

## Revisiting Peter Hujar’s Underground “Newspaper”

by Miss Rosen :: 6/12/2023

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While working as archivist for music industry legend Danny Fields in 2015, art historian [Marcelo Gabriel Yáñez](#) stumbled upon bundles of *Newspaper* stashed in the closet. Fields’s memory of the broadsheet was vague. They appeared at Andy Warhol’s Factory at some time in the late 1960s or early ‘70s.

Intrigued, Yáñez set forth to uncover this lost chapter of the New York underground press. Over the next seven years, he reassembled the story of *Newspaper*, a 14-issue, picture-only periodical that stood at the vanguard of the New York art world from 1968–1971.

Dirigée par Steve Lawrence, en collaboration avec Peter Hujar et Andrew Ullrick, *Newspaper* a permis de tisser des liens entre la photographie et le monde très fermé de l’art contemporain, en publiant le travail de contributeurs tels qu’[Andy Warhol](#), Roy Lichtenstein, Mel Ramos et les photographes [Diane Arbus](#), Richard Avedon, Peter Beard et [Dorothea Lange](#).

### The Only Real Picture NEWSPAPER

As fate would have it, artist Steve Lawrence and photographer Peter Hujar first met while cruising on Christopher Street in 1965. That same year, they entered an open relationship and began living together in Hujar’s East Village apartment. It was a fortuitous sign of things to come at the outset of their respective careers. But while Hujar’s legacy has been well preserved, Lawrence has largely fallen into obscurity — until now, with the recent publication of *Newspaper*.

*Newspaper* brings together all 14 issues for the first time, along with Marcelo Gabriel Yáñez’s meticulously researched timeline chronicling the behind-the-scenes creation of this revolutionary periodical. Published at a time when the underground press was at its peak, *Newspaper* sat comfortably at the intersection of art, photography, and queer culture alongside magazines like *Andy Warhol’s Interview*, *Rags*, and *Gay Power*.

Attuned to the revolutionary spirit of the times, *Newspaper* responded and reflected to the moment in which each issue was made. A few months after the Stonewall Uprising, *Newspaper* published its fifth issue. For the cover and centerfold, artist Richard Bernstein — the mastermind behind *Interview*’s iconic covers — created hypnotic nude portrait collage of Warhol Superstar Candy Darling. One of the only nudes of the fabled trans icon, the composite image is rather tongue in cheek, daring viewers to confront their own preconceived ideas — while also beautifully illustrating the mag’s new tag line: “The Only Real Picture NEWSPAPER.”

In a space where words otherwise do not exist, it's the perfect invitation to do with that what you will. With an eye to letting the images speak for themselves, *Newspaper* reads like *The Family of Man* on 'shrooms. Breaking through conventions, tropes, and clichés with a knowing wink, *Newspaper* reenvisioned the relationship between the image, the printed page, and the gallery wall, secure in the knowledge that the line between high and low culture was both arbitrary and counterintuitive.

*Newspaper* is published by Primary Information, 416 pages, \$40.00.