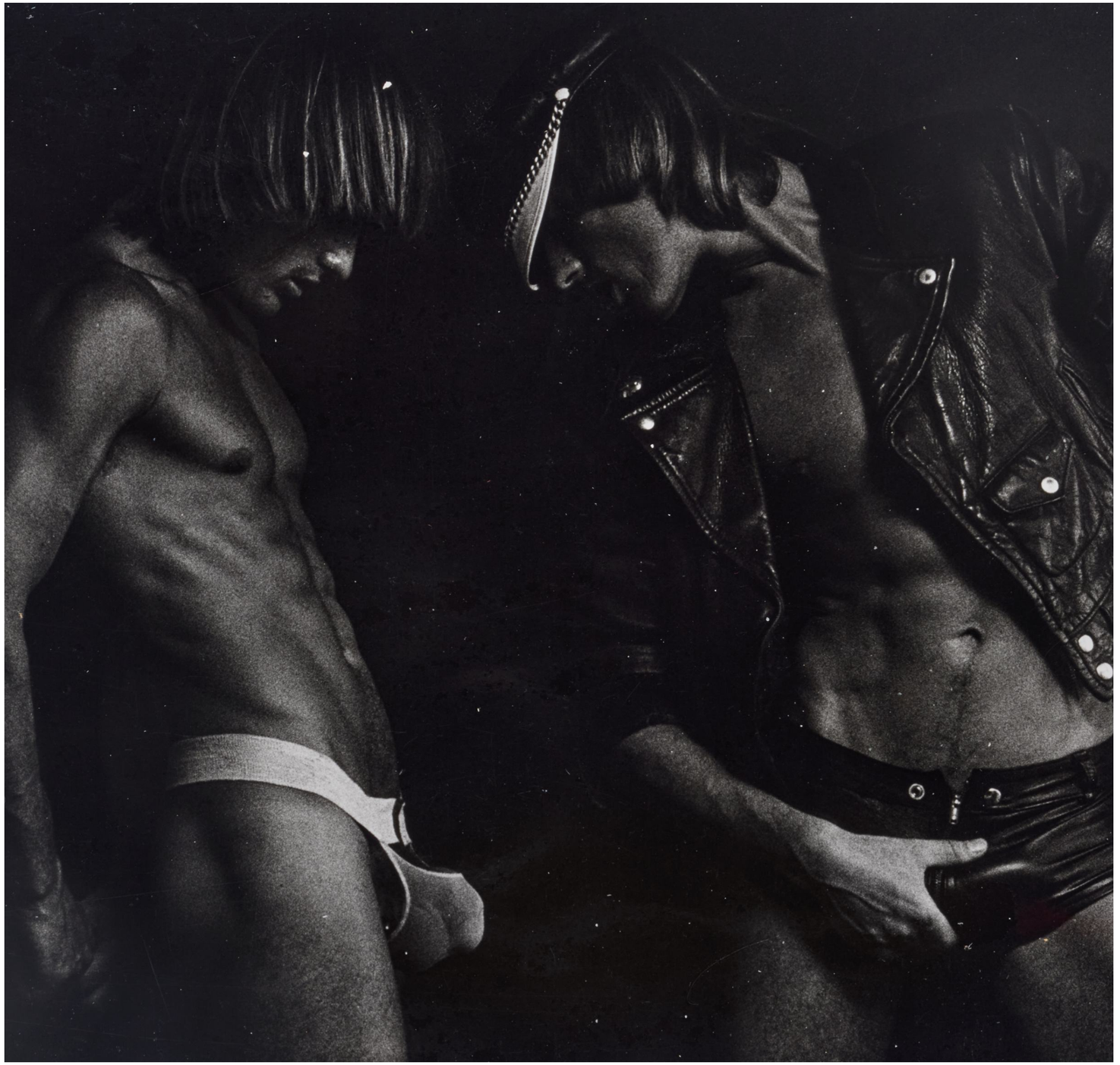
Mariposa

Peter Berlin
Art Basel Miami Beach 2026
Survey, Booth S2



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Peter Berlin (b. 1942, Lodz, Poland) is an artist, photographer, and adult film star known for his daring and meticulously crafted self-portraits taken in bedrooms, night clubs, warehouses, and public spaces across Berlin, Paris, New York, and San Francisco. These images capture him in skin-tight costumes and his signature pageboy haircut, challenging the boundaries of masculinity and public identity. Born Armin Hagen Freiherr von Hoyningen-Huene into an aristocratic family in German-occupied Poland, Berlin began taking photographs in his teens. In the early 1960s, he worked briefly for a German magazine, photographing stars such as Alfred Hitchcock, Catherine Deneuve, and Klaus Kinski. He then took to the road, spending time in Rome, Paris, and New York before finally landing in San Francisco, where he adopted the name Peter Berlin.

