

## PaJaMa

### Artist Biography

PaJaMa—a mash-up of Paul, Jared, and Margaret—was a photography collective formed by the artists Paul Cadmus, Jared French, and Margaret Hoening French. The same year French married Hoening (1937), they rented a summer cottage in Saltaire, Fire Island, where they were joined by Cadmus, French's partner of ten years. Using Hoening's Leica, they began to experiment with photographing one another on the beach. Under the moniker PaJaMa, the trio would go on to photograph themselves, their friends, and members of the gay community artfully posed on the beaches of Fire Island, Provincetown, and Nantucket, as well as in New York through the 1940s. Captured in these intimate, theatrical, and at times humorous images are the painter George Tooker, Cadmus's partner in the 1940s; the photographer George Platt Lynes; Monroe Wheeler, a Museum of Modern Art curator; and artist Fidelma Cadmus, sister of Cadmus and wife of Lincoln Kirstein, a founder of the New York City Ballet; among others. These psychologically charged photos were particularly germinative for French in particular, who at times turned directly to these images for his dreamlike paintings. The photographs were not seen publicly until 1978; the few prints that were made of each circulated among friends, reinscribing the social and artistic circles from which they drew.