



CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE 2025

**LESBIAN, GAY,
BISEXUAL, AND
TRANSGENDER
HERITAGE MONTH**

PRESENTED BY THE **CITY OF LOS ANGELES** DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER
HERITAGE MONTH

CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE 2025



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**LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER
HERITAGE MONTH** CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE 2025



MAYOR
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
KAREN BASS



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, it is my pleasure to join all Angelenos in celebrating the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual + Heritage Month. Our LGBTQIA+ residents are a cornerstone of Los Angeles, making every neighborhood in the city rich with culture, inclusivity and vibrancy.

This month, we come together to ensure that Los Angeles remains a city where LGBTQIA+ history can be told, celebrated and created. Places like the ONE Archives, the world's largest research library dedicated to queer history, recognizes the invaluable contributions the LGBTQIA+ community are making every day in our city.

I hope you will use this calendar and cultural guide, created by our Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), to learn about the many activities to celebrate this month and to explore why our LGBTQIA+ residents help make LA shine. I also encourage you to enjoy the remarkable artwork we are showcasing from established and emerging LGBTQIA+ artists.

I send my best wishes for memorable celebrations and greater community connections.

Sincerely,

Karen Bass
MAYOR
CITY OF LOS ANGELES



Sarah Gail, *Two Enlightened Beings in an Embrace*, Acrylic on canvas, 24" x 30", 2022

**LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER
HERITAGE MONTH** CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE 2025



**CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
COUNCILMEMBER EIGHTH DISTRICT
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON**



Dear Friends,

It is an honor to recognize the courage and brilliance of a community that has fought for generations to be seen, safe, and to be celebrated. I am proud to stand in solidarity with our LGBTQ+ community, not just this month, but every day of the year.

Pride Month is a commemoration of a long journey. Our LGBTQ+ family and neighbors have paved a way through protest, advocacy, and the relentless pursuit of justice.

Here in Los Angeles, LGBTQ+ Angelenos are entrepreneurs, leaders, organizers, teachers, healers, and artists. Their contributions are woven into every part of our civic and cultural life and we are blessed with a community that is essential to the heartbeat of this city.

And while we celebrate, we also acknowledge that this moment is not without its challenges. Across the nation, LGBTQ+ rights are under renewed pressure, especially for transgender and gender nonconforming people. These times are difficult, but they are not new. We have seen how resistance gives rise to renaissance and fuels liberation.

Our city has been and must remain a place where everyone, regardless of who they are or who they love, can thrive in authenticity and safety. As public servants, we have a duty to protect those values and to ensure that no one is left behind in our vision of justice and equality.

This month, let us recommit to building that future together. Let us celebrate loudly and advocate fiercely. Progress may move slowly, but it is pushed forward by those who refuse to be silent.

With pride and hope,

Marqueece Harris-Dawson
**LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
COUNCILMEMBER, EIGHTH DISTRICT**



**LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER
HERITAGE MONTH** CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE 2025



**COUNCILMEMBER FOURTEENTH DISTRICT
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
YSABEL J. JURADO**



Dear Friends,

On behalf of my constituents in Council District 14, I welcome you to join us in celebrating LGBTQ+ Heritage Month. As the sole member of this community currently sitting on Council, I proudly accept the responsibility to advocate on behalf of LGBTQ+ Angelenos and Chair this celebration for the first time.

Pride Month is an important reminder of our community’s history and resilience. In light of that, I am happy to share this year’s theme: Building Community through Collective Power. LGBTQ+ is an umbrella term that reflects the mirage of queer identities, and it is through this unity with one another that we are most able to create change. We will see an embodiment of this unity at the City Council Meeting on June 6, 2025 where we will recognize a number of people and organizations that live out this theme. I also encourage you to visit the Bridge Gallery at City Hall which has been curated by Pride Chair emeritus Councilmember Traci Park’s office.

Wishing you a joyful, safe and happy pride!

In solidarity,

Ysabel Jurado
**COUNCILMEMBER, FOURTEENTH DISTRICT
CHAIR, 2025 LGBT HERITAGE MONTH**



David Stine, *Pink Skies*, Digital photography, 36" x 48", 2023

**LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER
HERITAGE MONTH** CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE 2025



GENERAL MANAGER
CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
DANIEL TARICA



Dear Friends,

As we step into the vibrant and empowering month of June, we are thrilled to extend a warm welcome to join us in celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Heritage Month. With exciting events and talented artists, we honor the extraordinary range of LGBTQ+ experiences and cultural traditions transforming Los Angeles into a thriving, creative metropolis.

With our unwavering dedication to fostering the well-being of Los Angeles for the greater public good, DCA and the LGBTQ+ community use the healing power of the arts to continue a tradition of taking care of the most vulnerable while demonstrating how to support, serve, and strengthen our city as a whole. Through a series of engaging events, celebrations, and artistic expressions, we aim to amplify LGBTQ+ voices, promote understanding, and celebrate the beauty of diversity in all its forms.

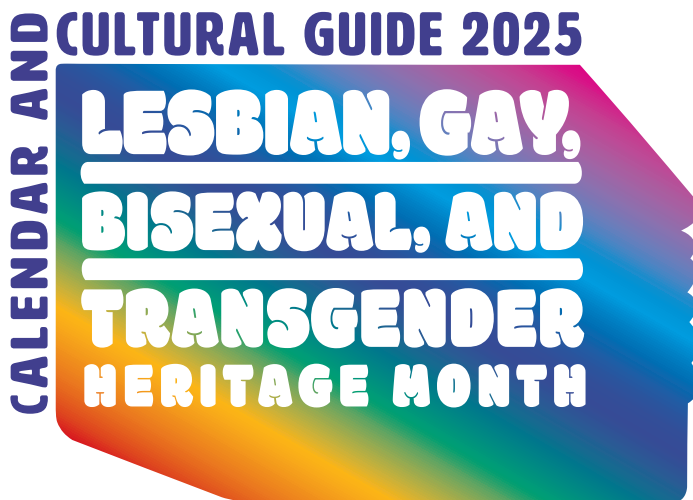
I want to express my appreciation for the work of our Mayor, City Council, elected officials, and our city's LGBTQ+ employees for their support in recognizing the many community groups, arts organizations, artists, and activists whose efforts helped us create this impressive publication full of fun, educational, and inspiring events. This month is a celebration of identity, promoting self-expression and the rights to live authentically, and helps combat homophobia, prejudice, and discrimination by fostering understanding and diversity.

We are also pleased to showcase a selection of contemporary art produced by our local LGBTQ+ artists and poets. Their vision pays homage to steps taken in the past towards progress, and looks ahead toward a future assuring equality for all. Whether you identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ community or as a passionate ally, your presence and partnership are invaluable to building a more inclusive world for all.

Sincerely,

Daniel Tarica
GENERAL MANAGER
CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS





OFFICIAL EVENTS

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

This year's official event, presented by the **City of Los Angeles**, the **City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)**, and the **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Heritage Month Committee**, honors the history and culture of LGBT community members in our city. The event is free, and open to the public. Please join us at one of the many wonderful celebrations, listed in this publication, taking place in Los Angeles this year.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE 2025

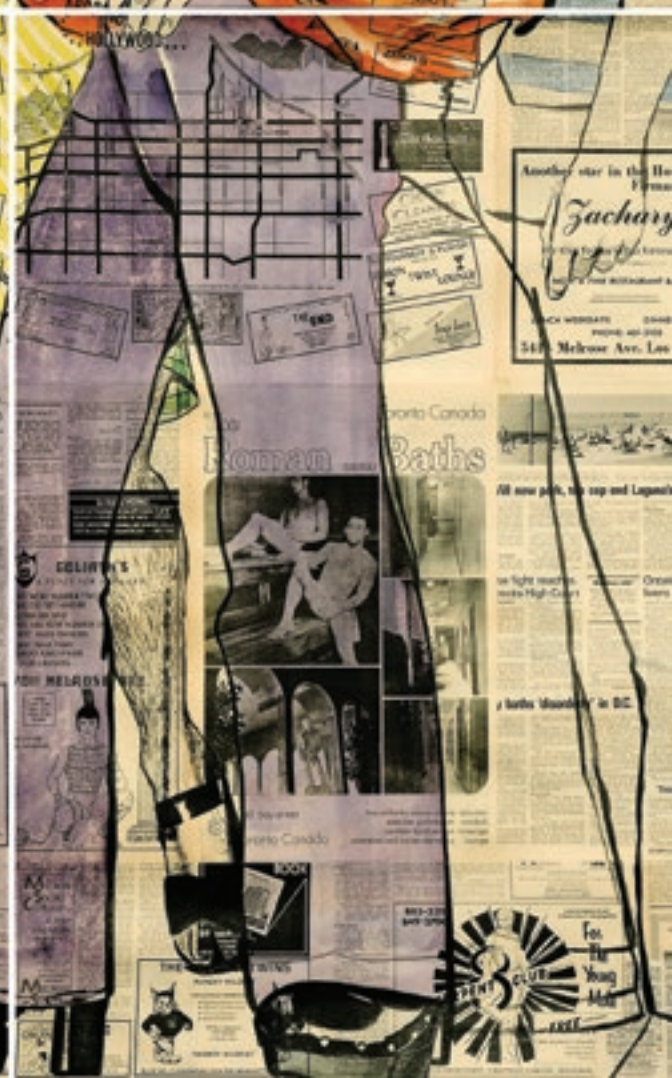
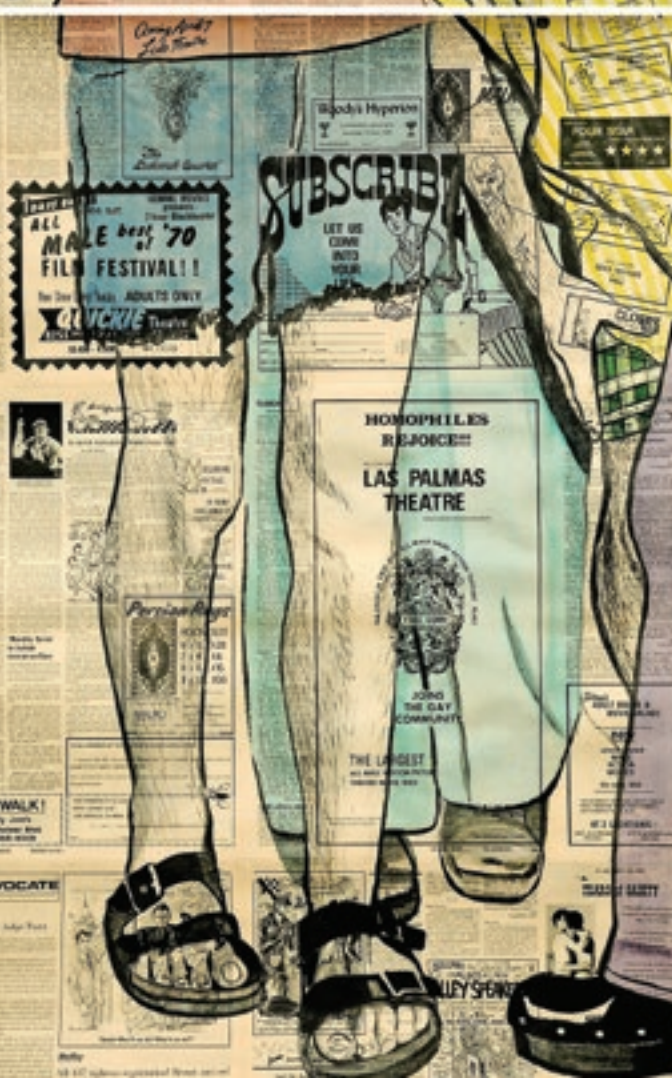
OFFICIAL EVENTS

2025 LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER HERITAGE MONTH KICKOFF EVENT

City of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, Los Angeles City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Councilmember Eighth District, Councilmember Ysabel Jurado, Fourteenth District, Councilmember Traci Park, Eleventh District, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Heritage Month Committee, and the Los Angeles City Council welcome you to join us as we celebrate Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Heritage Month in the City of Los Angeles with a City Council presentation honoring several community leaders. This year’s theme is: Building Community through Collective Power.

