

Gallery Owner Donates Tom of Finland Drawings

Chicago, IL

Hudson, curator and owner of Feature Inc., a gallery influential in the early recognition of artist Tom of Finland, has donated two pivotal drawings by the artist to the Permanent Collection of the Art Institute of Chicago.



Tom of Finland
1988

Feature Inc. presented exhibitions of Tom of Finland's drawings during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Hudson recalls, "His drawing skill and subject matter were an important influence on me and many people I knew, including many artists."



Tom of Finland
1988

The two pieces donated by Hudson represent an American period — specifically a *California* period — in Tom of Finland's many transitions. Black men with White men became a part of Tom's creative focus during the 1980s, the last decade of work before his death in 1991.

"Hudson's donation, and the acceptance of these works by the Art Institute of Chicago, is one more stone in the pathway of Tom of Finland's recognition by the fine art communities of the world," said Durk Dehner, cofounder and president of the nonprofit Tom of Finland Foundation.

"I was also curious to see if AIC would accept it as a gift," said Hudson. Then he adds, "It was a great pleasure to hear of the acceptance and to realize that this gift allows many, many people the opportunity to see these terrific drawings and be inspired, amused, aroused, and/or enraged."

First Tom of Finland was exhibited at the Town Hall in the hamlet where he was born, then the Kiasma in Helsinki, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Portland Museum of Art and the recent donation by the Judith Rothschild Foundation to the Museum of Modern Art in New York.