

# Bachardy show focuses on the bare essentials

By Hunter Drohojowska

**I**'ve never been in a room with so many naked people," confessed one woman to artist Don Bachardy. Bachardy, wearing snazzy yellow shoes and dressed in a spring green cotton shirt and bright blue trousers cinched with a red belt, matched the searing colors of his newest portraits, all of which are full-body nudes.

One critic, scanning the array, remarked that Bachardy had been "remarkably egalitarian" in the rendering of the gentlemen in the largest gallery. Immediately, another visitor protested that *he* thought there was great variety. And so went last Tuesday night's overheated conversations in the saunalike James Corcoran Gallery. Everyone was downing gin and tonics, quickly.

Bachardy's longtime companion, novelist Christopher

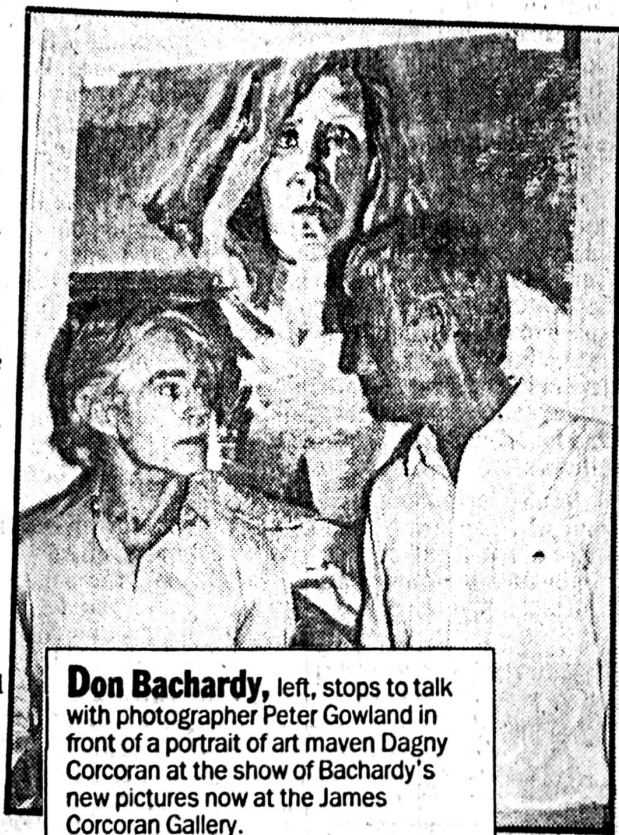
Isherwood, was embraced by actress Julie Harris, a historic reunion since she originated the stage character of Sally Bowles in "I Am a Camera," John van Druten's 1951 adaptation of Isherwood's "Goodbye to Berlin."

Buck Henry scanned the portraits with the slow pace of a connoisseur, accompanied by Dana Ruscha. Another Ruscha — Paul — was there with art dealer Ulrike Kantor, whose ex-husband, also named Paul, was there with someone else. It's all so confusing.

Celebs gazed frankly at other celebs, not just in the galleries but

on the walls. Teri Garr was painted alluringly with her panties on; George Maharis, without.

Dagney Corcoran, owner of the L.A. art crowd's fave bookstore, Art Catalogues, was not only there, she was the subject of several discreet portraits. Artist Don Sorenson lamented that his portrait was not among those displayed. Bachardy's artist friends, some of whom are also with the Corcoran Gallery, came en masse — Laddie John Dill, Woods Davy, Peter Alexander,



**Don Bachardy**, left, stops to talk with photographer Peter Gowland in front of a portrait of art maven Dagny Corcoran at the show of Bachardy's new pictures now at the James Corcoran Gallery.

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Allen Ruppberg — along with such art collectors as Joan and Jack Quinn and Doug Cramer. The film contingent included director James Bridges ("Perfect") with producer Jack Larson, actress Mary Kay Place and writers Ivan Moffat and Gavin Lambert. Isherwood, too, was prominently positioned on the gallery walls. He confessed with a sly smile that he had been modeling this way since he was a young man. "Not for money, but for friends, just to get together and talk, you know," he said.

*Hunter Drohojowska writes regularly about art for the Herald.*



**Julie Harris**, above left, reunited with Christopher Isherwood, above right, at Don Bachardy's opening. Harris starred in the stage adaptation of the writer's Berlin stories. Buck Henry, right, also made the opening.

