

Feeling The Rapture Grow

April 25 – April 30, 2018

Sotheby's Institute of Art, New York 6th floor, 570 Lexington Ave.

New York, NY 10022

Opening Reception: Wednesday, April 25 2018, 6 pm

Curated by Edward Rossa, MA Contemporary Art Candidate class of 2018



Press Release

Sotheby's Institute of Art is pleased to present FEELING THE RAPTURE GROW, a solo exhibition of Rick Shupper, curated by Edward Rossa, MA Contemporary Art candidate class of 2018. The exhibit, on view from April 25th to April 30th, 2018, is located on the sixth floor of Sotheby's Institute of Art's New York campus at 570 Lexington Avenue. This exhibition will be the sixth in a series of shows curated by MA students enrolled in Curating Contemporary Art course. The exhibition is free and open to the public from Monday through Friday 10am to 6pm by appointment. Please RSVP to exhibitionrsvp@sia.edu and bring ID to gain access to the building.

FEELING THE RAPTURE GROW is a solo exhibition of the photography of Rick Shupper and brings together for the first time twenty silver gelatin photographs created between 1979 and 1991. Born in New Jersey in 1946, Shupper has been living in New York City since the 1960s and has been documenting the world around him through photography since 1977. The style of his photographs ranges from intimate portraits of fellow artists to visual documentation of historic queer underground happenings in the city- Having survived the AIDS crisis of the 1980s and experienced its devastating impact firsthand, much of his work tends toward documenting the life and times of the brilliant, audacious and talented figures that inhabited the city's former underground scene. Many of the subjects of his work now only exist in the shadows of the silver gelatin that make up his vast archive of photographs. Selected in collaboration with the artist from his vast body of work, the images on view serve as a survey of abbreviated narratives which relate a sense of the resilience of these human spirits and their ability to relate to each other intimately in the face of such tumultuous times. The photographs will be accompanied by the names of the subjects depicted as well as short narratives derived from the curator's interviews with the artist; these include heroic figures such as Marsha P. Johnson and other unsung heroes from a time when our country's establishment let these angels of the city perish without showing empathy or remorse.

Rick Shupper (b 1946) has been taking photographs in New York City since 1977. He has studied photography at the School of Visual Arts and has a BA from the City College of New York. His work has been shown in numerous exhibitions and galleries including the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art. Shupper lives in Brooklyn where he continues to work as a fine art photographer.

For more information and images please contact the curator at Edward.rossa@gmail.com

Photo: *Joe Reigert on his roof*, 1986 (detail)