Berlin quickly became immersed in the sexually liberated San Francisco of the 1970s, which included artists and performers such as The Cockettes, Sylvester, and Steven Arnold. Berlin became a fixture on the streets with highly suggestive clothing and constant cruising. For Berlin, cruising became a way of life, a way of navigating the city, and a politics of interaction with other men in the city. During this time, Berlin collaborated with his friend Richard Abel on a 16 mm hard-core porn film entitled *Nights in Black Leather* (1973) in which he played the lead role. Touring them internationally, *Nights* and *That Boy* (1975) catapulted Berlin into worldwide cult stardom. Capitalizing on this notoriety, he launched a mail-order business distributing self-portraits taken with his Hasselblad camera, beginning a lifelong exploration of his own image. His pageboy haircut, ripped body, and bulge became familiar sights in underground gay magazines such as *Drummer* and *Christopher Street*.

As his image circulated, Berlin caught the attention of Andy Warhol and Salvador Dalí, posed several times for Robert Mapplethorpe, and became the subject of several drawings by Tom of Finland. Berlin offered a bold new image of queerness that was strong, masculine, sexual, and confident. Initially seeking to correct print imperfections in the darkroom, Berlin began embellishing his photographs with acrylic, oil paint, aerosol, and colored pens to add clothing, accessories, or other flourishes to his compositions. These interventions both heighten the erotic charge of the images while simultaneously revealing the constructed nature of his sexuality. Mariposa presented its first exhibition of these works in Los Angeles in 2025, curated by Russell Tovey.

For Art Basel Miami Beach, Mariposa presents a group of vintage gelatin silver prints and hand-painted photographs centered on the motif of the double exposure. What began as a practical solution to filling empty space within a composition evolved into one of the artist's most enduring formal and conceptual devices. By photographing himself multiple times within a single image, Berlin was able to construct complex relationships between figures without relying on another subject —a fitting approach for an artist whose work has always been rooted in radical self-invention and self-sufficiency.

Across these photographs, Berlin's duplicated body becomes both protagonist and counterpart. The images stage encounters between different versions of the self: observer and observed, ego and alter ego, dominant and submissive, clothed and nude, desiring and desired. Through these pairings, Berlin transforms self-portraiture into a psychological theater in which identity is fragmented, multiplied, and performed. The works probe themes of narcissism, fantasy, self-desire, and doubling —subjects deeply intertwined with queer subjectivity and the construction of the self through both looking and being looked at.

The presentation includes unique prints produced by Berlin in San Francisco during the 1970s and early 1980s. While Berlin occasionally produced more than one print from a negative, he did not conceive of these photographs as editions. The presentation also includes a group of hand-painted photographs that further expand the artist's photographic practice into the realm of image-making and performance. Some feature the artist's signature aerosol-painted backgrounds, a technique learned from his friend and collaborator Jochen Labriola, while others incorporate hand-painted garments and embellishments applied directly onto the photographic surface. In these works, Berlin refuses the supposed neutrality of photography, treating the print itself as a site of transformation, fantasy, and self-fashioning.

This marks the first public exhibition of these photographs. Preserved in Berlin's San Francisco studio for more than four decades, they reveal an essential yet largely unseen chapter of his practice—one that expands our understanding of his singular contribution to the history of photography, queer image-making, and the performance of identity itself.

As critic Ted Stansfield writes, "[W]hile [Peter Berlin] is responsible for some of the most arresting gay imagery ever made, his oeuvre was never limited to just the still or moving image—his entire life was a performance… a living, breathing, cruising work of art."