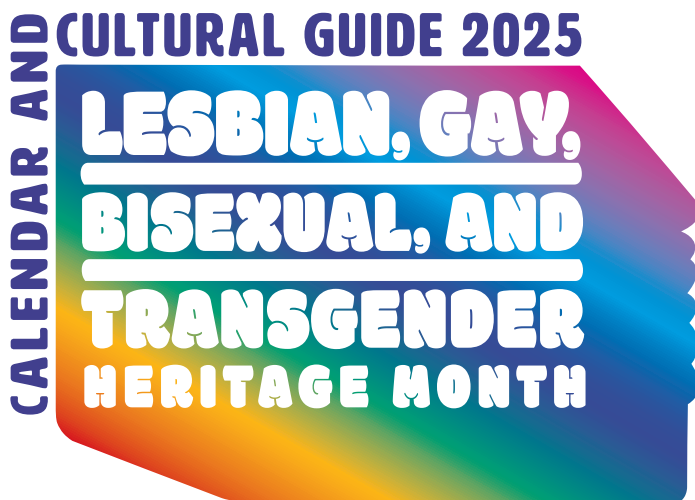
- WHEN:** June 6, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
- WHERE:** John Ferraro Council Chamber
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- SPONSORS:** Office of Mayor Karen Bass, Councilmember Ysabel Jurado, Fourteenth District, Councilmember Traci Park, Eleventh District, the Los Angeles City Council, and the Department of Cultural Affairs
- INFO:** For questions, please contact Milagros Montalvo by email at milagros.montalvo@lacity.org

At right: **Rinaldo Hopf**, *Stonewall Riots 1969 #1*, Mixed media on vintage newsprint, 7' x 14', 2019





Rick Castro, *Roses*, Photography, 8" x 12", 2024



HONOREES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

This year’s honorees, presented by the **City of Los Angeles**, the **City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)**, and the **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Heritage Month Committee**, honor the diversity and excellence of the LGBT community in Los Angeles.

This year’s presentations will be made to the **2025 Honorees: the Los Angeles LGBT Center**, providers of free legal services across the city to support members of the LGBTQ+ community in crisis; **Latino Equity Alliance**, building a coalition and coordinating efforts to increase support for LGBTQ+ rights within the Latine/x community; and **Reach LA**, empowering and celebrating LGBTQIA+ people of color through health and wellness, arts innovation, workforce development, and social justice.

The honorees will receive their awards at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Heritage Month opening celebration held at Los Angeles City Hall, on June 6, 2025. For more information about the Opening Ceremony, please view the event on page 10. The Ceremony is free to attend, and open to the public.



Shareef Jamal, *6PM in Malibu*, Digital photography, 8" x 12", 2024

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE 2025

HONOREES

LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER

The **Los Angeles LGBT Center's Legal Services** team offers free legal clinics across the city to support LGBTQ+ individuals and families in times of crisis. Through Know Your Rights workshops and one-on-one legal assistance, they help community members understand and assert their rights. Services include support with asylum and work permit applications, name and gender marker changes, and other critical legal needs. Clinics are held in various neighborhoods and offered in both English and Spanish to ensure accessibility for all. Their goal is to empower and protect vulnerable communities with the knowledge and tools they need to stay safe and secure.

lgbtcenter.org



The **Latino Equality Alliance (LEA)** was founded in January 2009, as a direct response to the passing of Proposition 8, the California ballot initiative that took marriage rights away from same-sex couples. As Latine/x LGBTQ+ activists worked to dismantle Prop 8, the founders recognized the need to build a coalition and coordinated efforts to increase support for LGBTQ+ rights within the Latine/x community. As a result, an alliance of individuals and representatives from several organizations formed the Latino Equality Alliance. LEA's founding mission was to promote liberty, justice, and equality for the Latine/x LGBTQ+ community.

Today, as an organization, LEA's mission is to advocate for the safety, equity, and wellness of the LGBTQ community. LEA focuses on building power within the Latinx LGBTQ+ community and advocating for systemic changes that promote healthy and safe environments in schools, homes, and neighborhoods for LGBTQ+ youth and families. LEA grounds its work through public education, organized actions, coalition building, and leadership development. LEA operates out of Mi Centro LGBTQ community center in Boyle Heights and Mi SELA LGBTQ youth center in the City of Bell.

somoslea.org

REACH LA

REACH LA empowers and celebrates LGBTQIA+ people of color through health and wellness, arts innovation, workforce development, and social justice. Founded in 1992 by three artists and a community organizer, REACH LA began as a response to the lack of HIV prevention education for youth of color. Today, we provide HIV testing, prevention, mental health support, and creative arts programming. In addition, we strive to build a safe, supportive space where youth can thrive, express themselves, and live authentically-embracing their identities and unlocking their full potential.

reachla.info



CELEBRATING THE JOYFUL LIFE AND ARTISTRY OF MICHAEL MOORE

IN MEMORIAM



Michael Moore was an amazing talent, a hard working crafter of beautiful images, and, a kind and gracious man with a wonderful zest for life. It is with great sadness that we share Michael’s passing in 2024. His work, and his presence, are greatly missed. Michael was the cover artist for the 2020 edition of this publication, above, and had participated in the Heritage Month publications for many years.

Michael was born and raised in Dallas, Texas. He was introduced to the magic of photography at age six and never lost that early passion for creating images with a camera. “I do my best to make everyone shine in their best light. I want the layout to be outstanding. I try to make people look alive, not just a photo,” he stated in an article about his work in *Suite Life SoCal*.

His playful, elegant and energetic images caught the eyes of collectors, magazine editors and his artistic peers. He worked for many publications and had many celebrity clients that supported his work.



CELEBRATING MICHAEL MOORE

His photographic career was a source of great pride and joy in his life, and sharing his art and knowledge of photography with others was immensely important to him. He was often contacted by aspiring artists who had seen his work, and felt it was important to be a cheerleader and resource for those coming up behind him – that he should freely share his knowledge with others, as others had so often shared with him.

Michael, and indeed all our the artists participating in DCA Heritage Month publications, shared a great generosity of spirit to allow us to show their work as a representation of the state of art and culture in Los Angeles.

The following quote from Michael Moore was shared with us by Karen Bolt, Michael's friend and manager.

Community, to me, is a celebration of life-because at its core, it's all about the love!

My legacy lives in the emotions my images evoke. Photography is more than a craft; it's my way of honoring life, love, and the magic in every fleeting moment. Each frame reflects my commitment to capturing the human spirit and celebrating diversity, inclusion, and individuality.

As a proud member of the LGBT community, I believe in the power of representation and sharing stories that matter. My work is about people-all people-their struggles, triumphs, and everyday lives. I am especially drawn to documenting Skid Row, not just from an economic standpoint but as a community with voices that deserve to be heard. Even from my fourth-floor window, I can capture images that amplify those too often overlooked. If my work changes even one person's perception of the homeless, then my photography has served its purpose. And that gives me hope.

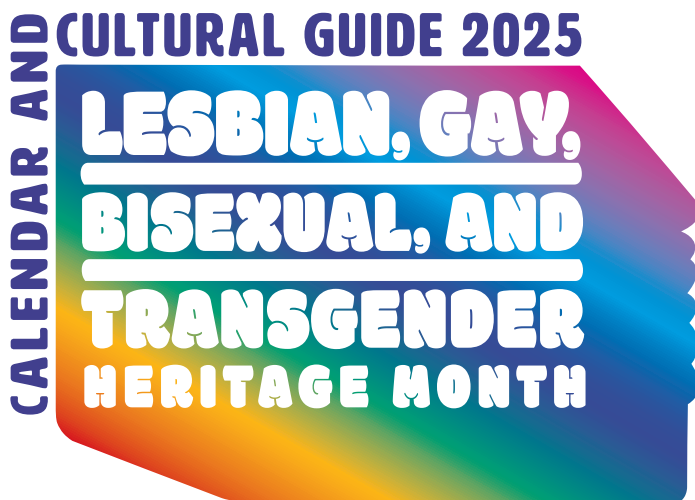
Photography is not just about creating images-it's my window into the world, a way to connect with people and places that move me. Looking through the lens, I don't just capture a moment; I capture my feelings, experiences, and truth.

This recognition isn't just about my art-it's about love, humanity, and celebrating life in all its diversity.

~ Michael Moore

For information about Michael Moore, or his photography, please contact Karen Bolt at adonedead8@gmail.com.





COMMUNITY EVENTS

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

This listing includes live and virtual/streaming events produced by Los Angeles’ diverse arts and cultural community organizations. The Department of Cultural Affairs assumes no responsibility for postponed or canceled events or programming published in this Heritage Guide. Please contact the event organizer or venue prior to attending.



Nathan Cheung, *Sundays Are for the Farmers Market*, Large format self-portrait archival pigment print, 2024

COMMUNITY EVENTS

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

RAINBOW PARENTING & FAMILY PROGRAM: A FAIRY AND A MERMAID

Rainbow Parenting and Family Programs strive to build community and create a safe space for LGBTQ+ families in the library. Meet other local families, share experiences, and inspire and encourage each other. Attend a delightful show filled with sweet melodies and heartwarming tales that will lead you into a world of enchantment. Step into the whimsical world of a fairy and a mermaid princess as they whisk you away on a magical musical journey. For ages 2 -- 5 with parent or caregiver.

WHEN: June 3, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
SITE: East Los Angeles Library, 4837 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSORS: East Los Angeles Library
INFO: 323.264.0155
visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/11831061

RAINBOW PARENTING & FAMILY PROGRAM: BAILA BAILA BILINGUAL SHOW

Rainbow Parenting and Family Programs strive to build community and create a safe space for LGBTQ+ families in the library. Meet other local families, share experiences, inspire and encourage each other. Join the library for a fun, educational time with Isabel Brazon, the creator of Baila Baila Spanish Music for kids. Sing and dance while you learn Spanish in this interactive and dynamic show. For ages 0 - 5 with parent or caregiver.

WHEN: June 7, 11:00 – 11:45 a.m.
SITE: Sorensen Library, 6934 Broadway Ave., Whittier
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Sorensen Library
INFO: 562.695.3979
visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/13210303

FREE CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP: PRIDE MIXED MEDIA COLLAGE INSPIRED BY JAY LYNN GOMEZ

A free Sunday children's workshop where we will explore mixed media collages inspired by the work of Chicanx artist, Jay Lynn Gomez. Their work is currently featured in our exhibition *Ironias del Sur*. This workshop is part of MOLAA's Pride Series. All materials will be provided.

WHEN: June 8, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
SITE: Museum of Latin American Art, 628 Alamitos Ave., Long Beach
COST: Free, register at the website
SPONSOR: Museum of Latin American Art
INFO: 562.437.1689
molaa.org/events/2025/06/08/childrensworkshop

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Nahshon Dion, 319 West Altadena Drive, Digital, 3500 × 2635 px., 2025

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP: PUNCH NEEDLE PORTRAITS

Celebrate PRIDE! Month with MOLAA by attending a fun textile workshop where you will make your own 6 x 6 inch Punch Needle Portrait inspired by non-binary queer artist, Moisés Salazar. All materials will be provided.

