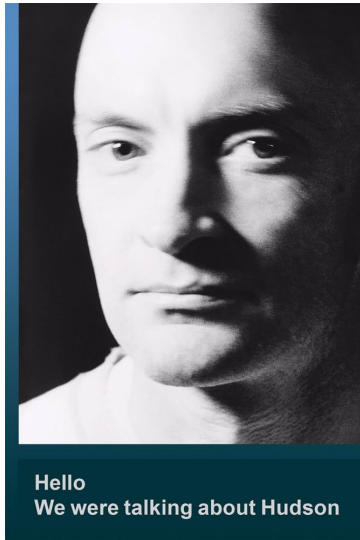


Art Lovers, Here Are 7 New Non-Fiction Books to Add to Your Summer Reading List

By Artnet News, Jul 10, 2024

Hello We Were Talking About Hudson (2024)

Edited by Steve Lafreniere



(Soberscove Press, 2024)

Few art dealers have had a batting average anywhere close to that of the mononymous art dealer Hudson. Over a nearly 30-year run—in Chicago from 1984 to 1988, then in New York until his death in 2014, at the age of 63—his Feature Inc. gallery hosted early shows by future stars like Richard Prince, Charles Ray, and Takashi Murakami, as well as future legends like B. Wurtz, Lily van der Stokker, and Nancy Shaver. Properly making sense of his legacy will require a full-dress survey at the National Gallery of Art or the Museum of Modern Art, but until then, we have this remarkable book, which includes interviews with some three dozen of his artists, associates, and admirers, along with eulogies and other writing. Feature Inc.’s longtime graphic designer, Steve Lafreniere, is its editor.

The remembrances are illuminating, moving, and candid. Showing with Hudson was “a rich experience,” Ray says, while explaining that his role “was less stable than a traditional art dealer’s.” Hudson had started out as a freewheeling performance artist, and the writer David Sedaris recalls an early piece in which he “massage[d] his ass,” adding that “I don’t know that I’d ever seen any performance like that.” For fellow Manhattan dealer Derek Eller, “Hudson showed that you could run a gallery any way you wanted. But I don’t think there will ever be another equivalent.”

What made him such a superb talent spotter? Hudson said of his approach, in lines that are quoted in the book by the artist and writer Steel Stillman: “The first thing is to be quiet, to drop my agenda or expectations, and listen. Then I soften my gaze. The eyes are aggressive, and once you realize they’re out there hunting, you can learn to tune them down and let what is out there come to you.”

—Andrew Russeth