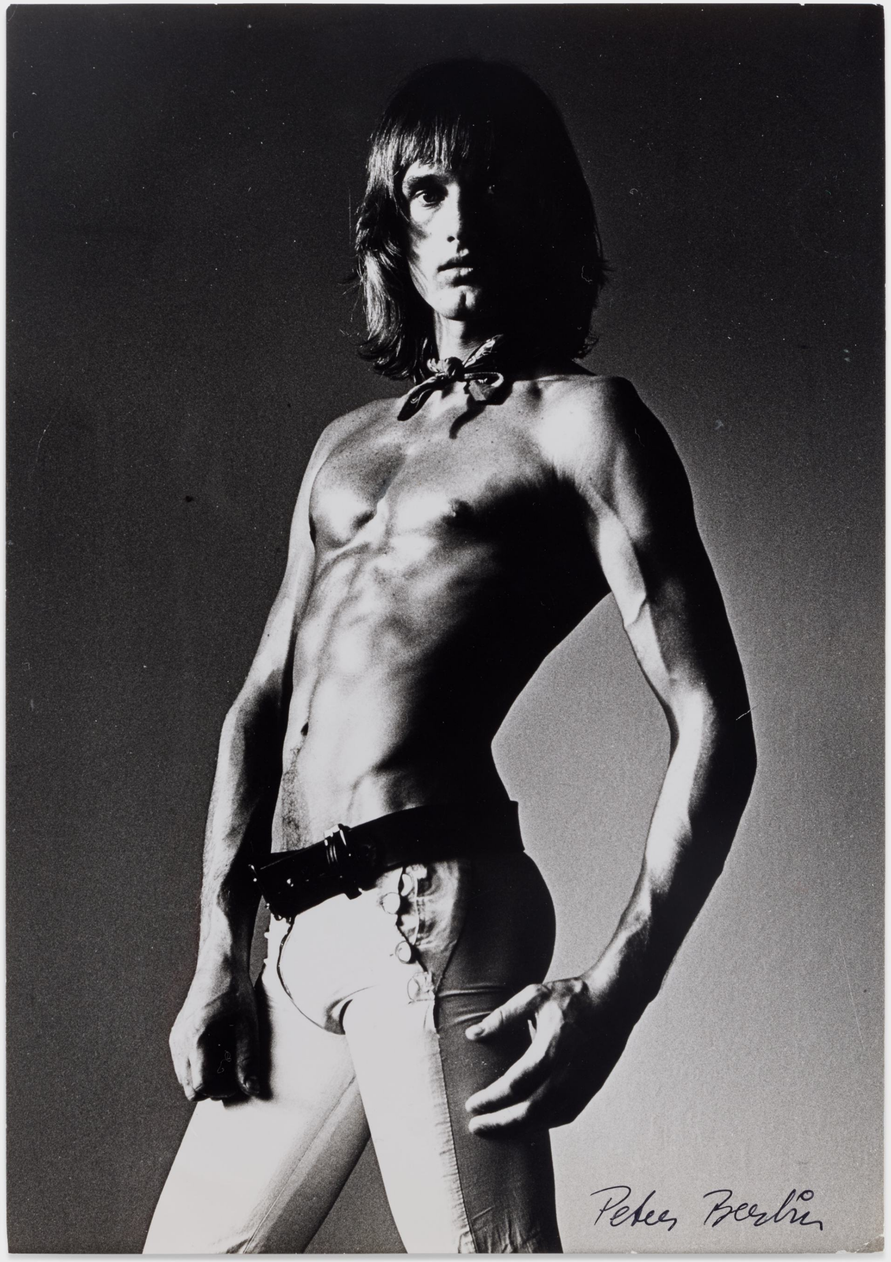
Peter Berlin lives in San Francisco. His photographs are held by the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles as part of the Robert Mapplethorpe archive, the Kinsey Institute in Bloomington, Indiana, the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art in New York, the Palm Springs Art Museum, and the RISD Museum in Providence, Rhode Island.



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: Standing / Kneeling Boner),
1970s

