


Michael S. Sherry



Gay
Artists

in Modern
American
Culture

an imagined conspiracy



Gay
Artists
in
Modern
American
Culture

This page intentionally left blank

Gay Artists

in Modern
American
Culture

an imagined conspiracy

Michael S. Sherry

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS Chapel Hill

© 2007

The University of North Carolina Press

All rights reserved

Manufactured in the United States of America

Set in Bodoni Book, Didot, and Bickham types

by Tseng Information Systems

This book was published with the assistance of the
Anniversary Endowment Fund of the University of
North Carolina Press.

The paper in this book meets the guidelines for
permanence and durability of the Committee on
Production Guidelines for Book Longevity of the
Council on Library Resources.

Library of Congress

Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Sherry, Michael S., 1945-

Gay artists in modern American culture :

an imagined conspiracy / Michael S. Sherry.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-8078-3121-2 (cloth : alk. paper)

1. Homosexuality and art—United States—History—

20th century. 2. Arts, American—20th century.

3. Homosexuality—United States. I. Title.

NX180.H6S54 2007

704'.086640973—dc22 2006039795

A Caravan book. For more information, visit
www.caravanbooks.org.

11 10 09 08 07 5 4 3 2 1

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments *vii*

Introduction: Nixon, Myself, and Others *1*

1 Discovery *13*

2 Explanation *51*

3 Frenzy *105*

4 Barber at the Met *155*

5 Aftermath *204*

Notes *239*

Index *271*


A section of illustrations follows p. 141.

This page intentionally left blank

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Three research assistants provided essential help in locating and often shrewdly commenting on primary sources: David K. Johnson, Miles Becker, and Michael Allen. Allison Quinn provided last-minute help with sources. Antony Burton did fast and good work obtaining the images used. Several people read the manuscript, some more than once—Nadine Hubbs, David K. Johnson, George Chauncey, Marilyn Young, Lane Fenrich, and Charles Grench (my editor since my first book three decades ago)—and generously offered corrections, counsel, conversation, challenges, and encouragement. Others provided support, comments, and leads in conversations after reading parts of the manuscript or hearing versions in lectures. Research leaves underwritten by Northwestern University provided time for work on this book. Research funds, made possible by former students of Richard Leopold who endowed a chair in his honor, underwrote many of the costs involved. Chairs of the Northwestern history department and colleagues in it provided support in other ways. My partner, James Beal, and other family members endured many delays in this project and disruptions caused by it. I thank them for their patience and for their own insights into this history.

This page intentionally left blank



Gay
Artists
in
Modern
American
Culture