- WHEN:** June 12, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
SITE: Museum of Latin American Art, 628 Alamitos Ave., Long Beach
COST: \$5
SPONSOR: Museum of Latin American Art
INFO: molaa.org/events/2025/06/12/communityartworkshop

DRAG STORY HOUR

Drag Story Hour is exactly what it sounds like: drag queens reading progressive children's literature to kids of all ages. Drag queens bring humor, play, glamour, and fantasy—all qualities that delight children and entertain adults. Simple, glittery crafts are provided, and post-storytime photos with the Queen are encouraged.

- WHEN:** June 14, 11:00 a.m.
SITE: West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood
COST: Free
SPONSORS: City of West Hollywood Arts Division, West Hollywood Library
INFO: 310.652.5340
go.weho.org/dragstoryhour

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Mary Cheung, *Social Status*, Digital photograph art, 16" x 20", 2024"

LEARN TO DRAW COMICS WITH SHANNON WATTERS

Anyone can draw comics. Celebrate LGBTQIA+ Heritage month by learning the basics of drawing and making comics with Shannon Watters, the co-creator and co-writer of the comic book series *Lumberjanes* and the graphic novel, *Hollow*. No previous skills are needed, just an open heart and a willingness to put pencil to paper.

WHEN: June 18, 4:00 p.m.

SITE: Alma Reaves Woods - Watts Branch Library, 10205 Compton Ave., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Alma Reaves Woods - Watts Branch Library

INFO: 323.789.2850
lapl.org/whats-on/events/learn-draw-comics-shannon-watters

RAINBOW PARENTING & FAMILY PROGRAM: IWALANI MUSIC SHOW

Rainbow Parenting and Family Programs strive to build community and create a safe space for LGBTQ+ families in the library. Meet other local families, share experiences, and inspire and encourage each other. Enjoy an interactive family music concert for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. Guitar-led singing, movement, and child-friendly instruments. For ages 0 - 5 with parent or caregiver.

WHEN: June 21, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

SITE: Hermosa Beach Library, 550 Pier Ave., Hermosa Beach

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Hermosa Beach Library

INFO: 310.379.8475
visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/11979782



EUDELL

Eudell Cunningham, *Fem Power*, Acrylic abstract, 24" x 30" x 2", 2021

COMMUNITY EVENTS

DRAG PERFORMANCE

LEGENDARY BINGO

Legendary Bingo is Los Angeles's most popular and longest-running weekly charity event. In April 1998, Legendary Bingo served up its first set of balls as a fundraising event for AIDS Project Los Angeles. A few months later, the evening began to benefit a different charity each week, and the event became a "standing room only" sensation. Legendary Bingo has raised over 8 million dollars for local and national charities and the arts. One ball at a time.

WHEN: June 3, Weekly, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
SITE: **Hamburger Mary's**, 8288 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Bingo Boy, Inc
INFO: 323.654.3800
bingoboyinc.com

DRAG QUEEN BINGO SHOW: ROXY'S GOT BALLS

"Roxy's Got Balls!" Drag Queen Bingo is alive and free at Tiny's Hi-Dive. A fun atmosphere with games, and prizes; in a lively and fun-filled environment. Hosted by actress, singer, and Bingo Babe Trans-Goddess Roxy Wood. No tickets needed but early seating is suggested as space is limited.

WHEN: June 3, 10, 17, 24, 8:00 – 9:30 p.m.
SITE: **Tiny's Hi-Dive**, 12012 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSORS: Roxy Wood
INFO: roxysgotballs.com

LIP SYNC BATTLE

Come to the LGBTQ Center in Santa Ana for fabulous performances, and dazzling drag. Your wonderful co-hosts for the evening are @johnnythegentle and @siri_eh. Contestants compete for a cash prize, so bring your A-game! Whether you want to perform or cheer on your favorites, the energy will be electric.

WHEN: June 6, check the website for time
SITE: **LGBTQ Center OC**, 1605 N. Spurgeon St., Santa Ana
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSORS: LGBTQ Center OC
INFO: lgbtqcenteroc.org

DRAG QUEEN BRUNCH AT THE ABBEY

The Abbey's drag superstars take the stage and entertain at Saturday and Sunday brunch.

WHEN: June 7 – 8, 14 – 15, 21 – 22, 28 – 30, Saturdays and Sundays, 1:00 p.m.
SITE: **The Abbey**, 692 N. Robertson Blvd., West Hollywood
COST: Check website for ticket
SPONSORS: The Abbey
INFO: 310.289.8410
theabbeyweho.com



Dror Yisrael Hemed, *Jerome and Peppe*, Oil on canvas, 35" x 27", 2024

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FESTIVAL & PARADES

WEHO PRIDE STREET FAIR

The WeHo Pride Street Fair will celebrate Pride with the participation of diverse LGBTQ+ community groups and allied organizations as part of visibility and expression. The Street Fair will feature various exhibitors along Santa Monica Boulevard. Live entertainment and performances will be on a community stage, highlighting the LGBTQ+ community. The Street Fair is a family-friendly event and is open to everyone.

- WHEN:** May 31 - June 1, 12:00 noon - 8:00 p.m.
SITE: **Santa Monica Boulevard**, Santa Monica Blvd. between Hancock and La Peer Dr., West Hollywood
COST: Free
SPONSOR: City of West Hollywood
INFO: wehopride.com

WEHO PRIDE PARADE

The Parade is full of music, dancing, colorful floats, festive marching contingents, and creative flair. It is free and open to the public and embraces LGBTQ representation, inclusion, and progress. The parade celebrates diversity, love, and resilience in the heart of West Hollywood. Parade Icons are selected each year for their significant contributions to the LGBTQ community, visibility, community involvement, and advocacy.

- WHEN:** June 1, 12:30 p.m.
SITE: **Santa Monica Boulevard**, Santa Monica Blvd. between Crescent Heights Blvd. and San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood
COST: Free
SPONSOR: City of West Hollywood
INFO: wehopride.com

SAMO PRIDE

An assortment of activities and experiences throughout the month in Santa Monica will celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community, individuality, inclusivity, and acceptance. Pride on the Promenade returns on Saturday, June 21, from : 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., hosted by Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. This lively block party spans Third Street Promenade, and all ages are welcome to enjoy musical performances, Pride-themed treats, free swag, games, a retail pop-up marketplace showcasing local LGBTQIA+ businesses, and much more. A full calendar of additional month-long programming can be found at smpride.com.

- WHEN:** June 1 - 30, 12:00 noon - 8:00 p.m., check website for more information
SITE: **Santa Monica**, various locations throughout the city, check website for details
COST: Free
SPONSORS: Santa Monica Place, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc., Santa Monica Pier, the City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica Travel and Tourism.
INFO: smpride.com



Don Bachardy, *Self-portrait 08-08-18*, Acrylic paper, 29" × 23". 2018

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Rinaldo Hopf, *Stonewall Riots 1969 #2*, Mixed media on vintage newsprint, 7' x 4' 5'', 2019

NOHO PRIDE FILM FEST

A celebration of LGBTQIA+ cinema at the first ever NoHo Pride Film Fest. The Lankershim Arts Center will be hosting a diverse lineup of films that explore the many facets of queer identity, history, and culture. Get ready for a fantastic mix of horror, comedy and drama - all to honor Pride!

Featured films: *A Nightmare on Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge*; *Tangerine*; *Bottoms*; *Every Body*; and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* with Live Shadow Cast.

WHEN: June 4 – 7, check website for times

SITE: **Lankershim Arts Center**, 5108 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood

COST: Free

SPONSORS: City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs Performing Arts Division, Los Angeles LGBT Center, Valley of the Stars Film Society

INFO: 818.301.6120
culture.lacity.gov/cultural-centers/lankershim-arts-center

CATALINA ISLAND PRIDE CELEBRATION

Catalina Island invites the LGBTQ+ community and allies throughout Southern California to celebrate the annual Catalina Pride. The main event will take place at the Wrigley Stage in the center of Avalon, and it will include live entertainment and a pride march in support of the LGBTQ+ community.

WHEN: June 6 – 7, 12:00 noon - 10:00 p.m.

SITE: **Wrigley Stage**, Crescent Ave., Avalon

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: Love Catalina Island Tourism Authority

INFO: lovecatalina.com/pride

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Jade Ali, *No More Rain in This Cloud*, Mixed media, filmography, 2023

5TH ANNUAL SAN GABRIEL VALLEY PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL

The festival will include a parade, music, food, resource booths, and giveaways.

- WHEN:** June 7, Parade 9:00 a.m. Festival 10:00 a.m.
- SITE:** Parade - **Mark Keppel High School**, 501 E. Hellman Ave., Alhambra
Festival - **Barnes Park, Mark Keppel High School**, 350 S. McPherrin Ave., Monterey Park
- COST:** Free
- SPONSORS:** The Alhambra Teachers Association, the Boys and Girls Club of the West San Gabriel Valley & Eastside, and the City of Monterey Park
- INFO:** montereypark.ca.gov/1451/SGV-Pride-Parade-Festival

PRIDE IN THE PARK: OUR 4TH ANNUAL QUEER FAMILY PICNIC

Grab the kids and bring a blanket to this is chill, family-friendly event. Relax in the grass, connect with neighbors, and catch up with old friends. Adams Square is a great, intimate neighborhood park, a perfect setting for the annual event. The day will include a playground for the kids, a craft table, and lots of other activities that will be announced online.

- WHEN:** June 7, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- SITE:** **Adams Square Mini Park**, 1020 E. Palmer Ave., Glendale
- COST:** Free
- SPONSOR:** glendaleOUT
- INFO:** glendaleout.org
[instagram.com/glendaleout](https://www.instagram.com/glendaleout)

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Nahshon Dion, *Indian Lake at Crotona Park*, Digital 4500 × 2531 pixels, 2023

ANNUAL LA PRIDE PARADE

LA Pride is the original and iconic home of Pride in LA. We will never stop celebrating and marching for visibility, representation, and our right to be out proud and fabulous. Over 150 contingents will march this year under the theme “Power in Pride.” Whether you march or watch, you will join over 150,000 spectators and participants for an epic day of Pride and community. The parade is also broadcast live on ABC7.

WHEN: June 8, 11:00 a.m.

SITE: **Hollywood Boulevard**, Highland Ave. to Cahuenga Blvd. along Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood

COST: Free

SPONSORS: LA Pride, Christopher Street West

INFO: lapride.org

LA PRIDE IN THE PARK 2025

LA Pride in the Park returns to LA State Historic Park for another music festival event only LA Pride can do. World-class stage, scores of exhibitors and vendor booths, daytime activities, sponsor giveaways and activities, dozens of food choices and food trucks, and multiple bars for 21-and-over. It all happens on over 20 acres of lush green space with a view of the DTLA skyline.

WHEN: June 8, 12:00 noon

SITE: **Los Angeles State Historic Park**, 1245 N. Spring St., Los Angeles

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSORS: LA Pride, Christopher Street West

INFO: lapride.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Imani Toliver, *House Finch*, Mixed Media, 8" x 8", 2025

PARADE BLOCK PARTY

We are keeping the celebration going by throwing the ultimate free Block Party adjacent to the parade route, open from midday into the evening. The party will feature a performance stage, a large vendor village, food and beverages, pop-up bars, and more. It is the place to be after the Parade.