Vintage gelatin silver print
10 x 8.25 in.
25.40 x 20.95 cm
Unique

$ 6,000 USD

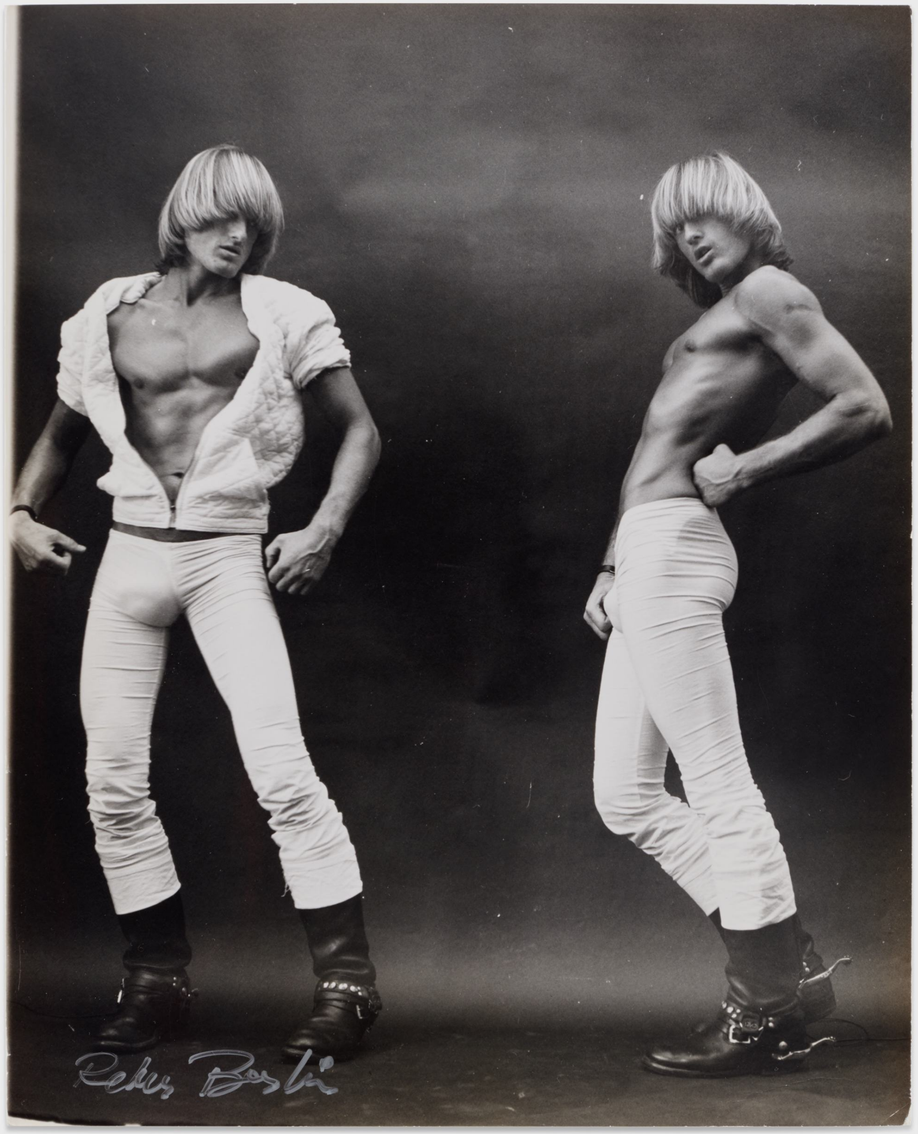


Peter Berlin
Untitled (White Pants with Buttons), 1970s

Vintage gelatin silver print
10 x 7 in.
25.40 x 17.78 cm
Unique

$ 6,000 USD





Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: White Jacket / White Pants),
1974

Vintage gelatin silver print
10 x 8 in.
25.40 x 20.32 cm
Unique

$ 6,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Silver Pants / Sunglasses), 1980

Vintage gelatin silver print
14 x 11 in.
35.56 x 27.94 cm
Unique

$ 6,500 USD

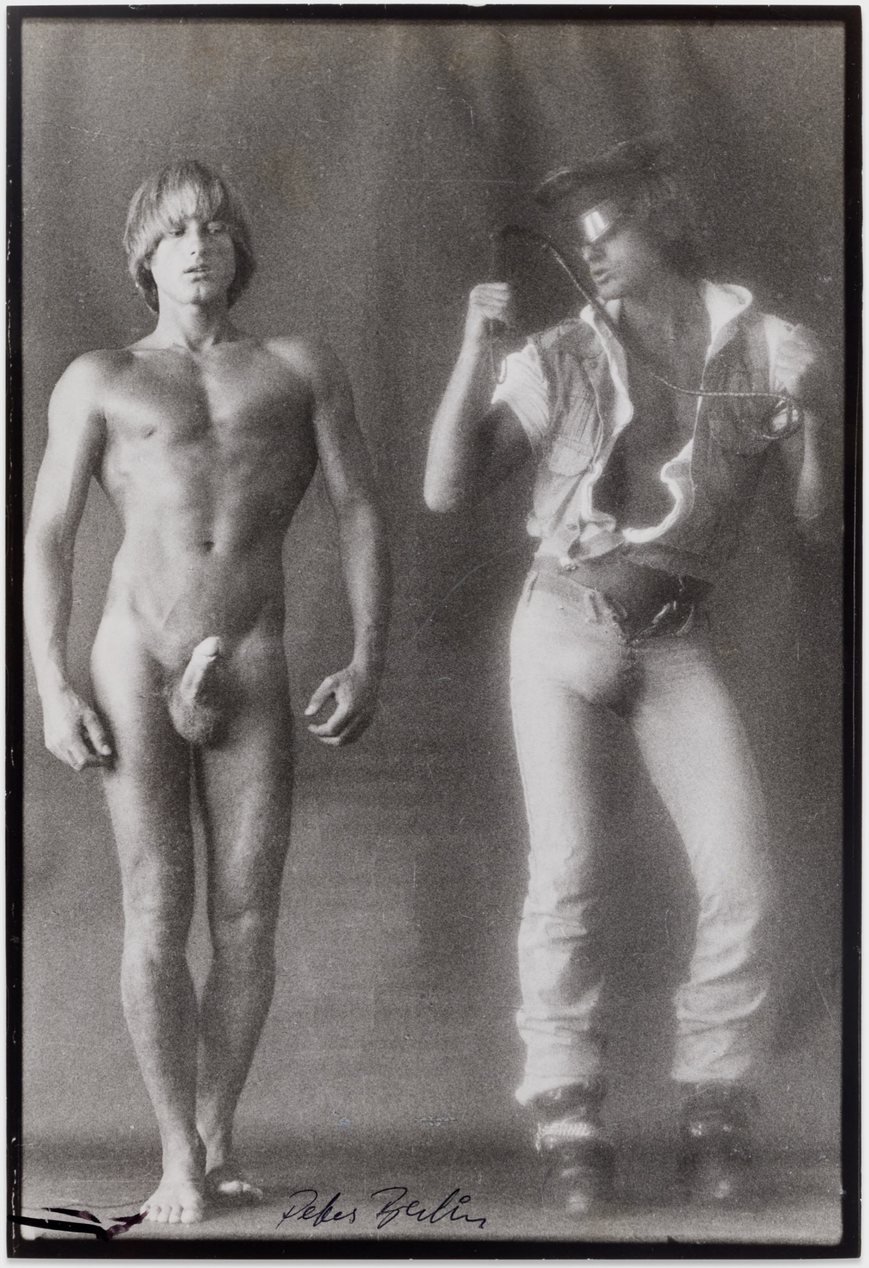


Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: White Pants / Black Leather),
1970

