Jean-Michel Basquiat: An Intimate Portrait

An intimate look at the friendship between artists Nicholas Taylor and Jean-Michel Basquiat born under the pulsating lights of New York’s famed Mudd Club in lower Manhattan in January 1979. These documentary photographs of Basquiat are being exhibited and traveled for the first time in their entirety. The accompanying text panels, written by Taylor, serve to contextualize the historical significance of Basquiat in the early 1980s.

Basquiat’s actions and poses, captured by Taylor, appear aloof or casual at first glance. These are, in fact, rarely publicized documentations of his character and use of body language to express his emotions and personality, which, in turn, reflect his serendipitous struggle for fame and respect. Basquiat’s ambition and eccentric behavior, coupled with that same hunger for respect, thrust him into the vacuous 1980s world of New York City, where there was little hope of escape... let alone, survival.

ULTIMATELY, THIS EXHIBITION IS AN EXPLORATION OF JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT AS A PERSON WHO BECAME ONE OF THE MOST PROLIFIC ARTISTS OF OUR CENTURY.