

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN INTIMATE CIRCLE

Paul Cadmus, Jared French, Margaret French,
George Platt Lynes, and George Tooker

June 9 – August 5, 2011

Gallery Talk: Thursday, June 9, 6:30 PM, reception to follow.



PAJAMA, Margaret French, George Tooker and Jared French, Nantucket, c. 1946
Vintage Silver print, 5 x 6 7/8 in.

An Intimate Circle presents drawings and photographs by George Tooker's close friends Paul Cadmus, Jared French, and Margaret French, as well as by George Platt Lynes, who was part of their wider circle in New York City. Complementing the memorial exhibition *George Tooker: Reality Returns as a Dream*, the works reflect the creative environment that these artists cultivated, which was largely independent of an art world increasingly dominated by abstraction.

Tooker met Cadmus in 1944, when he was a young art student and monitor in Reginald Marsh's drawing class at the Arts Student's League in New York. Cadmus was sixteen years older and already well established in the art world, having burst upon the scene in the 1930s with raucous works of social satire featuring sailors and prostitutes that provoked great controversy. It was Cadmus who encouraged Tooker to experiment with egg tempera, which soon became his principal medium. He also introduced Tooker to his good friends Jared and Margaret French, as well as to an accomplished group of writers, composers, dancers, and artists, including Lincoln Kirstein, W.H. Auden, Christopher Isherwood, Monroe Wheeler, and Lynes.

Works by Cadmus and Jared French share affinities with Tooker's paintings in their beautifully rendered, often mysterious imagery and their commitment to figurative art and traditional techniques. The three artists were last exhibited together over twenty years ago, at the Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris in 1990.

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George Platt Lynes, *George Tooker at 5 St. Luke's Place (with Paul Cadmus and Jared French in Mirror)*, c.1949, Silver Gelatin Print, 9 1/2 x 7 1/2 in.

Margaret French, also share the aesthetic of Tooker's paintings. Beginning in 1937 and continuing into the 1950s, the three began taking carefully conceived photographs that echo the imagery and intent of their paintings and drawings. Boldly dramatic or lightened with an almost surrealistic sense of humor, the photographs were often set amongst the dunes and beaches of Fire Island, NY, and Provincetown, MA, where the three artists spent many summers together. Printed in very small numbers and kept in albums, they circulated only between friends until the 1980s.

Lynes' intimate photographic portraits capture the spirit of this closely-knit group. A celebrated portrait and fashion photographer in the 1930s and 40s, he is probably best known today for his striking male nudes and images of the ballet, which he executed with technical precision and theatrical flair. He also frequently focused his lens on artist friends like Cadmus, French, and Tooker, creating expressive images that are both compelling portraits and visual records of their vibrant artistic community.

Gallery Talk Thursday, June 9, 6:30PM: Curators Robert Cozzolino (Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts) and Marshall Price (National Academy Museum), organizers of *George Tooker: A Retrospective* (2009), discuss Tooker's art and life. Artist Kurt Kauper will moderate the discussion. **Please RSVP by June 7th: 212-247-2111.**

Upcoming Exhibitions:

Eric Aho	September 8 – October 8
Barbara Takenaga	October 13 – November 12
Alexi Worth	October 13 – November 12

DC Moore Gallery specializes in contemporary and twentieth-century art. The gallery is located at 535 West 22nd Street, 2nd Floor and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 to 6. Beginning the week of July 3rd summer hours are Monday to Friday, 10 to 6. Press previews can be arranged prior to the exhibition. For more information, for photographs, or to arrange a viewing, please call Kate Weinstein at 212-247-2111.

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