- WHEN:** June 8, 12:30 p.m.
SITE: **Hollywood Boulevard**, adjacent to the Parade Route on Hollywood Blvd.
COST: Free
SPONSORS: LA Pride, Christopher Street West
INFO: lapride.org

PRIDE IS UNIVERSAL

Each year, LA Pride teams up with Universal Studios Hollywood to wrap up Pride celebrations with a bang. The Pride is Universal party is a Hollywood theme park take-over that begins at 4:00 p.m. Mix and mingle with regular park guests during regular operating hours. When the park closes to the public at 10:00 p.m., stay for the Pride-only after-hours and party with music, performers, and more surprises.

- WHEN:** June 8, 4:00 p.m.
SITE: **Universal Studios Hollywood**, 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSORS: Universal Studios, LA Pride, Christopher Street West
INFO: 800. 864.8377
lapride.org





David Stine, *Liquid Rush*, Digital photography, 36" x 48", 2024

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Philip Pirollo, *White Sphere with Chrome Stand, Globe*, gypsum compound, and hardware, 16" x 14" x 14", 1991, 2024

AN EVENING AMONG THE ROSES

This garden party has music, specialty cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and dancing in the spectacular Rose Garden. The annual, An Evening Among the Roses, is a chance to recognize and celebrate the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer members of the community for their contributions to the Huntington.

WHEN: June 13, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

SITE: **The Huntington**, Rose Hills Garden Court, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: The Huntington

INFO: huntington.org/event/among-the-roses

DISNEYLAND AFTER DARK: PRIDE NITE

Come with family, allies, and friends to enjoy an unforgettable, fun-filled evening that recognizes and embraces the LGBTQIA+ community. The Pride Nite event will include themed entertainment, Disney characters, one-of-a-kind photo opportunities, specialty menu items, and event merchandise. During this separately ticketed event at Disneyland Park, guests will be delighted by after-hours park admission, shorter attraction wait times, unique entertainment, and more.

WHEN: June 16 and 18, 9:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.

SITE: **Disneyland Park**, 1313 Disneyland Park Dr., Anaheim

COST: Check the website for ticket prices and details

SPONSORS: Disneyland, LA Pride, Christopher Street West

INFO: disneyland.disney.go.com/events-tours/disneyland/after-dark-pride-nite

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Harpreet Kaur Sandhu, *Guardians*, Portrait photography, painting, collage, Varies, 2020

PRIDE ON THE PROMENADE

This lively festival spans Third Street Promenade as part of the SaMo Pride celebration dedicated to honoring the LGBTQIA+ community and promoting inclusivity and acceptance in Santa Monica. All ages are welcome to enjoy musical performances, Pride-themed treats, free swag, games, a retail pop-up marketplace showcasing local LGBTQIA+ businesses, and much more.

- WHEN:** June 21, 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- SITE:** **Third Street Promenade**, 1351 3rd Street Promenade, Santa Monica
- COST:** Free
- SPONSORS:** Santa Monica Place, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. and Santa Monica Pier, the City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica Travel and Tourism.
- INFO:** 310.393.8355
smpride.com

CULVER CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL

It will start with Pride Ride a community-led bike ride that will end at the festival. Pride Festival at night will feature an exciting evening party with DJs, local speakers, drag performances, dancing, and so much more!

- WHEN:** June 28, check the website for times
- SITE:** **Culver City**, check website for location
- COST:** Free
- SPONSOR:** Culver City Pride
- INFO:** culvercitypride.org

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER HERITAGE MONTH

CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE 2025

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Leon Mostovoy, *The Face of Transmen*, Photography, 5' banner, 2011

HIP-HOP, JAZZ, R&B ON THE BEACH

A glorious day at Will Rogers State Beach. Come chill and enjoy a Saturday with food, activities, vendors, performers, special guests, and the beach.

- WHEN:** June 28, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
SITE: Will Rogers's State Beach, 17700 Pacific Coast Hwy, Pacific Palisades
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Black Pride
INFO: 323.898.1024
lablackpride.org



COMMUNITY EVENTS



Sarah Gail, *I Give Myself My Flowers*, Glazed ceramic, Acrylic, 11" x 5" x 17", 2023

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY PRIDE

An unforgettable Pride event that celebrates and honors the diversity and resilience of our LGBTQ+ community. The event starts with a rally and a march down Van Nuys Blvd. After the march, festivities continue with a fabulous block party featuring music, food, entertainment, art, and a resource fair. Enjoy a fantastic opportunity to connect with our community and make new friends. Everyone is welcome. The rally will begin at Van Nuys Blvd. and Sherman Way at 11:00 a.m., followed by a March down Van Nuys Blvd. The march will end at the block party, starting at 1:00 p.m.

WHEN: June 28, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

SITE: Parade: **Van Nuys Boulevard**, parade begins at Van Nuys Blvd. at Sherman Way, Van Nuys
Block Party: **Van Nuys City Hall**, 14410 Sylvan St., Van Nuys

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Karen Bass, Mayor of Los Angeles, Caroline Menjivar, State Senator, District 20, Somos Familia Valle

INFO: sfvpride.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Patrick McPherson, *Pickles I*, Photography, 2023

BLACK PRIDE

Get ready for an unforgettable LA Black Pride 2025, as we celebrate the power, creativity, and resilience of the Black LGBTQ+ community. This year's theme, Future Forward: Elevate Black Brilliance, is a call to action-honoring our past, amplifying our present, and shaping a future where our voices thrive unapologetically. We will be hosting a myriad of events that include award honorees, safe and social parties, celebrity performances and appearances, community-rooted events, and more.

- WHEN:** July 3 – 6, 8:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.
SITE: Locations throughout the Los Angeles area, check website for details
COST: Check the website for events and ticket prices
SPONSOR: LA Black Pride
INFO: eventbrite.com/e/la-black-pride-2025-futureforward-tickets-1298113525499?aff=oddtcreator

SAN PEDRO PRIDE 2025

Get ready to dance the night away to electrifying sets from incredible DJs and performers! San Pedro Pride 2025 promises a rave-style festival atmosphere, complete with colorful decor, amazing light shows, and an infectious spirit of joy. Join thousands of attendees in celebrating pride in a way that's full of energy and excitement. Beyond the music, explore a vibrant market filled with local vendors offering unique crafts, handmade products, and delicious food. Families can enjoy a variety of kid-friendly activities, including face painting, exciting games, and interactive crafts designed to keep the little ones entertained. A family day with something fun for all ages, it's the perfect event to celebrate love, diversity, and community together.

- WHEN:** July 12, 3:00 – 9:00 p.m.
SITE: **West Harbor**, 600 S. Harbor Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: \$10 Free
SPONSOR: Bridge Cities Alliance
INFO: bridgecitiesalliance.com/sanpedropride2025



Shareef Jamal, *Endlessly*, Digital photography, 8" x 12", 2025



Dakota Noot, *Neighborhood Cat*, Crayon and color pencil drawings on paper, photo, Variable size, 2025

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FILM & THEATRE

AN EXPLORATION OF GENDER EXPRESSION - TAMING OF THE SHREW

Get ready for a hilarious blast of a bash. This 1950s Padua might be the ultimate nowheresville, but kookie Petruchio and oddball Kate's love was made in the shade. Come make the scene with Shakespeare and the artists of Queer Classics. In modern times, Queer Classics Kate and Petruchio might identify as trans, but the 1950s are a completely different world. In this fresh and sexy take on Shakespeare's classic comedy, QC explores the characters' expression of gender in a time before there were labels to define it.

WHEN: Check the website for times
SITE: **Hollywood Fringe**, check the website for location
COST: \$20
SPONSORS: City of West Hollywood's One City One Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival, Hollywood Fringe
INFO: hollywoodfringe.org/projects/2349

SO GAY FOR YOU

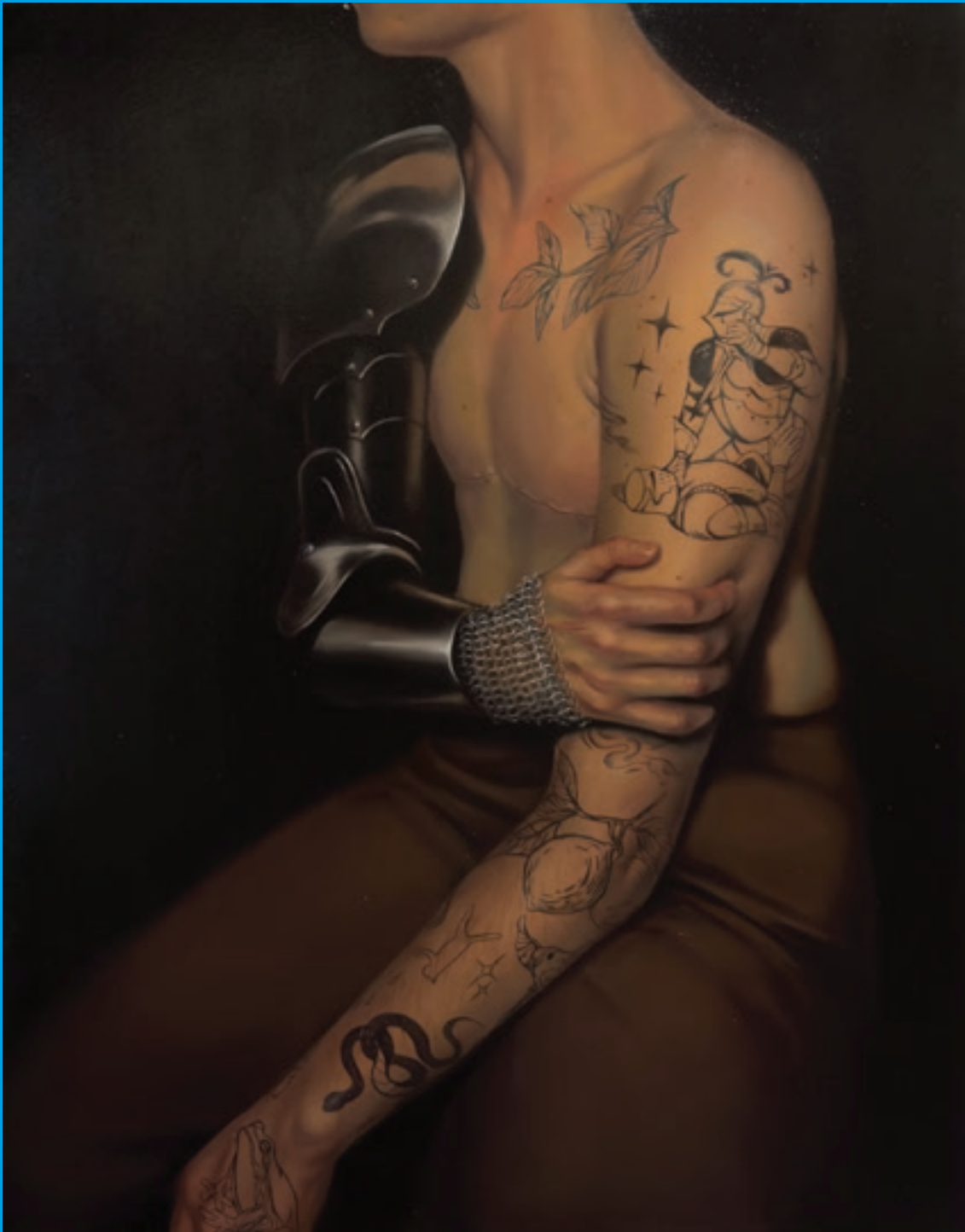
Kate Moennig and Leisha Hailey celebrate their new memoir, *So Gay For You*, with behind the scenes stories from the set of *The L Word*, an audience Q&A, and special guests. VIP tickets include a meet & greet with Kate and Leisha.