Vintage hand-painted gelatin silver print
10 x 8 in.
25.40 x 20.32 cm
Unique

$ 7,500 USD





Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: Nude / Jeans), 1970s

Vintage gelatin silver print
10 x 7 in.
25.40 x 17.78 cm
Unique

$ 6,000 USD





Peter Berlin
Untitled (Silver Pants), 1980

Vintage gelatin silver print
10 x 8 in.
25.40 x 20.32 cm
Unique

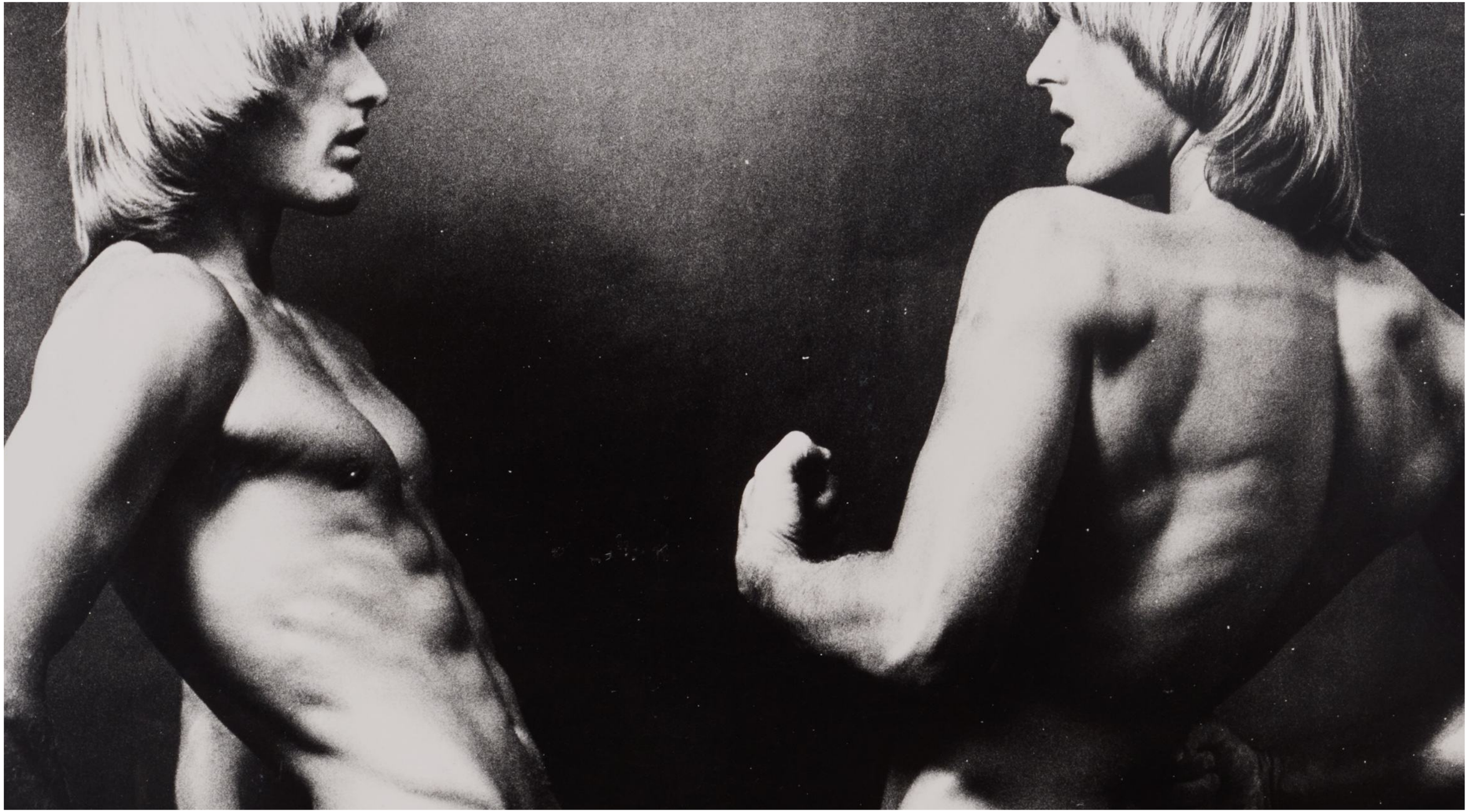
$ 6,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: Jock / White Tights), 1974

