, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Artist [Don Hershman](#) is set to exhibit his latest collection of original pieces, as part of a retrospective series inspired by the late Victor Arimondi. In the spring show, Donald and Victor: Under The Influence, the inventive artist will embody his visceral need to pursue interests and creative expressions as he pays loving tribute to his former partner who succumbed to AIDS in 2001. Hershman's paintings will recognize the unique attributes of Arimondi's work, featuring a display that is compassionate and reflective of our modern times.

An opening reception will take place at Salomon Arts Gallery in Tribeca on May 13, 2021 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Space is limited, and the event will be carried out in strict adherence to all NY State COVID protocols. The exhibit runs through May 14 - June 3, 2021, viewing on Wednesdays through Saturdays 2pm - 6pm or by appointment.

In addition, on May 22, 2021 at 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, there will be an Art Talk with guest speaker Adam Stoltman, a former New York Times and Time, Inc., photography editor, will be in conversation with Hershman and share remarks on the legacy of Arimondi's work.

Arimondi was a famed Italian American model and art photographer whose unique eye and sensuous style captivated the world. At the time of his death, Hershman inherited his estate, including his vast collection of photography and art.

"During our 17 years together Victor steadfastly guided and molded me, and after his sudden death in 2001 I became solidly dedicated to my art, his presence more powerful than ever - a driving force to create something that is no longer a choice for me, but a necessity," says



Quarantine - Quarantine Series, Acrylic and Pencil on Wood Panel, 30"x24", Don Hershman

Hershman. "This show at the Salomon Gallery brings mine and Victor's work full circle with 20 new selected paintings from 2019 to 2021, along with a carefully curated selection of 38 photographs, taken between 1972 and 2001, four of which I interpreted into my own paintings, called the D & V Series."

The upcoming exhibit will serve as a love letter to a luminary who graced the pages of fashion magazines including Vogue, Harper's Bazaar and Esquire, and appeared on the runway for many top designers, predominantly Valentino and Cerruti. Arimondi's determination to turn the camera lens from his face onto the world he saw before him led to famously shooting the likes of Grace Jones, Liv Ullman, and Norman Mailer, as well as several portraits of male nudes captured during the pre-AIDS culture of the early 1980s.

He also notably focused imagery of the plight of the homeless of San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood suffering during the height of the AIDS epidemic. In his words, "Since I posed in front of the camera for so many years, my experience with talented photographers made me realize a way to express my inner world."

Titles in the collection will display photographs: Male Nude, Archival Print, 12"x9"; Still Life, Archival Print, 8"x8"; Male Nude, Archival Print, 12"x9"; and Self Portrait, Archival Print, 12"x9".

Paintings will include: Red Vase with Flower - Quarantine Series, Acrylic and Pencil on Wood Panel, 30"x24"; Quarantine - Quarantine Series, Acrylic and Pencil on Wood Panel, 30"x24"; Tulips



Don Hershman



Victor Arimondi

- Quarantine Series, Acrylic and Pencil on Wood Panel, 30"x24"; and Epidemiology - Quarantine Series, Acrylic and Pencil on Wood Panel, 30"x24".

About Don Hershman:

Driven by a desire to continually improve the state of the world, Don Hershman lives out a fascinating dual life in grand succession that inspires his own artwork. He holds unique combined positions as both an illustrious artist and a renowned podiatric surgeon. Equal satisfaction is found when he paints, as well as when he performs surgery on patients.

Born in 1954 and raised in New York City, he received his BA in Pre-Med with Psychology from State University of New York at Buffalo and trained in Podiatry at the College of Podiatric Medicine in San Francisco before establishing his own private practice there in the early 1980s. As the painter was building his medical practice, he was also evolving a body of artwork, exploring various media in the form of drawings and paintings, and finding his voice as an artist.

About Victor Arimondi:

Vittorio Maria Arimondi was born in a convent in Bologna, Italy in November of 1942. Later in life while in art school, Arimondi was discovered by an ambitious modeling agent, began fashion modeling to make a living, and soon became a notable member of the international fashion world – first in front of the camera, then behind it.

He modeled for the likes of Esquire and other high profile magazines, and would eventually produce photography for titles such as Vogue and Harper's Bazaar, among others. Arimondi was a genuine artist and ahead of his time. More important to Victor than the fame acquired throughout his modeling career was recognition for the singularity of his vision and need to create art. While living in Stockholm during the mid 1970's, Victor and his photography, keenly exploring the male form, were discovered and utilized by Editor Bill Cuomo, who was creating a new genre of magazines as After Dark arrived on the scene. Andy Warhol's Interview Magazine, to which Victor often contributed photography, quickly followed.

In 1980, Victor had arrived in San Francisco to shoot the book during a time of new growth and exploration in the gay community, and he became well known, both in his community and worldwide. This prompted increased demand for his photography from magazines, such as ongoing contributions and covers for The Advocate. After devoting much of his creative energy to the male figure, Victor shifted his focus to the streets, where he photographed workers, homeless and other struggling people in San Francisco's Tenderloin District, and his approach to this work belied his inherent gift for social commentary.

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