WHEN: June 1, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
SITE: **The Masonic Lodge at Hollywood Forever**, 5970 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Hollywood Forever
INFO: 323.827.8179
hollywoodforever.com/event/so-gay-for-you-book-tour

#LAST DANCE

A show within a show where things get real once the makeup comes off. When queens are brought together for a memorial, that's when the truth comes out about how they ended up in Los Angeles and how they really feel about drag, each other, and themselves. It's *Boys in the Band* meets *Torch Song Trilogy* with a bit of *Paris is Burning* thrown in. #LastDance will make audiences rethink what is really behind the wigs, makeup, and heels, and find out they are people just like them.

WHEN: June 4, 11, 18, 23, 24, check the website for times
SITE: **Asylum @ McCadden Theatre**, 1187 N. McCadden Pl., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSORS: City of West Hollywood's One City One Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival, Hollywood Fringe Festival
INFO: hollywoodfringe.org/projects/4184



Harmony Azul Vasquez, *Fragility of the Knight*, Oil on canvas, 30" x 24", 2024

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Monica Orozco, "Beso" Self-Portrait, Digital Archival Photographic Print, 12" x 12", 2018

TRANS MOM VS. FAMILY COURT: JUSTICE SEES NO GENDER

Trans Mom vs. Family Court: Justice Sees No Gender chronicles the playwright's transition to trans-mother while simultaneously fighting for custody rights without an attorney. Trans-stories about love, inclusion, and fair laws are needed as witness of our common ground and rightful place in society. The writer is sharing to help reframe trans stereotypes and to empower the community and allies against dishonest rhetoric and discriminatory legislation.

WHEN: June 5, 13, 28, check the website for times
SITE: Zephyr Theatre, 7456 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Hollywood Fringe Festival
INFO: 323.469.9988
hollywoodfringe.org/projects/11822

CHASE LOUNGE: FROM STRAIGHT TO GAY

In *Chase Lounge: From Straight to Gay*, transsexual drag king extraordinaire Chase Lounge chronicles his personal, sexual, and romantic life through song and comedy. Chase explores themes such as belonging, trauma, loss, and self acceptance. This is a powerful piece about the value of loving yourself no matter what.

WHEN: June 7, 17, 29, check the website for times
SITE: Davidson/Valentini Theatre at the Los Angeles LGBT Center, 1125 N. McCadden Pl., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Hollywood Fringe
INFO: hollywoodfringe.org/projects/11520

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Rubén Esparza, *la Divina*, Digital photography, 2018

R+J AT THE HOLLYWOOD FRINGE

“Two households, both alike in dignity In Verona Beach, CA where we lay our scene...”Witness R+J, a modern adaptation of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*. Retaining Shakespeare’s words, this production focuses on the issues facing queer youth in our society.

- WHEN:** June 7, 15, 20, 26, check the website for times
SITE: Zephyr Theatre, 7456 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Hollywood Fringe Festival
INFO: 323.469.9988
hollywoodfringe.org/projects/11348

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Austyn de Lugo-Liston, *Jon (Detail)*, Acrylic on canvas, 30" x 40", 2024

MOVIE MONDAY: ARISTOTLE & DANTE DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE

Based on the best-selling Young Adult novel by Benjamin Alire Sáenz, the film centers on the friendship between two teenage Mexican American loners in 1987 El Paso who explore a new, unusual friendship and the magical road to self-discovery. Light refreshments provided by the Friends of the West Hollywood Library.

WHEN: June 9, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
SITE: **West Hollywood Library**, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood
COST: Free
SPONSOR: West Hollywood Library
INFO: 310.652.5340
visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/13069152

DEADBEAT.

deadbeat. is a chaotic, vignette-style comedy show that combines live sketches, digital performances, and drag to embrace the absurdity of our lived experiences as queer, mixed-race women in America - because what better way to shame colonizers than with a good laugh?

WHEN: June 9, 12, 17, 19, 21, 22, 25, check the website for show time
SITE: **Davidson/Valentini Theatre at the Los Angeles LGBT Center**, 1125 N. McCadden Pl., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Hollywood Fringe Festival
INFO: hollywoodfringe.org/projects/11824

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Ron Meyers (1946-2024), *Untitled (Portrait of a Person with a White Collar)*, Oil on wood panel, 30" x 24", 1995

BEST. DAD. NEVER.

After years of fearing, he'd never be a father, gay Armenian American Haig "Hike" Chahinian became the happiest dad of a bouncing Black biracial baby girl. Seeking to be the best Janelle Monáe-listening, Black Girl Magic-supporting, antiracist papa, he stumbles through the humbling and often-hilarious fumbles of fatherhood in multiracial America.

- WHEN:** June 12 – 29, 7:00 p.m.
SITE: **Hudson Theatres**, 6539 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Hollywood Fringe Festival
INFO: hollywoodfringe.org/projects/11548

HOLLYWOOD FRINGE FESTIVAL

The Hollywood Fringe Festival is not just an annual, open-access, community-derived event. It celebrates freedom of expression and collaboration in our vibrant performing arts community. During the festival, the arts infiltrate Hollywood neighborhoods, transforming them into a hub of creativity and diversity. Visit the website for a complete listing of all events and participate in this impactful celebration.

- WHEN:** June 12 – 29, check the website for times
SITE: **Multiple Venues**, check the website for locations and details
COST: Check the website for the ticket prices
SPONSOR: Hollywood Fringe Festival
INFO: hollywoodfringe.org



Mike Salazar, *Zero Feet Away*, Digital photography, 9" x 12.5", 2019

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRIDAY FILMS: LGBT HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION

Queen Christina is one of the last films to be released before the Hays Code banned even the slightest hint of homosexuality from the silver screen, this movie gives us Greta Garbo at her “queerest”: cross-dressing, kissing women, and committing treason against the state of Sweden.

- WHEN:** June 20, 2:00 p.m.
SITE: Little Tokyo Branch Library, 203 S. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Little Tokyo Branch Library
INFO: 213.612.0525
lapl.org/branches/little-tokyo

THE MISMATCH GAME: TASTE THE RAINBOW EDITION

This long-running comedy hit returns with an evening of Pride-themed game show insanity and questionable wig choices. Let your freak flag fly as host Dennis Hensley and a panel of LA’s most twisted comedy minds declare, “We’re here! We’re queer! We’ve got fresh Sharpies!”

- WHEN:** June 29, 8:00 – 9:30 p.m.
SITE: Lily Tomlin/Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center, 1125 N. McCadden Place, Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Los Angeles LGBT Center
INFO: lalgbtcenter.org/event/the-mismatch-game-taste-the-rainbow-edition

A GAY IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

Two couples fight for the right to be engaged in this masterful satire written by Oscar Wilde in 1895, it was first presented after his arrest for “gross indecency with men”. This timeless story gallivants through a world obsessed with appearances, money, and social status. The parallels with today’s Hollywood culture make for searing fun and by presenting the four lovers as dashing gay men, Queer Classics reimagines the play more hysterically fabulous than Oscar could have imagined possible in his lifetime.

- WHEN:** July 12 – 14, Saturday 9:00 p.m., Sunday 7:00 p.m., Monday 8:00 p.m.
SITE: Actors Company, 916 N. Formosa Ave., Los Angeles
COST: \$20
SPONSOR: Hollywood Fringe Festival
INFO: hollywoodfringe.org/projects/1829?tab=details



COMMUNITY EVENTS

HERITAGE

LGBTQ+ PRIDE AT LOS ANGELES COUNTY LIBRARY

The LGBTQ+ Pride at Los Angeles County Library has a selection of resources and materials that inform about and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community in Los Angeles County and beyond. The scope encompasses academic materials, poetry, film, music, novels, magazines, and newspapers.

- WHEN:** Ongoing
- SITE:** Virtual exhibition
- COST:** Free
- SPONSOR:** Los Angeles County Library
- INFO:** lacountylibrary.org/pride

INDEPENDENT VOICES

An open-access digital collection of alternative press newspapers, magazines, and journals drawn from the extraordinary collections of participating libraries. These periodicals were produced by feminists, dissident GLs, campus radicals, Native Americans, anti-war activists, Black Power advocates, Hispanics, LGBT activists, the extreme right-wing press, and alternative literary magazines during the latter half of the 20th century.

- WHEN:** Ongoing
- SITE:** Virtual exhibition
- COST:** Free
- SPONSORS:** ONE Archives at the USC libraries, JSTOR
- INFO:** voices.revealdigital.org

WOMEN AND BOOKS - TO NAME THE BIGGER LIE: A MEMOIR IN TWO STORIES BY SARAH VIREN

Sarah's story begins as she's researching what she believes will be a book about her high school philosophy teacher, a charismatic instructor who taught her and her classmates to question everything-in the end, even the reality of historical atrocities. As she digs into the effects of his teachings, her life takes a turn into the fantastical when her wife, Marta, is notified that she's been investigated for sexual misconduct at the university where they both teach. The story follows the investigation as it upends Sarah's understanding of truth.

- WHEN:** June 3, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- SITE:** **West Hollywood Library**, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood
- COST:** Free
- SPONSORS:** West Hollywood Library, City of West Hollywood Women's Advisory Board, Women and Books Book Club
- INFO:** 310.652.5340
visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/13020663

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Asari Aibangbee, *No Rhymes, No Reasons [Black is a Color]*, Fiber/ tufted rug - acrylic & cotton yarn, 3' x 3', 2024

PRIDE IN BLOOM AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Pride in Bloom is a collaboration between Drag Arts Lab and the Natural History Museum of LA County, focused on building intentional spaces for co-creation with and for the community. The centerpiece of the program is a drag show, *Natural HERstory: The Drag Musical*, to be performed in the NHM Commons Theatre. Additional activities include: Museum pop-up presentations: Led by our educators, connecting the drag show to the Museum's collections through interactive storytelling, Progress Flag Scavenger Hunt: A playful and educational activity highlighting the symbolism and history of the Pride flag, Pride in Bloom Resource Fair: Featuring Community Partners sharing resources and stories on the brand-new Community Plaza.

WHEN: June 8, 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

SITE: Natural History Museum, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Drag Arts Lab, Natural History Museum

INFO: 213.763.DINO (3466)
nhm.org/calendar/pride-bloom

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Matt Lifson, *Brian with Peonies and Garlic*, Oil on canvas, 20" x 16", 2025

PRIDE MONTH: AUDRE LORDE POETRY NIGHT

Audre Lorde was a prominent New York poet whose work covered an array of subjects ranging from civil to gay rights. Join us as we learn about Lorde's life while we work together to create a community poem. For teens aged 13 - 17.

WHEN: June 10, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

SITE: Willowbrook Library, 11838 Wilmington Ave., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Willowbrook Library

INFO: 323.564.5698
visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/13426396

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Philip Pirolo, *Velvet Globe*, Red velvet, globe, and chrome stand, 16” x 14” x 14”, 1995

PRIDE NITE AT DODGER STADIUM

The annual LGBTQ+ Pride Night at Dodger Stadium is when the World Series-winning Dodgers take on the San Francisco Giants. LA Pride pre-game festivities will feature a DJ party. This special event ticket package includes a ticket to the game and an exclusive Dodgers LGBTQ+ jersey.

