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Keith Haring, Untitled, Two works (i-ii), from Secret Pastures, 1984

ARTIST

Keith Haring (1958-1990)

TITLE

Untitled, Two works (i-ii), from Secret Pastures

MEDIUM

Acrylic on muslin

DATE

1984

SIZE

(i): 89 1/8 × 45 ½ in : 226.4 × 114.9 cm (ii): 89 1/8 × 45 in : 226.4 × 114.3 cm Overall: 89 1/8 × 90 1/8 in : 226.4 × 229.6 cm

PROVENANCE

(i):

Estate of the Artist

Bill T. Jones

Christie's, their sale, Los Angeles, June 7, 2000, lot 98

Private Collection, Rotterdam (acquired from the above)

Sotheby's, their sale, New York, May 11, 2006, lot 568

Galleria Seno, Milan

Private Collection (acquired from the above) Sotheby's, their sale, New York, May 15, 2013, lot 287

Private Collection

(ii):

Estate of the Artist

Bill T. Jones

Private Collection, New York

Private Collection, Switzerland

Private Collection, New York

Private Collection

EXHIBITED

Brooklyn, Bill T. Jones / Arnie Zane Dance Company, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Secret Pastures, November 1984 (as part of the set design)

LITERATURE

Keith Haring, exh. cat., Castello di Rivoli Museo d'art Contemporanea, Rivoli, 1994, p. 239 (set design illus.)

Rachel Seville Tashjian, Design Within Reach: Rachel Seville Tashjian on Willi Smith, Artforum, vol. 58, no. 8, April 2020, p. 47 (set design illus.) Secret Pastures, Willi Smith: Street Couture, Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, https://exhibitions.cooperhewitt.org/willismith/secret-pastures/ (set design illus.) [online] Real Clothes for Real Dance, Willi Smith Archive, https://willismitharchive.cargo.site/Real-Clothes-for-Real-Dance(set design illus.) [online]

James Wines on "Willi Smith: Street Couture" at Cooper Hewitt, Surface Magazine, published April 17, 2020, https://www.surfacemag.com/articles/james-wines-willismith-cooper-hewitt-exhibition/# (set design illus.) [online] Special Edition #48: For This Time of COVID-19 + Physical Distancing, Boston Dance Alliance, May 6, 2020, https://www.bostondancealliance.org/special-edition-48-forthis-time-of-covid-19-physical-distancing/ (set design illus.) [online] Secret Pastures (1984) by Bill T. Jones/

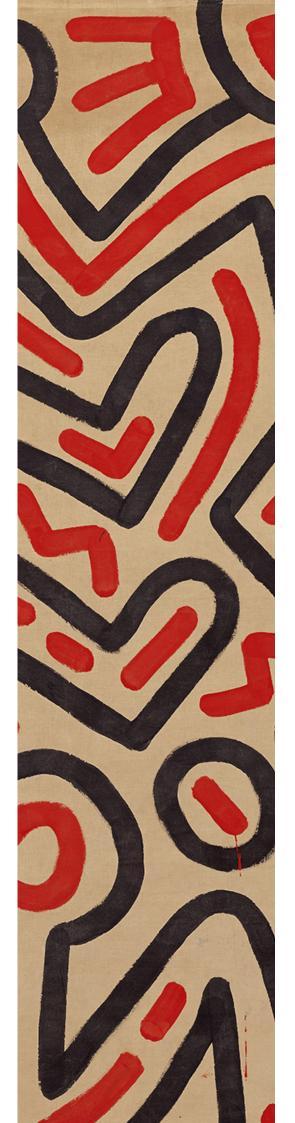
Secret Pastures (1984) by Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Company, The Dance Enthusiast, June 25 – July 2, 2020, https://www.danceenthusiast.com/dancelistings/events/view/ Secret-Pastures-1984-by-Bill-T.-JonesArnie-Zane-Company-2020-06-25_07-02 (set design illustrated) [online]

Christina Moon, Willi Smith: WilliWear Map Print Skirt, Summer 1986 Collection, Harvard Design Magazine, no. 48, Fall/Winter 2020, https://www.harvarddesignmagazine.org/ articles/willi-smith-williwear-map-printskirtsummer-1986-collection/#ref-6 (set design illustrated) [online]

Keith Haring set design for Secret Pastures, Instagram post by @cooperhewitt, April 15, 2021, https://www.instagram.com/p/CNnlggcj2Oz/?img_index=4 (set design illustrated) [online]

REFERENCE

AC25-06



Keith Haring's first collaboration with Bill T. Jones involved Haring painting directly on Jones' body for photographs by Tseng Kwong Chi. Haring created his first set design for the stage at Brooklyn Academy of Music with the world premiere of Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane's Secret Pastures in November 1984. The sets were easily identifiable as Haring's distinctive style. He also designed the poster and promo cards and several other pieces for BAM.

Keith Haring

Keith Haring was an American artist, active in the 1980s in New York, who is considered to be the first 'street artist' in the sense that is now more widely understood. Haring used a visual language composed of outlined intertwining figures, objects and animals, in his graffiti and street works, often to express deeply held political and social beliefs.

Haring was born in Pittsburgh, where he would study commercial art before losing interest and taking a maintenance job at Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. There, surrounded by important works of contemporary art, he rekindled his passion and developed his style, culminating in his first one man show there in 1978.

He moved to New York, where he would become close friends with the artists Jean-Michel Basquiat, Andy Warhol, Maripol and the performer Madonna. Relatively quickly, he began to attract attention for his subway drawings and his easily recognised calligraphy, and he participated in the prestigious Whitney Biennial in 1983. He made over 50 public murals during the 1980s, becoming something of an establishment figure despite the subversive nature of his work.

Haring was concerned with breaking down the barriers between high and low art, and what work he did sell he sold cheaply, prioritising the distribution of his ideas over profit. He opened a shop, 'Pop Shop' in SoHo, and used it to further awareness about safe sex, the anti-apartheid movement and the growing epidemic of crack-cocaine use. Haring was diagnosed with AIDS in 1988, prompting him to set up a foundation tasked with increasing AIDS awareness and to spend his last years generating activism over the subject.

The artist died in 1990 at the age of only 32, leaving an enormous legacy of work and influence which continues to be widely felt. His work is held in the collections of MoMA and the Whitney Museum in New York, and the Pompidou Centre in Paris amongst many others.





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