

DATEBOOK

APRIL 2010 THIS MONTH'S CULTURAL AGENDA

NEW YORK

DRIVEN TO COLLECT

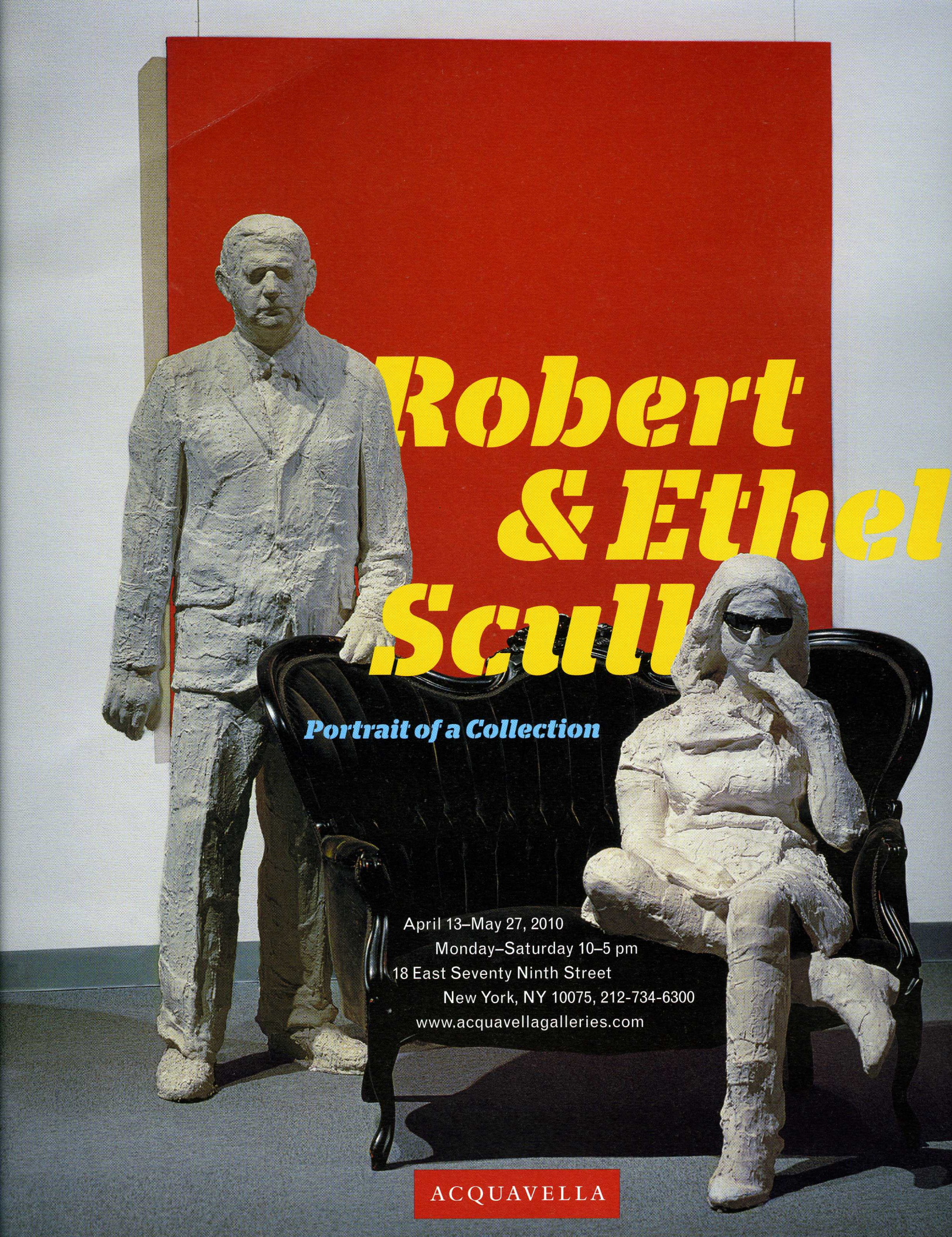
Robert and Ethel Scull were one of the most talked-about and photographed New York society couples in the 1960s, thanks in part to their unrivaled collection of Abstract Expressionism, Minimalism, and Pop art. A major loan exhibition of around 40 works they once owned, at New York's **Acquavella Galleries** from April 13 through May 27, presents a rare opportunity to view part of their long-dispersed trove in one place. (They divorced in 1975; he passed away in 1986, she in 2001.)

"Scull's Angels," a reference to the taxi fleet that Robert built based on the share his father-in-law left him in the business, contains paintings, sculptures, works on paper, and photographs, many purchased directly from the artists for a few hundred dollars each. One of the works on display, **Willem de Kooning's** *Police Gazette*, 1955, brought \$180,000 at Sotheby Parke Bernet in 1973. Years later, gallery patriarch **William Acquavella** acquired it for \$2.2 million and eventually resold it to **Steve Wynn** for \$12 million. Most recently, hedge funder **Steven M. Cohen** bought it from **David Geffen** for \$63.5 million. Also on display are **Jasper Johns's** *Double-Flag*, 1962; an early **James Rosenquist**, *Untitled (Blue Sky)*, 1962, right; and **Andy Warhol's** *Red Airmail Stamps*, 1962.

The show is the brainchild of the art historian **Judith Goldman**, who culled the material from private collections and museums. "I thought it was worth reassembling what the Sculls collected," says Acquavella. "Their selections were daring, and it's fantastic what they did."

The couple themselves will be on hand in the guise of **George Segal's** life-size homage in plaster *Portrait of Robert*





Robert & Ethel Scull

Portrait of a Collection

April 13–May 27, 2010
Monday–Saturday 10–5 pm
18 East Seventy Ninth Street
New York, NY 10075, 212-734-6300
www.acquavellagalleries.com

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