- WHEN:** June 13, 7:10 p.m.
SITE: **Dodger Stadium**, 1000 Vin Scully Ave., Los Angeles
COST: The special event ticket package must be purchased from the website, check the website for ticket prices
SPONSORS: LA Pride, Blue Shield of California
INFO: mlb.com/dodgers/tickets/specials/lgbt-night

LOS ANGELES FRONTRUNNERS PRIDE RUN 2025

Pride Run turns 42. Pride Run 2025 marks the 42nd running of the Los Angeles Frontrunners Pride Run. Join in celebrating 42 years of running, friendship, and community. Each year LAFR contributes to local charities with the proceeds from the Pride Run. Pride Run 2025 features our traditional 5K and 10K races, a free Kids Race, and the Ultra Pride Run, where you race both the 5K and 10K!

- WHEN:** June 15, 7:30 a.m.
SITE: **Griffith Park**, Crystal Springs Picnic Area, 4730 Crystal Springs Dr., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Frontrunners
INFO: runsignup.com/Race/CA/LosAngeles/LosAngelesFrontrunnersPrideRun



Imani Tolliver, *Love Anyway*, Mixed media, 8" x 8", 2024



Mary Cheung, *Stain Glass*, Digital photography art, 12" x 18", 2025

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Asari Aibangbee, *Improvisation Blooming* [Alice Coltrane interlude], Fiber/ tufted rug with assorted beads, 65" x 75", 2024

LGBTQ+ BOOK CLUB DISCUSSING THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY BY OSCAR WILDE

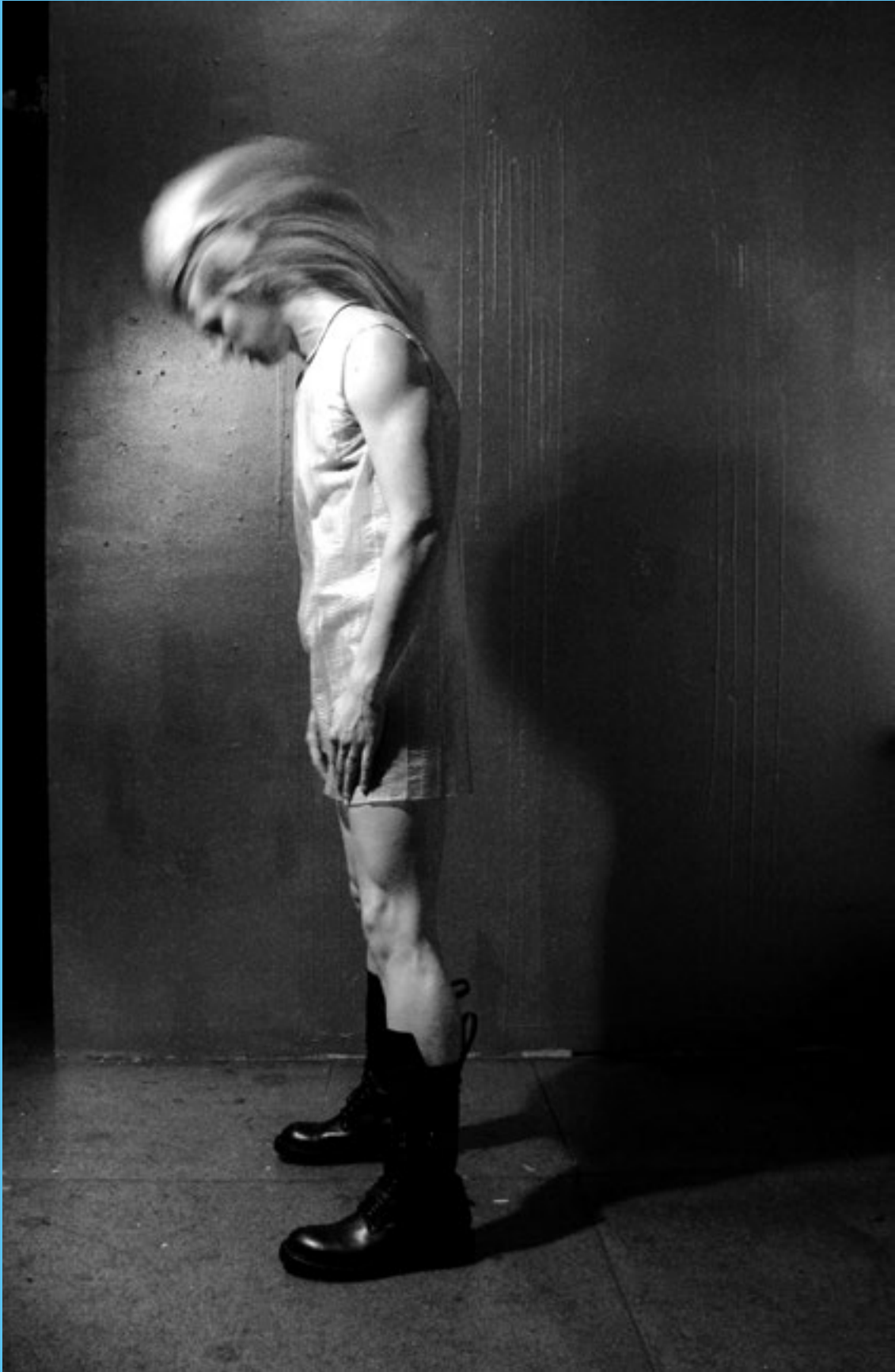
Enthralled by his own exquisite portrait, Dorian Gray exchanges his soul for eternal youth and beauty. Influenced by his friend Lord Henry Wotton, he is drawn into a corrupt double life, indulging his desires in secret while remaining a gentleman in the eyes of polite society. Only his portrait bears the traces of his decadence. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* was a succès de scandale. Early readers were shocked by its hints at unspeakable sins, and the book was later used as evidence against Wilde at the Old Bailey in 1895.

WHEN: June 24, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
SITE: **West Hollywood Library**, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood
COST: Free
SPONSOR: West Hollywood Library
INFO: 310.652.5340
visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/13020802

2ND ANNUAL TRANS PRIDE 5K CELEBRATION

The LGBTQ community is being assaulted relentlessly in America-especially the T. Our joy is revolutionary so it's more important now than ever to show up for our trans community by bringing our love and resources through community events like this one where all are welcome. 5K/10K participation is not required to join the celebration!

WHEN: July 13, 7:30 a.m.
SITE: **Griffith Park**, Crystal Springs Picnic Area, Pettigrew Field, 4730 Crystal Springs Dr., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Trans Pride
INFO: runsignup.com/Race/CA/LosAngeles/AnnualTransPride5K



Rick Castro, *White Snake*, Photography, 8" x 12", 2015

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITIONS

BIRD CIRCUIT

Bird Circuit explores themes of personal expression and identity through the rich symbolism of birds utilizing a queer-coded lens. The exhibition takes inspiration from the historical network of mid-20th-century bars in cities like New York and Los Angeles, where venues with bird-inspired names covertly signaled safety and solidarity as queer communal spaces at a time when self-expression was a dangerous pursuit.

WHEN: Through June 28, Monday – Friday 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m.
SITE: **Ronald H. Silverman Fine Art Gallery**, Cal State University Los Angeles, 5151 State University Dr., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Ronald H. Silverman Fine Art Gallery at Cal State University, Los Angeles
INFO: 323.343.4040
calstatela.edu/al/ronald-h-silverman-fine-arts-gallery

ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE PAPERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS ARCHIVE

The Mapplethorpe archive is now available to researchers. It spans the artist’s career from his student days at Pratt Institute in the 1960s through his more well-known photographs from the 1980s. The archive includes sculpture and assemblages, collages, cut-outs, early drawings and paintings, Polaroids, and examples of large-format photographic prints of flowers, portraits, nudes, and sadomasochistic subjects.

WHEN: Ongoing exhibition
SITE: Online at The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr, Los Angeles,
COST: Free
SPONSOR: The Getty Center
INFO: 310.440.7300
getty.edu/research/collections/collection/113Y6W

PERSONA: EXPLORING SELF-PORTRAITURE

Persona: Exploring Self-Portraiture will feature more than 20 contemporary artists and historical self-portraits. The exhibition probes the limits of self-portraiture and examines the concept of visually representing the self. The exhibit features paintings, sculptures, photographs, prints, fused glass, textile art, illustrations, and more.

WHEN: Through August 10, Tuesdays – Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
SITE: **Forest Lawn Museum**, 1712 S. Glendale Ave., Glendale
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Forest Lawn Museum
INFO: forestlawn.com/exhibits/persona-exploring-self-portraiture-2

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Mike Salazar, *Out with the Boys*, Digital photography, 13.4" x 10", 2022

INTER|SECTION

Inter|Section features greater Los Angeles area artists John DeCastro and Jynx Prado, whose work emphasizes expressions of queer and cultural identities. Each of these artists shares their unique ideas of the personal in relation to interpersonal heritage norms and the ritual of co-existence in a larger society.

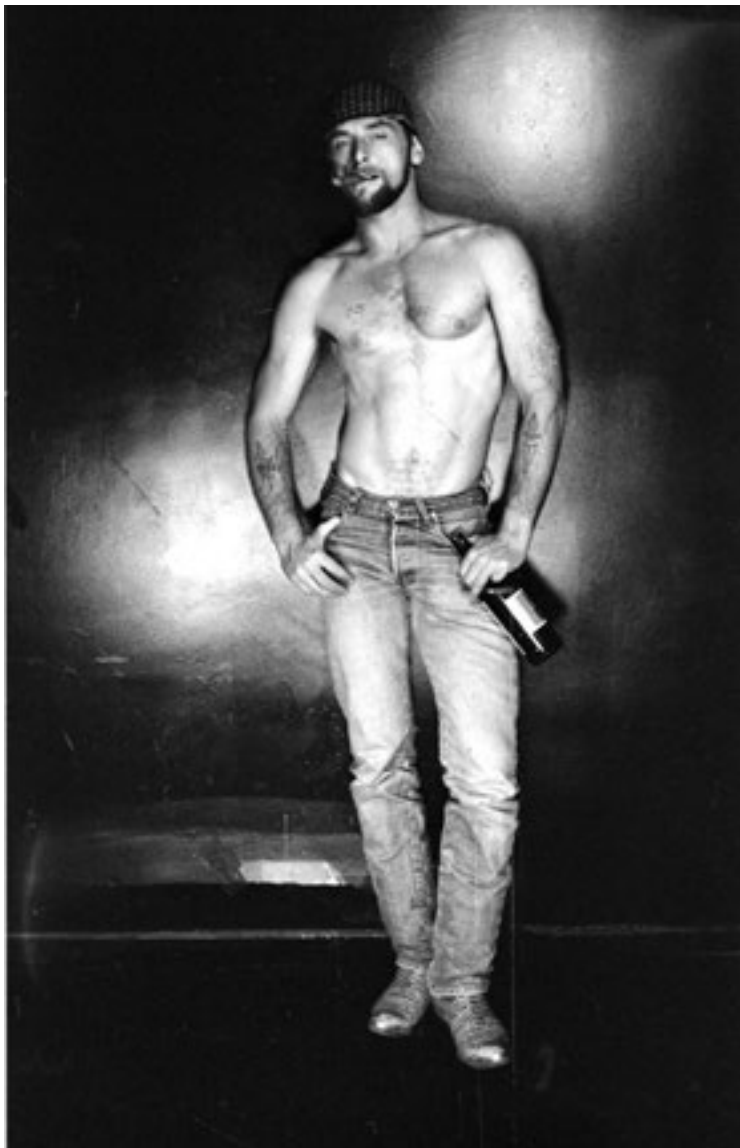
- WHEN:** Through August 25, check the website for details
SITE: **Boston Court**, 70 N. Mentor Ave., Pasadena
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Boston Court
INFO: bostoncourtpasadena.org/exhibits

EXPANSIVE PRESENTATION OF ROY LICHTENSTEIN

An in-depth installation of Roy Lichtenstein's work features 22 artworks, with nearly half on view for the first time, including *Purist Still Life* (1975), *Female Figure* (1979), *Two Paintings: Radiator and Folded Sheets* (1984), and *Nude with Pyramid* (1994). An outcome of sustained and ongoing engagement with artists and artwork, the Broad collection is distinctive in its exceptional dedication to the full arc of artists' careers.

