

BODY IMAGE

The Gay & Lesbian Review

WORLDWIDE

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\$5.95 USA and Canada

JAMES M. SASLOW
Michelangelo's Gifts to Tommaso

STEVEN F. DANSKY
David Hockney's Great Yes to Life

JAMES CASSELL
**The Gorgeous Bleakness of
Hugh Auchincloss Steers**

JOHN R. KILLACKY
Peter Hujar's Eye for the Interesting

**Arch Brown on the
Making of a Porn Star**
BY ANDREW HOLLERAN

Vindication for John Boswell
BY NORENA SHOPLAND

Remembering Bob Smith
BY EDDIE SARFATY

Michelangelo Buonarroti

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B R I E F S

with Edmund White
antley
ire Roche
ssissippi. 208 pages, \$25.
ources ranging from *The*
Granta—and including
hat were originally pub-
azine—this collection of
d White runs from 1982,
rd novel, *A Boy's Own*
hed, to 2016, with the pub-
ung Man. The book offers
o his creative process.
vels, White often follows
nd to “marinate”: to lie on
ng time and daydream be-
o paper. After that he
t for short periods of time.
are presented in chrono-
wing the reader to follow
thoughts on same-sex
assimilation, gay litera-
S crisis, among many top-
ere is some repetition,
e talks about his child-
ence in the Midwest.
cussing other writers, espe-
mires. The short list al-

ways includes Nabokov (his early cham-
pion), Colette, and Proust. Over the years
he has also mentioned Gertrude Stein,
Ronald Firbank, Coleman Dowell, Christo-
pher Isherwood, James Merrill, and Alan
Hollinghurst. Non-gay writers would in-
clude Raymond Carver, Richard Ford,
Chekhov, and Thomas Pynchon.

MARTHA E. STONE

Sister Love: The Letters of Audre Lorde and Pat Parker, 1974–1989

Edited by Julie R. Enszer
A Midsummer Night's Press.
128 pages, \$14.95

“Warmth from a cold place,” begins the
first letter in *Sister Love*, dated October 12,
1974, and sent from Audre Lorde’s house in
Staten Island to Pat Parker’s home in sunny
California. In this simple greeting, the
reader detects intimacy, affection, a certain
amount of exhaustion (Lorde goes on to de-
scribe the “deluge of work” she just waded
through). Reading through the letters, one
has the sense of eavesdropping on a conver-
sation that started long ago (they met in
1969) and will continue for years to come,
as their narrative threads are picked up by

their many intellectual descendants. The lat-
ter include living poets, scholars, political
activists, black women, lesbians, and the
many combinations thereof.

When Lorde and Parker speak of the im-
portant work they have done—the journals
edited, the events organized—they’re not
just speaking of their individual achieve-
ments; they’re talking about an entire
movement that owes no small part of its ex-
istence to their efforts. Many readers will
no doubt come to *Sister Love* for exactly
this reason: to be part of that conversation
and that movement. Others will come for
the window into these poets’ private lives
that this book offers. Much of the women’s
correspondence consists of filling each
other in on the events of their lives, re-
counting the readings, vacations, and trips
to the hospital that occupied their time
when they weren’t writing. In the second
half of the book, Lorde and Parker both
reckon with cancer and the knowledge that
death is stalking them. Their reflections on
mortality alone make this a worthwhile
book. In the end, *Sister Love* is a fascinat-
ing, if slim, addition to Lorde and Parker’s
bodies of work.

RUTH JOFFRE