

SEANKELLY

Yanagihara, Hanya, "They Made New York," *T Magazine*, September 10, 2015.



They Made New York

By HANYA YANAGIHARA SEPT. 10, 2015



First row, from left: composer Philip Glass, artist Chuck Close, writer Bob Colacello, writer Edmund White, artist Duane Michals, writer Jessica Hagedorn, writer Larry Kramer, editor Jason Epstein and performer Penny Arcade. Second row, from left: artist Lucas Samaras, writer Gary Indiana, artist John Dugdale, writer Vivian Gornick, cartoonist Art Spiegelman, artist Sue Williams, musician Richard Hell and artist Brice Marden. Third row, from left: artist Tom Bianchi, writer Brad Gooch, actress Susan Sarandon, model Iman, writer Fran Lebowitz, musician David Johansen, musician DJ Kool Here, actress Lauren Hutton, artist Anthony McCall, gallery owner Tony Shafrazi and musician and artist Fab Five Freddy. Shot on location at the Swiss Institute, Wooster Street. Credit: Photograph by Richard Renaldi. Produced by Lauren Tabach-Bank

On July 14, 2015, *T* magazine assembled some of the artists, writers, performers, musicians and intellectuals who defined New York's inimitable and electrifying cultural scene of the late 1970s and early '80s. There were longtime friends (and some rivals) in the group, but overall, the mood was one of celebration. And why

not? Every generation thinks it's uniquely special, but this generation really is: These are the people who came to, and stayed in, New York when it was at its worst, and in so doing, created what was arguably the most important multidisciplinary artistic movement that the city has ever seen.

But while this historic gathering was notable for its presences, it was equally so for its absences: a whole group of people (the artists David Wojnarowicz, Peter Hujar, Robert Mapplethorpe, Keith Haring, Tseng Kwong Chi and Felix Gonzalez-Torres among them) who were lost to AIDS. Those who remain are survivors — of a plague, of time and, most of all, of the wonders and the ravages of the era.



As 28 legends of the downtown scene gather for a special portrait, Chuck Close remembers SoHo in the late '70s and early '80s. By AMOS POE on September 10, 2015. [Watch in Times Video »](#)