- WHEN:** Ongoing Exhibition, Tuesdays – Sundays; check the website for times
SITE: **The Broad**, 221 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free, reserve a timed entry ticket at the website
SPONSOR: The Broad
INFO: 213.232.6200
thebroad.org/art

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Rick Castro, *Dude Against My Wall*, Photography, 8" x 12", 1993

JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT AT THE BROAD

The Broad collection is distinctive in its exceptional dedication to the full arc of artists' careers. The Broad has highlighted this depth through expansive presentations in the third-floor galleries, featuring Jean-Michel Basquiat.

WHEN: Ongoing Exhibition, Tuesdays – Sundays, check the website for times

SITE: **The Broad**, 221 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles

COST: Free, reserve a timed entry ticket at the website

SPONSOR: The Broad

INFO: 213.232.6200
thebroad.org/art

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Adam Jaye Mickey Porter, *Dither Hot Pink*, Gouache paint, pen, marker on paper, 18" x 14", 2024

SACRED+SEEN: QUEER LIVES AT THE INTERSECTIONS

This powerful exhibition illuminates the vibrant yet complex stories of Black and Brown queer individuals in South LA as they navigate race, culture, and religion. Through stunning works by local artists Anthony Lee Pittman, Chi (Mars) Azinge, Marie-José Njoku-Obi, and Willie Thomas, *Sacred+Seen* captures the tension between self-expression and the expectations of faith, culture, and tradition.

WHEN: Through June 15, Wednesday – Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
SITE: **Compton Museum**, 306 W. Compton Blvd., #104, Compton
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Compton Museum
INFO: 310.554.4429
comptonmuseum.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Harpreet Kaur Sandhu, *Home sweet Home*, Sequins, embroidery floss on vintage silk, 12" x 8", 2021

SHAPING THE COLLECTION - RECENT ACQUISITIONS 2022-2024

From 2022 to 2024, the Long Beach Museum of Art has been honored to receive over 250 donated artworks, enriching its permanent collection. This exhibition offers a glimpse into the collection's growth in recent years, furthering the museum's 75-year legacy of collecting. The museum is proud to showcase a selection of these donated works, many of which are being displayed for the first time.

WHEN: Through June 22, Thursday – Sunday, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Long Beach Museum of Art - Downtown, 356 E. 3rd St., Long Beach
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Long Beach Museum of Art - Downtown
INFO: 562.317.7300
lbma.org/exhibitions

EVENINGS FOR EDUCATORS - PRIDE - SPILL THE TEA!

Join the Museum of Latin American Art for their end-of-the-year Pride session and the opportunity to share resources and stories from the past year. We'll include a fun Pride-themed activity and performance and generate a group list of resources for the classroom. Bring your best teacher/classroom hacks! This in-person session includes light refreshments, wine, and free parking.

WHEN: June 3, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
SITE: Museum of Latin American Art, 628 Alamitos Ave., Long Beach
COST: Free, RSVP at the website
SPONSOR: Museum of Latin American Art
INFO: 562.437.1689
eventbrite.com/e/evening-for-educators-pride-spill-the-tea-special-edition-tickets-1008854881107?aff=oddtdtcreator



Dakota Noot, *A Man is Drawn*, Crayon and color pencil drawings on paper, photo, Variable size, 2025

COMMUNITY EVENTS

\$3 BILL: EVIDENCE OF QUEER LIVES

\$3 Bill celebrates the contributions of LGBTQ+ artists in the last century. From pioneers who explored sexual and gender identity in the first half of the 20th century, through the liberation movements and the horrors of the HIV/AIDS epidemics, to today's more inclusive and expansive understanding of gender, *\$3 Bill* presents a journey of resilience, pride, and beauty.

WHEN: June 10 – September 28, Tuesdays – Thursdays & Sundays 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Fridays & Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
SITE: **The Getty Center**, 1200 Getty Center Dr., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: The Getty Center
INFO: 310.440.7300
getty.edu/exhibitions

PRIDE NIGHT AT THE AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

Enjoy a fun evening with your favorite animals and colorful fishes. This event is for all ages and also includes drag queen storytelling, rainbow photo opportunities, and more. Pride Night is a celebration of our diverse community. As with all of our cultural and community festivals, we welcome everyone and encourage bringing new friends together.

WHEN: June 13, check website for times
SITE: **Aquarium of the Pacific**, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach
COST: Check the website for ticket price
SPONSORS: The LGBTQ Center Long Beach, Aquarium of the Pacific
INFO: 562.590.3100
aquariumofpacific.org/events/info/pride_night

QUEER LENS: A HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Since the mid-19th century, photography has served as a powerful tool for examining concepts of gender, sexuality, and self-expression. As a transformative force, its capacity to reproduce images has played a pivotal role in the gradual proliferation of homosocial, homoerotic, and homosexual imagery. Despite periods of severe homophobia, when many queer photographs were suppressed or destroyed, this exhibition brings together a variety of evidence to explore the medium's profound role in shaping and affirming the vibrant tapestry of the LGBTQ+ community.

WHEN: June 17 – September 28, Tuesdays – Thursdays & Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Fridays & Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
SITE: **The Getty Center**, 1200 Getty Center Dr., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: The Getty Center
INFO: 310.440.7300
getty.edu/exhibitions



M.M.I.X., *Kiss In The Dreamhouse*, Digitally manipulated photography, 11" x 14", 2023

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MUSIC AND DANCE

OUTLOUD MUSIC FESTIVAL AT WEHO PRIDE

OUTLOUD Music Festival is a multi-day, award-winning LGBTQ+ music festival, profiling and celebrating Queer artistry as the kick-off concert to Pride Month. This high-energy live music experience features show-stopping performances from the OUTLOUD Main Stage. Guests can enjoy tasty food and beverage areas, cocktails and beer gardens, photo ops, surprise appearances, and world-class stage production. This year’s headliners include Lizzo, Lil Nas X, Honey Dijon, Paris Hilton, and Kim Petras.

- WHEN:** May 31 – June 1, check the website for time
SITE: **West Hollywood Park**, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSORS: WeHo Pride, Outloud Music Festival
INFO: outloudmusicfestival.com

GAY FREEDOM BAND OF LOS ANGELES

Watch the Gay Freedom Band of Los Angeles Marching Band perform a complete set on stage, after marching in the parade, to celebrate ‘Why We Pride’, showcasing that *We Are Family*, and that we were all *Born This Way*.

- WHEN:** June 1, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
SITE: **The West Hollywood Pride Community Stage**, WeHo Pride, West Hollywood
COST: Free
SPONSORS: WeHo Pride, The Gay Freedom Band of Los Angeles (GFBLA)
INFO: wehopride.com/event/weho-pride-street-fair

PRIDE DANCE

Come celebrate pride and dance with the Gay Freedom Band of Los Angeles Jazz Band with a classical and contemporary big band music program.

- WHEN:** June 1, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
SITE: **The Mayflower Club**, 11110 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood
COST: \$20
SPONSOR: The Gay Freedom Band of Los Angeles (GFBLA)
INFO: gfbla.org/events

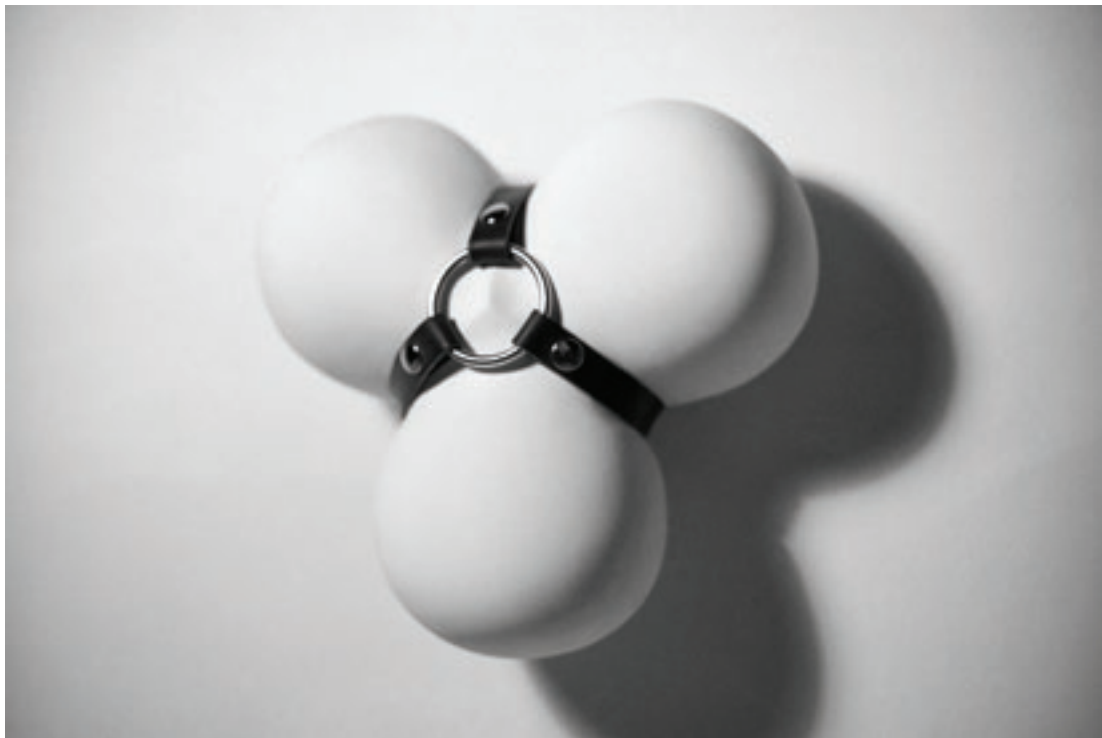
MARIACHI ARCOIRIS DE LOS ANGELES

Mariachi Arcoiris de Los Angeles, or the Los Angeles Rainbow Mariachi, is the world’s first LGBTQ+ mariachi. A unique and dynamic ensemble representing the traditions of the rich culture of Mexico, this group was created as a haven for mariachi musicians who identify as LGBTQ+ to come together and perform traditional Mexican regional music in an otherwise “machista” and discriminating subculture of the mariachi world.

- WHEN:** June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Sundays, 7:30 p.m.
SITE: **Club Tempo**, 5520 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Check website for ticket price
SPONSOR: Mariachi Arcoiris de Los Angeles
INFO: mariachiarcoiris.com/events



COMMUNITY EVENTS



Phillip Pirolo, *Bloom*, Foam, gypsum compound, and leather harness 12" x 12" x 6", 1995

WEATHER THE STORM

Join VOX and three-time Grammy-nominated vocal activist Melanie DeMore to fortify your sense of community through the transcendent power of music and honor the fifth anniversary of the murder of George Floyd. Join us in person or watch the live stream of Weather the Storm, available for 7 days after the live performance.

WHEN: June 8, 4:00 p.m.

