

Artlyst

NYC Gallery Scene Round-Up February 2022

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Agosto Machado: Forbidden City

Agosto Machado is a beloved downtown legend, performer, muse, archivist and I am lucky enough to be his neighbour. Machado has been a vital participant in gay culture, working with Jack Smith, Angels of Light, the Cockettes, Candy Darling, Peter Hujar, Tabboo!. Ryan McGinley and collecting work by friends, Martin Wong, Ken Tisa, Arch Connolly, Thomas Lanigan-Schmidt and assorted luminaries. This is his intimately curated collection of art, ephemera, shrines, photographs and presents a veritable treasure trove of NYC underground gay culture.

From participating in the first Stonewall uprising to performing at LaMama, Agosto was a critical figure collecting playbills, artworks, photos and memories. Especially poignant are the memorial cards of the many creative people who were lost during the AIDS crisis. What a gift this immersive installation is for anyone who cares, is curious about, or wants to celebrate and be inspired by New York's quintessential queer community.