Vintage gelatin silver print
6.5 x 8.5 in.
16.51 x 21.59 cm
Unique

$ 5,000 USD





Peter Berlin
Untitled (Reclining in Leather), 1976

Vintage gelatin silver print
7.25 x 9.75 in.
18.41 x 24.77 cm
Unique

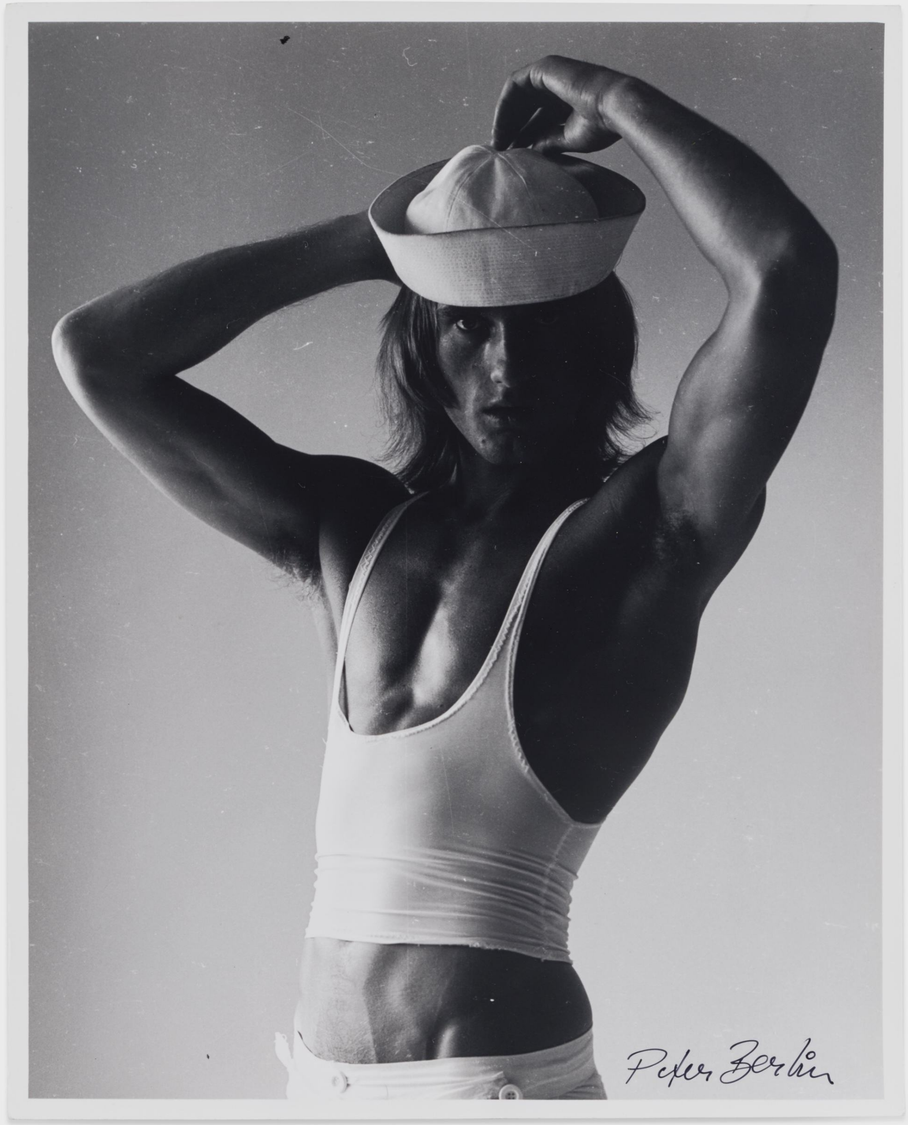
$ 6,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: Black Tank on Maroon), 1978

