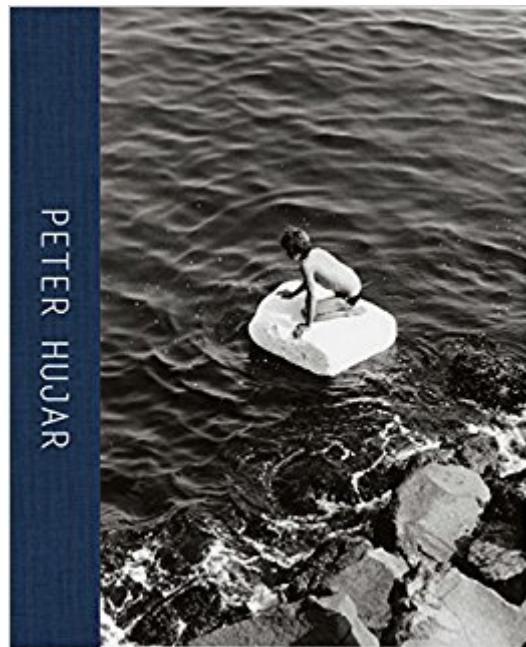


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# Peter Hujar: Speed Of Life



## Synopsis

Peter Hujar was a leading figure of the downtown New York scene of the 1970s and '80s. He is most well-known for his portraits of New York City's artists, musicians, writers, and performers, which feature characters such as Susan Sontag, William S. Burroughs, David Wojnarowicz, and Andy Warhol, and was admired for his completely uncompromising attitude toward work and life. Hujar was a consummate technician, and his portraits of people, animals, and landscapes, as well as his documentation of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, with its exquisite black-and-white tonalities, were extremely influential. Underappreciated during his lifetime, Hujar is now a revered icon of the lost downtown art scene, and his photographs are held in permanent collections around the world. Over 160 photographs are gathered in *Peter Hujar: Speed of Life*. Published alongside a major touring exhibition, this collection presents Hujar's famous portraiture as well as his lesser-known projects. Accompanied by texts by Philip Gefter, Steve Turtell, and Joel Smith, this survey provides a thorough history of Hujar's life and artistic practice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Peter Hujar died of AIDS in 1987, leaving behind a complex and profound body of photographs. A leading figure in the cultural scene in downtown New York in the 1970s and '80s, Hujar was admired for his portraits of people, animals, and landscapes. Since his death his work has been the subject of major retrospectives at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and the Fotomuseum

Winterthur in Switzerland, and he is included in permanent collections at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, among others. Philip Gefter is the author of *Wagstaff: Before and After Mapplethorpe* (2014), a biography of Sam Wagstaff, and *Photography After Frank* (Aperture, 2009), a book of essays about photography. He produced the 2011 documentary *Bill Cunningham New York*. Gefter was on staff at the New York Times for fifteen years, where he wrote regularly about photography. He is currently at work on a biography of Richard Avedon. Joel Smith is the Richard L. Menschel Curator of Photography at the Morgan Library & Museum in New York. Steve Turtell is a poet and the author of *Heroes and Householders* (2009) and *Letter to Frank O'Hara* (2011), which won the 2010 ReBound Chapbook Prize given by Seven Kitchens Press. He is currently working on *Peter Hujar: Invisible Master*. Martha Scott Burton is Curatorial Assistant at the Morgan Library & Museum, New York and the founder and editor of Turtledove Press.

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