



Dan Friedman

Independent
May 2026

super
house

*What appealed to me was making things with my own hands,
getting dirty, raw and messy.*

– Dan Friedman



Dan Friedman at his FUN Gallery show opening with *The Zen of Golf*, May 1985.
Photo: Tseng Kwong Chi © Muna Tseng Dance Projects, Inc.

Independent

Booth 114

May 14 - 17

Pier 36

299 South St, NYC

Superhouse presents its first exhibition at Independent with a focused installation of eight works by Dan Friedman, all produced in 1985—a pivotal year in which his artistic language reached a new level of clarity and intensity. **These works are among the most ambitious and fully realized of Friedman's career.**

Bringing together these rare works is the result of several years of research and close collaboration with the artist's estate, as well as Friedman's friends and contemporaries. The presentation centers on a moment when Friedman moved fluidly between design, art, and installation, developing a visual language deeply embedded in the cultural energy of downtown New York.

Emerging from a generation shaped by the postwar promise of stability and domestic order, Friedman's assemblages assert a different kind of language—fragmented, improvisational, and open. Constructed from found materials, bold color, and unexpected juxtapositions, the works reflect the conditions of 1980s New York: media-saturated, chaotic, and culturally plural.

My disaffection [with graphic design] reached a peak in 1982 when I chose to step off a fast track... and exhibit my art with graffiti artists at FUN Gallery on the Lower East Side.

Friedman's artistic career was cut short by AIDS-related illness, leaving this body of work both finite and underexamined. While his contributions to graphic design have long been recognized, his parallel engagement with the East Village art scene has remained comparatively overlooked.

Today, as institutions and collectors reassess cross-disciplinary practices of the late twentieth century, Friedman's work has taken on renewed relevance. Recent acquisitions by The Met and LACMA, alongside growing institutional attention, underscore this shift, positioning his work within a broader art historical context.

This presentation offers a rare opportunity to encounter a tightly held group of works from a defining moment in Friedman's career.



Keith Haring and Patti Astor at Dan Friedman's FUN Gallery show opening May 1985.
Photo: Tseng Kwong Chi © Muna Tseng Dance Projects, Inc.

A Fallen Sky in a Regal Landscape detail



A Fallen Sky in a Regal Landscape detail





Untitled detail

Superhouse

New York

120 Walker Street, 6R

www.superhouse.us



Dan Friedman

Untitled, 1985

Medium-density fiberboard (MDF), plexiglass, raffia, paint, tape, found objects

49.5 H x 35.5 x 12 in (125.7 x 90.2 x 30.5 cm)

Unique; Signed and dated

65,000 USD



Untitled detail

Superhouse

New York

120 Walker Street, 6R

www.superhouse.us



Jeffrey Deitch and Brion Gysin at Dan Friedman's FUN Gallery show opening with Untitled.
Photo: Tseng Kwong Chi © Muna Tseng Dance Projects, Inc.



Dan Friedman

Untitled, 1985

Plywood, medium-density fiberboard (MDF), aluminum, paint, found objects, raffia, lighting parts

66 H x 48 x 11 in (167.6 x 121.9 x 27.9 cm)

Unique

Private Collection



Untitled detail





Dan Friedman

Untitled, 1985

Plastic laminate, plywood, raffia, lighting parts

64 H x 48 x 4 in (162.6 x 121.9 x 10.2 cm)

Unique

45,000 USD



Untitled detail

Superhouse

New York

120 Walker Street, 6R

www.superhouse.us



Dan Friedman

Underwater TV, 1985

Plywood, paint, tape, TV frame, plastic grass skirt, found objects

50 H x 28 x 11 in (127 x 71.1 x 27.9 cm)

Unique; Signed and dated

Contact for waitlist



Underwater TV detail



Dan Friedman

Birthday Fetish, 1985

Medium-density fiberboard (MDF), paint,
raffia, wooden beads, string, motor

71.5 H x 14.25 x 0.5 in (181.6 x 36.2 x 1.3 cm)

Unique; Signed and dated

45,000 USD



Birthday Fetish detail



Dan Friedman installation c. 1985

Independent

Booth 114

May 14 - 17

Pier 36

299 South St, NYC

Available works and pricing upon request

Please contact to receive the current checklist or join the waitlist



Dan Friedman

(1945–1995)

Dan Friedman was an American artist, educator, and graphic designer whose work expanded the boundaries between graphic design, art, and furniture. Born in suburban Ohio, Friedman received a BFA from the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University) in Pittsburgh and continued his studies at the Hochschule für Gestaltung Ulm in Germany and the Allgemeine Gewerbeschule Basel in Switzerland.

Friedman began his career as a graphic designer, holding positions at Anspach Grossman Portugal Inc. and the international design firm Pentagram. He later taught at Yale University's Graduate School of Art and Graduate School of Architecture, as well as at the State University of New York at Purchase.

In the early 1980s Friedman shifted away from corporate design and academia to focus on an interdisciplinary art practice that combined sculpture, furniture, assemblage, and graphic language. His genre-defying works were exhibited at influential New York galleries including Tony Shafrazi Gallery, FUN Gallery, Art et Industrie, and Red Studio, as well as in Paris at Galerie Néoutu and Galerie Kreo.

Shortly before his death from AIDS-related complications in 1995, Friedman published *Dan Friedman: Radical Modernism* (1994), a manifesto-like reflection on his philosophy and work featuring contributions by Jeffrey Deitch and Alessandro Mendini.

In 2023, The Art Institute of Chicago organized the first major museum retrospective dedicated to the artist, *Dan Friedman: Stay Radical*. Friedman's work is held in prominent public collections including The Art Institute of Chicago, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, Gewerbemuseum Basel, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Modern Art, and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Superhouse

Superhouse is a New York-based gallery championing contemporary design and materially driven art. Founded and directed by Stephen Markos, the gallery presents a dynamic program of historical rediscoveries and new works by visionary artists and designers. Known for its rigorous curatorial approach, Superhouse advances the global discourse of art, design, and fine craft—often foregrounding voices and movements that have been historically underrecognized. The gallery works across disciplines, fostering critical conversations between furniture, fiber, ceramics, metalwork, and sculpture. A core pillar of the program is the revival of late-20th-century American art furniture, including landmark works that have been unseen for decades. Through research, exhibition-making, and advocacy, Superhouse positions this radical era as a pivotal chapter in contemporary cultural history. Superhouse collaborates closely with artists, estates, and archives to present rediscoveries, primary-source material, and ambitious new commissions. Its roster includes leading and emerging makers from Africa, the Americas, and Europe, bringing global perspectives to the evolving landscape of radical making today.

From Dan