Vintage hand-painted gelatin silver print
14 x 11 in.
35.56 x 27.94 cm
Unique

$ 10,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Sailor Cap), 1970s

Vintage gelatin silver print
10 x 8 in.
25.40 x 20.32 cm
Unique

$ 5,000 USD





Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: Jeans / Nude), 1970s

Vintage hand-painted gelatin silver print
9.75 x 6.5 in.
24.77 x 16.51 cm
Unique

$ 8,000 USD





Peter Berlin
Untitled (Shiny Pants with Star Filter), 1980

Vintage gelatin silver print
9.75 x 7 in.
24.77 x 17.78 cm
Unique

$ 6,000 USD

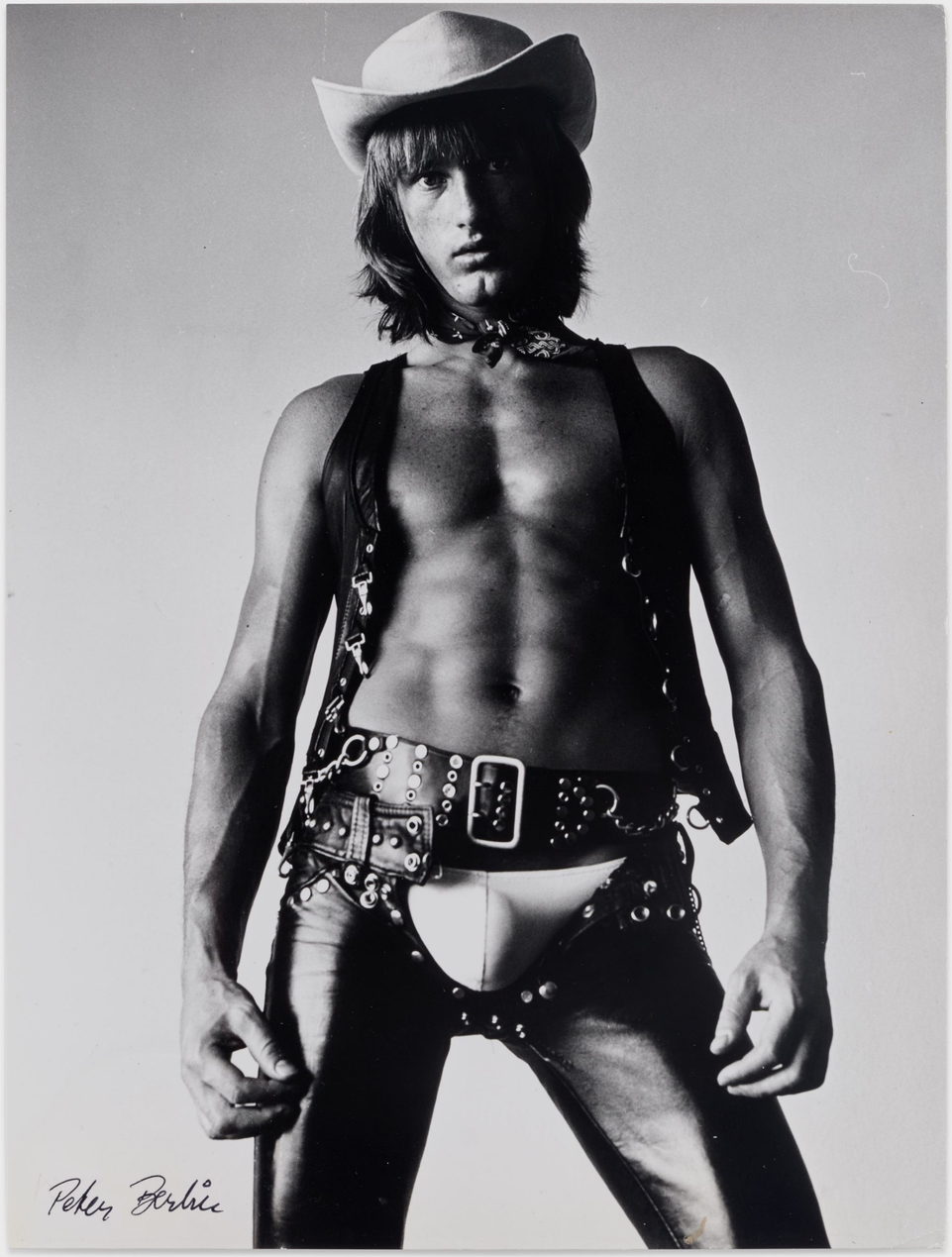




Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: Jeans / Nude), 1970s

Vintage hand-painted gelatin silver print
10 x 8 in.
25.40 x 20.32 cm
Unique

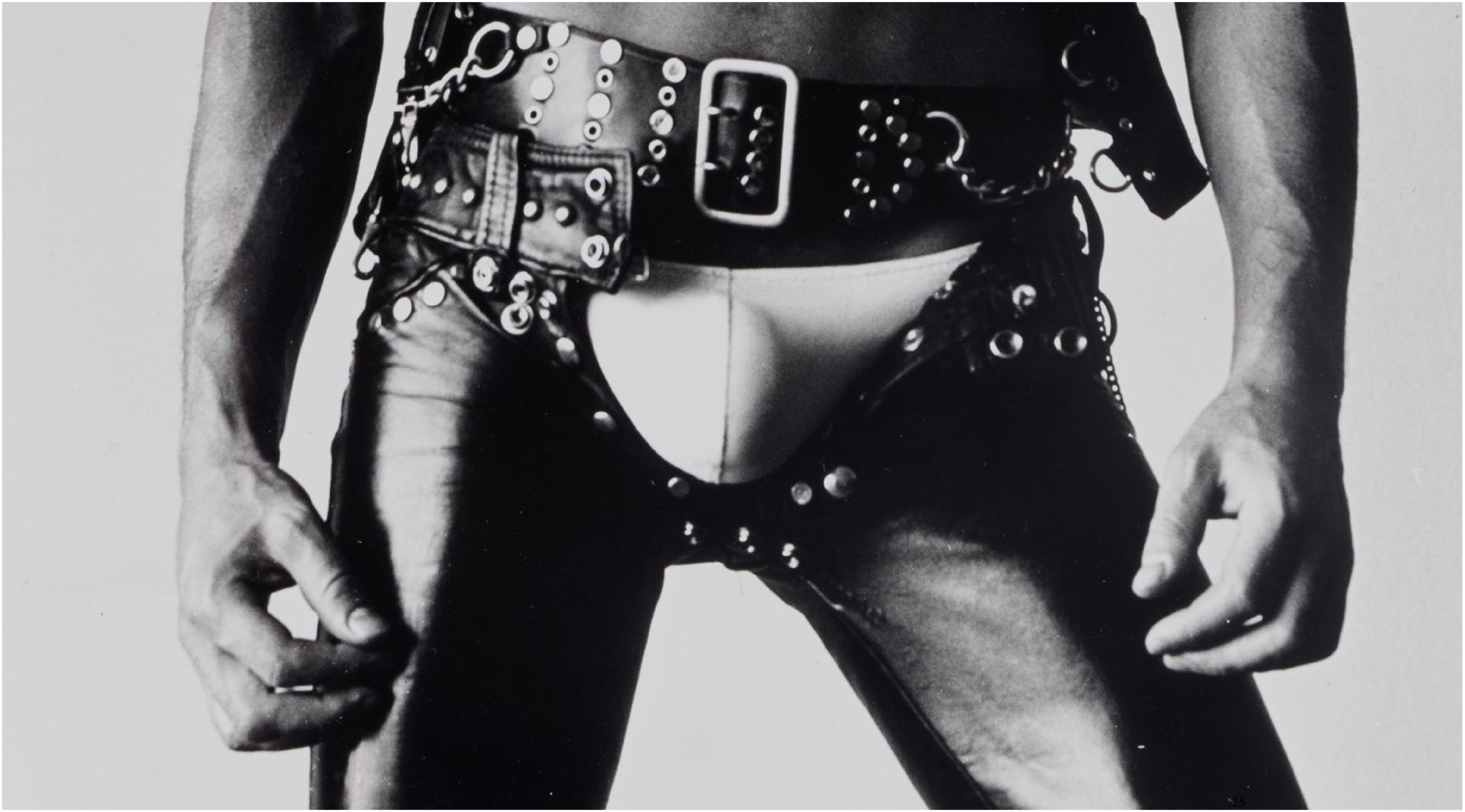
$ 8,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Cowboy Hat / Leather Chaps), 1971

