

**PHILLIPS de PURY & COMPANY TO OFFER MAJOR COLLECTION OF EARLY DIANE ARBUS VINTAGE PRINTS FROM THE ARCHIVE OF THE LEGENDARY TIMES SQUARE HUBERT'S MUSEUM AT ITS NEW YORK SPRING PHOTOGRAPHS AUCTION**

**DIANE ARBUS: HUBERT'S MUSEUM WORKS 1958-1963 WILL BE OFFERED ON APRIL 8, 2008 AT 7 PM**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York – January 14 – Phillips de Pury & Company announces today that over 20 early Diane Arbus vintage prints and related archival ephemera related to the long vanished Hubert's Museum will be offered at auction in its New York Photographs Spring sale on April 8, 2008.

The Hubert's Museum operated on 42nd Street near Times Square from the 1920s until its closing in 1965. This fabled "dime" museum was home to a changing emporium of novelties, freaks of nature, variety acts as well as final home to the last working flea circus in America.

Over the years in existence, Hubert's Museum was immortalized by a wide array of visitors from such legendary writers as A.J. Liebling and Joseph Mitchell to comedians Lenny Bruce and Andy Kaufmann. Habitues of the museum ran the gamut—from the white tie and tailed swells of café society during the 1920s and 1930s to the grifters and street urchins that lurked in the "naked city" ambiance of Times Square as it fell into decline during the 1940s and 1950s.

Diane Arbus discovered Hubert's Museum in the late 1950s at a pivotal moment in her career. She had recently abandoned her commercial photography business, working for publications such as *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Glamour*, which she operated with her fellow photographer husband Allan. A series of workshops in photography with Lisette Model, around 1957, inspired her to become a more daring and artistic photographer.

The collection includes vintage prints by Diane Arbus and are believed to be the only known vintage prints in existence. Additionally, Phillips de Pury & Company will offer a unique archive of ephemera from the museum including anonymous photographs of Hubert's and its performers and exhibits as well as other related materials such as manuscripts, contracts and log books. The archive will be offered as a single lot. The archive also provides added insight into Arbus's creative development between 1958, when the first photograph was taken and the last in 1963 as Arbus entered her most prolific and productive period. Arbus herself composed an essay entitled "Hubert's Obituary: Or This

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Was Where We Came In" written in 1966 and will be featured in the catalog. It was at Hubert's that Arbus met Hezekiah Trambles known as "The Jungle Creep" and Andrew Ratoucheff, a Russian midget who portraits would figure prominently in her first major assignment of her mature years for Esquire in 1960 entitled, *The Vertical Journey: Six Movements of a Moment Within the Heart of the City*.

Charlie Scheips, Worldwide Director of Photographs for Phillips de Pury & Company says

"A half a century has passed since Arbus created this important early body of work. The legacy of Hubert's Museum is a faded memory and Times Square a squeaky-clean corporate and entertainment center. Arbus's extraordinary record of Hubert's offers us permanent and profound record of a lost world as well as the creative trajectory for her most important work--captured by her incomparable and empathetic eye. These photographs with the accompanying archival material will be studied by students of New York cultural and social history and Arbus scholars for generations to come."

Phillips de Pury & Company will feature this extraordinary and important Arbus material in preview exhibitions at Steve Turner Contemporary, Los Angeles in February 2008 and at Phillips de Pury & Company's New York galleries prior to the sale.

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Contacts:

Ariel Childs

Phillips de Pury & Company

+ 44 20 7318 4028  
achilds@phillipsdepur.com