

Political and Personal Images of Gay Identity

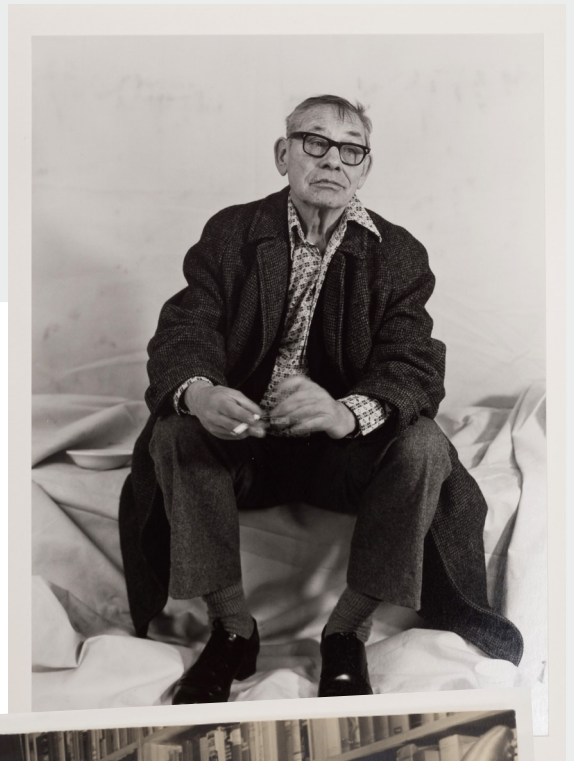


April 17-July 11, 2021
Flint Institute of Arts

The Jack B. Pierson Print Collection

This exhibition features selections from the Jack B. Pierson Print Collection, which contains 856 works on paper by 404 artists from around the globe. A native of Flint, Pierson (pictured upper right) was employed by General Motors following World War II, and later moved to Long Island with his life-long partner, Robert Martin Purcell (pictured below). In 1976, following Purcell's death, Pierson began donating his print collection to the FIA, and continued to collect and donate additional work's until his own death in 1997.

Drawing on Pierson's experience as a gay man, *Political and Personal: Images of Gay Identity* sheds light on the important role sexual identity played in informing aspects of his collecting habits, and highlights the work of several well-known and lesser-known gay artists. In addition, the works of heterosexual artists are featured, contextualized through their homoerotic subject matter (informed by classical mythology and an admiration for male athleticism) or the supportive content of their political messages.



Top Image: Joe A. Stornello, *Portrait of Jack B. Pierson*, 1982

Bottom Image: Unknown American Artist, *Robert Martin Purcell at East 82nd St. Apartment*, 1943



David Hockney, *Gregory Thinking of Henry*, 1977

Through highlighting public identity and activism, dissecting historic complexities of the gay male gaze, and considering the pensive and private moments of gay love and attraction, this exhibition captures the multi-dimensional nature of gay identity in the 20th century. Indeed, the experiences of gay-identifying individuals are varied, and the conceptions of homosexual art (depictions of same-sex attraction) and homoerotic imagery (work concerning, evoking, or implying homosexual desire) are equally nuanced. However, the significance of shared perspectives within the gay community and its allies is evidenced in the Pierson Collection, underscoring art's ability to

inspire unification; an indispensable tool for the proliferation of gay identity both historically and today.



David Lance Goines,
AIDS Prevention,
Poster for the
University of
California, Berkeley,
Student Health
Services, 1985

The Graphics Gallery is sponsored by



Exhibition support provided by
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Exhibition Checklist

*All works are gifts of Mr. Jack B. Pierson, with many in memory of Mr. Martin Purcell

Robert Arrington, American, b. 1950
Cocteau, 1985
Silkscreen and etching, 14 15/16 x 11 5/16 inches, 1986.4

COVER IMAGE

Robert Arrington, American, b. 1950
Self-Portrait, 1985
Etching and silkscreen, 12 13/16 x 9 15/16 inches, 1986.3

George Wesley Bellows, American, 1882–1925
Reclining Nude, No. 14, ca. 1916
Lithograph, 11 3/8 x 14 1/8 inches, 1985.88

Paul Cadmus, American, 1904–1999
Two Boys on a Beach No. 1, 1938
Etching, 18 x 14 1/2 inches, 1979.323

Minna Citron, American, 1896–1991
Nude, ca. 1935
Lithograph, 19 x 12 1/2 inches, 1981.113.3

Sue Coe, English, b. 1951
Bush Aids (Swindle & Loot), 1990
Etching, 18 7/8 x 13 1/16 inches, 1991.10

Papo Colo, Puerto Rican, b. 1946
Photogenics: Photopoems, 1979
Duotone, 14 × 11 inches, 1990.2.1.1 and 1990.2.1.4

Papo Colo, Puerto Rican, b. 1946
Photogenics: Acting as Behavior, 1982
Duotone, 14 × 11 inches, 1990.2.2.6, 1990.2.2.7, 1990.2.2.9

Kerr Eby, Canadian, b. Japan, 1890–1946
August Morning, 1932
Etching and dry-point, 14 15/16 x 10 9/16 inches, 1981.105.1

Philip Evergood, American, 1901–1973
The Return, 1965
Lithograph, 22 5/8 x 18 5/8 inches, 1983.72.9

George Gessert, American, b. 1944
Genetic Engineering Satyr, 1988
Xerograph, 8 1/2 x 11 inches, 1989.64

David Lance Goines, American, b. 1945
AIDS Prevention, Poster for the University of California, Berkeley, Student Health Services, 1985
Lithograph, 24 x 17 1/16 inches, 1989.55

Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Cuban, 1957–1996
"Untitled," 1989
Silkscreen, 16 3/4 × 21 13/16 inches, 1989.54

David Hockney, English, b. 1937
Gregory Thinking of Henry, 1977
Edition of 30
Lithograph in black, 36 x 23 1/4 inches, 1980.72
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Rockwell Kent, American, 1882–1971
Greenland Swimmer, 1932
Wood engraving, 10 3/4 x 9 13/16 inches, 1989.65

John McClellan, American, 1908–1986
Hunting, n.d.
Lithograph, 19 x 12 1/2 inches, 1985.86

Michael C. McCurdy, American, 1942–2016
The Love Nut, 1979
Woodcut, 25 x 9 inches, 1983.39

Harry Sternberg, American, 1904–2001
Wrestlers #2, 1929
Etching and aquatint, 13 9/16 x 7 3/4 inches, 1989.57

Joe A. Stornello, American, b. 1951
Portrait of Jack B. Pierson, 1982
Silver print, 9 1/2 x 7 inches, 1982.437

Werner Tubke, German, 1929–2004
Torso, 1977
Etching, 14 3/4 x 19 1/2 inches, 1979.143

Unknown American Artist
Robert Martin Purcell at East 82nd St. Apartment, 1943
Silver print, 9 3/8 × 7 7/16 inches, 1982.440