Vintage gelatin silver print
10 x 7.5 in.
25.40 x 19.05 cm
Unique

$ 6,000 USD





Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: Cuffs), 1970s

Vintage gelatin silver print
9 x 8.5 in.
22.86 x 21.59 cm
Unique

$ 6,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Reclining in Leather), 1976

Vintage gelatin silver print
7.25 x 9.5 in.
18.41 x 24.13 cm
Unique

$ 6,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: White Jock / Black Leather),
1970s

Vintage gelatin silver print
8 x 10 in.
20.32 x 25.40 cm
Unique

$ 6,000 USD



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Survey, Booth S2

Checklist



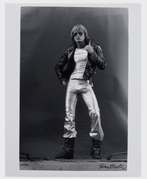
Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: Standing / Kneeling Boner), 1970s
Vintage gelatin silver print
10 x 8.25 in.
25.40 x 20.95 cm
Unique
BERPE053 $ 6,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (White Pants with Buttons), 1970s
Vintage gelatin silver print
10 x 7 in.
25.40 x 17.78 cm
Unique
BERPE061 $ 6,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: White Jacket / White Pants), 1974
Vintage gelatin silver print
10 x 8 in.
25.40 x 20.32 cm
Unique
BERPE054 $ 6,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Silver Pants / Sunglasses), 1980
Vintage gelatin silver print
14 x 11 in.
35.56 x 27.94 cm
Unique
BERPE062 $ 6,500 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: White Pants / Black Leather), 1970
Vintage hand-painted gelatin silver print
10 x 8 in.
25.40 x 20.32 cm
Unique
BERPE132 $ 7,500 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: Nude / Jeans), 1970s
Vintage gelatin silver print
10 x 7 in.
25.40 x 17.78 cm
Unique
BERPE052 $ 6,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Silver Pants), 1980
Vintage gelatin silver print
10 x 8 in.
25.40 x 20.32 cm
Unique
BERPE140 $ 6,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: Jock / White Tights), 1974
Vintage gelatin silver print
6.5 x 8.5 in.
16.51 x 21.59 cm
Unique
BERPE051 $ 5,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Reclining in Leather), 1976
Vintage gelatin silver print
7.25 x 9.75 in.
18.41 x 24.77 cm
Unique
BERPE117 $ 6,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: Black Tank on Maroon), 1978
Vintage hand-painted gelatin silver print
14 x 11 in.
35.56 x 27.94 cm
Unique
BERPE086 $ 10,000 USD

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Checklist



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Sailor Cap), 1970s
Vintage gelatin silver print
10 x 8 in.
25.40 x 20.32 cm
Unique
BERPE116 $ 5,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: Jeans / Nude), 1970s
Vintage hand-painted gelatin silver print
9.75 x 6.5 in.
24.77 x 16.51 cm
Unique
BERPE133 $ 8,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Shiny Pants with Star Filter), 1980
Vintage gelatin silver print
9.75 x 7 in.
24.77 x 17.78 cm
Unique
BERPE122 $ 6,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: Jeans / Nude), 1970s
Vintage hand-painted gelatin silver print
10 x 8 in.
25.40 x 20.32 cm
Unique
BERPE134 $ 8,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Cowboy Hat / Leather Chaps), 1971
Vintage gelatin silver print
10 x 7.5 in.
25.40 x 19.05 cm
Unique
BERPE118 $ 6,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: Cuffs), 1970s
Vintage gelatin silver print
9 x 8.5 in.
22.86 x 21.59 cm
Unique
BERPE120 $ 6,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Reclining in Leather), 1976
Vintage gelatin silver print
7.25 x 9.5 in.
18.41 x 24.13 cm
Unique
BERPE114 $ 6,000 USD



Peter Berlin
Untitled (Double Exposure: White Jock / Black Leather), 1970s
Vintage gelatin silver print
8 x 10 in.
20.32 x 25.40 cm
Unique
BERPE113 $ 6,000 USD

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