SITE: First Congregational Church of Los Angeles, 540 S. Commonwealth Ave., Los Angeles

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: Vox Femina

INFO: 213.355.5237
voxfemina.org/current-season

THE LOVE ZONE

This show celebrates love and its many facets. It explores myriad genres, from Neo Soul to Jersey Club. The Love Zone seeks to ignite inspiration and motivation in the hearts of its listeners.

WHEN: June 13, 27, 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

SITE: Live Streaming

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory

INFO: kqbhla.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Rubén Esparza, *Jordan*, Digital photography, 2018

MASKS & METAMORPHOSIS

In line with The Gay Freedom Band of Los Angeles's history of championing the needs and rights of queer people, this concert will spotlight the trans and gender-expansive community with a program of concert band music that evokes transformation and self-expression. Masks & Metamorphosis takes on themes of historical triumph and discrimination, freedom of expression, "othering" and dysphoria, community, acceptance of an authentic self, and the frustrations and bliss of transformation.

- WHEN:** June 15, 1:00 p.m.
SITE: **The Huntington**, Rothenberg Hall, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino
COST: Check the website for ticket price
SPONSOR: The Huntington, The Gay Freedom Band of Los Angeles (GFBLA)
INFO: 626.405.2100
huntington.org

DANCING QUEENS

It's an extravaganza eleganza as Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles's 200 singers perform the most iconic dance melodies of every genre -- from *Carmina Burana* to *Singin' in the Rain*, *The King and I*, *Hairspray*, *The Producers*, to Madonna, Lady Gaga, Luther Vandross, ABBA, Earth Wind and Fire, Kylie Minogue, Dua Lipa and of course, Donna Summer.

- WHEN:** June 21 – 22, Saturday 7:00 p.m., Sunday 3:30 p.m.
SITE: **Saban Theatre**, 8440 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: LA County Department of Arts and Culture as part of Creative Recovery LA, an initiative funded by the American Rescue Plan
INFO: gmcla.org/dancingqueens

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Clarke Stone Massei, *The Showdown*, Digital Photography, 12" x 8", 2025

GAY FREEDOM BAND OF LOS ANGELES - CONCERT IN THE PARK

Founded in 1978, Gay Freedom Band of Los Angeles (GFBLA) is one of the oldest LGBT concert bands in the world. GFBLA's Concert Band returns again to perform another Lafayette Park concert! This concert will feature music from the cinema and is the culmination of our GFBLA Member Conducting Workshop. Come show your support.

WHEN: June 24, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

SITE: Heart of Los Angeles, 615 La Fayette Park Pl., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: GFBLA Concert Band Free Pride Concert

INFO: gfbla.org/events

PRIDE PERFORMANCE CELEBRATING PAULINE OLIVEROS!

A very special performance and art workshop celebrating the life and work of Mexican-American queer post-war composer, Pauline Oliveros. A pioneer of experimental and electronic music who challenged societal hierarchical and patriarchal structures through her music, Oliveros transformed listening, encouraging musicians and non-musicians alike to engage with sound and each other with empathy and mutual respect. Enjoy the performance in the garden, and stay for the art workshops and food. Food and drink available for purchase.

WHEN: June 29, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

SITE: Museum of Latin American Art, 628 Alamitos Ave., Long Beach

COST: Free

SPONSORS: Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach Opera

INFO: molaa.org/events/2025/06/29/members-performance-paulin-oliveros



COMMUNITY EVENTS

TOURS

PRIDE EXPLORER

Experience Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Allied (LGBTQ+) Heritage and Culture like never before! The Pride Explorer® App will help you to reveal a proud history. From Downtown to Hollywood, the interactive tour will blow the dust off over a century of underground bars and gay rights battle scars.

WHEN: Ongoing
SITE: Online
COST: Free
SPONSOR: The Lavender Effect®
INFO: thelavendereffect.org/pride-explorer

JOHN ELGIN WOOLF: MASTER OF THE HOLLYWOOD REGENCY

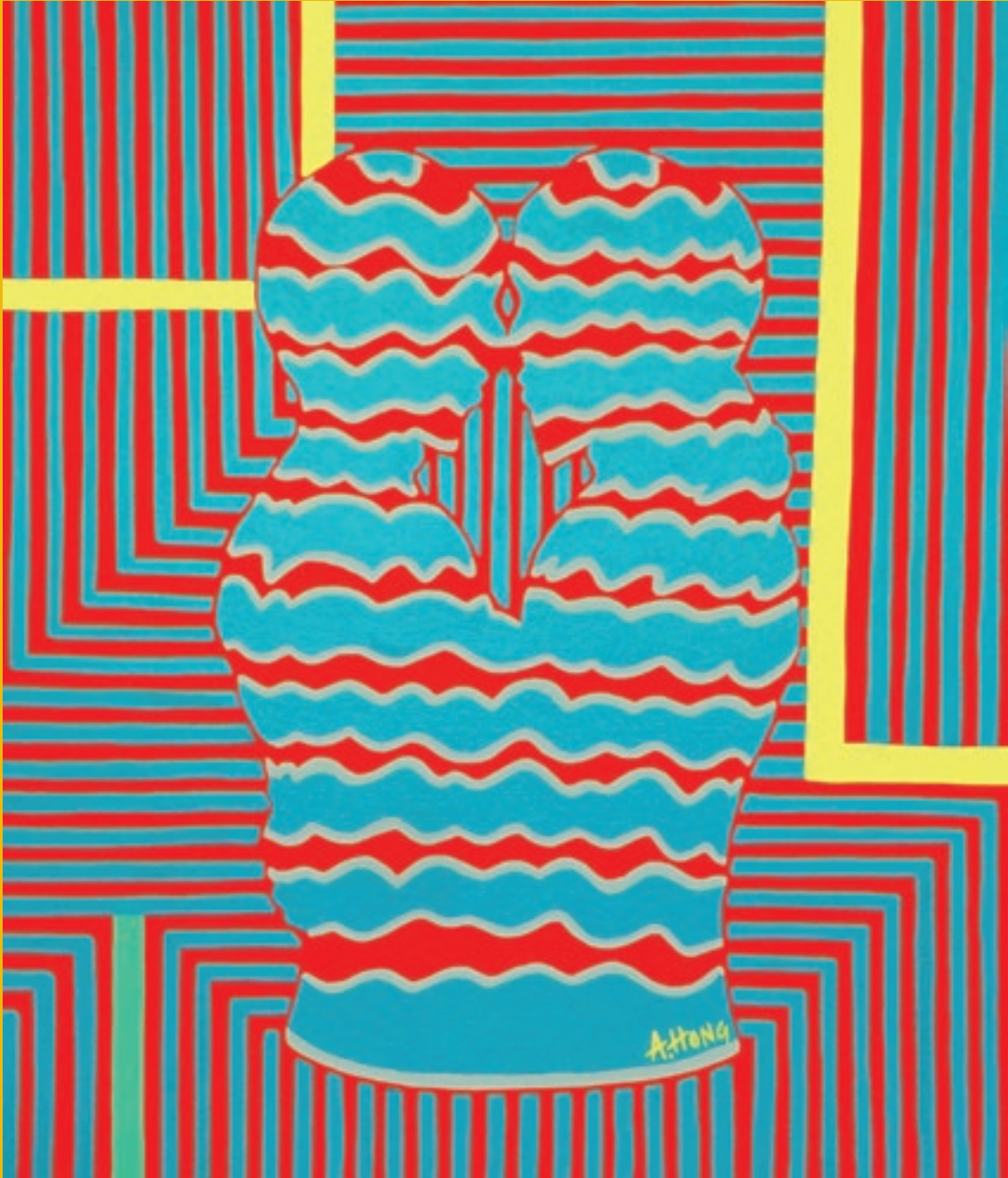
Architect John Elgin Woolf’s work defined luxury living for Hollywood’s famous. He became a master of the Hollywood Regency style, creating glamorous homes for figures including Katharine Hepburn, Judy Garland, Mae West, and John Wayne. Download this self-guided architectural trail curated by filmmaker and journalist Matt Tyrnauer.

WHEN: Self-guided walking tour
SITE: Online
COST: Free
SPONSORS: City of West Hollywood’s Arts Division, Fort Los Angeles
INFO: drive.google.com/file/d/1gHL9DL0x6lm2IKgmuFEPGhTT53XOYFPP/view

STUART TIMMONS WEST HOLLYWOOD LGBTQ HISTORY TOUR

Acclaimed author/historian Stuart Timmons was in the process of writing his West Hollywood LGBTQ History Tour, the final in a trio of walking tours, when he suffered a debilitating stroke in 2008. The tour remained incomplete until the City of West Hollywood’s Arts Division funded its completion to help finish his research, bringing it to a rousing completion as both a self-guided walking tour and a special in-person event with performance artists as tour guides. In 2021, through a special grant, the tour was recorded as a collection of short films.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: City of West Hollywood’s Arts Division
INFO: bit.ly/WeHoLGBTQTour



Annie Hong, *Urgency*, Acrylic on canvas, 16" x 20", 2018

COMMUNITY EVENTS

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

OUTMUSEUM

The OutMuseum is the first LGBTQ+ arts and media virtual museum available free to the public. Home to a combination of rotating and permanent exhibits centering themes, identities, and experiences which celebrate and commemorate the queer and trans communities. Through short film collections, panels and roundtables, oral histories, and other multimedia within our exhibits, this space can foster discussions, increase access to art and information, and most importantly, speak to histories regularly omitted from the record. Because what is history if not storytelling?

WHEN: Ongoing Exhibition
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Outfest
INFO: watch.eventive.org/outmuseum

DAYS OF RAGE, MULTIMEDIA EXHIBIT ON ACTIVIST POSTERS

Days of Rage is a virtual exhibition that enlivens historical activist posters through analysis and storytelling. Grounded in the experiences of activists and graphic designers, the exhibition positions LGBTQ+ graphic design as embodied in community realities and histories, producing subjective reflections on the interdependence of design and activism.

WHEN: Ongoing Exhibition
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: ONE Archives Foundation
INFO: daysofrage.onearchives.org

ARTIST TALK: DIEDRICK BRACKENS

Artist Diedrick Brackens, whose work *bitter attendance, drown jubilee* (2018) was on view in the Hammer's *Together in Time* exhibition, shares insights into his textile-based practice. Brackens is renowned for his attention to the material and contextual impact of his work. Brackens' work explores identity in the past, present, and future. After a presentation of his work, Brackens is joined onstage by curator Erin Christovale for a conversation about Brackens' work in relation to the Hammer's contemporary collection and what's next for the artist.

WHEN: Ongoing Exhibition
SITE: Hammer Channel
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Hammer Museum UCLA
INFO: channel.hammer.ucla.edu/video/1817/artist-talk-diedrick-brackens

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Linea Deluz, *it's not you*, Digital art, 4000px x 4000px, 2020

STEPPING STONES

This project joins LGBTQ+ seniors and young performing artists, in various disciplines to explore how the gay community has been built by creating paths and interconnectedness.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: City of West Hollywood's Art Division
INFO: newstages.org

PRIDE AT THE FOWLER - ARCHIVING GAY HISTORY

Join the UCLA Film & Television Archive's Virtual Screening Room to view Barnette's presentation *The Beauty President*, followed by a conversation moderated by May Hong HaDuong. The conversation will focus on contemporary art's capacity to breathe new life into archival content, how to deal with what is missing, the limits of existing archives, and the power of images to undo the lies of history.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSORS: The Fowler, the UCLA Film & Television Archive, ONE Archives at USC
INFO: fowler.ucla.edu/events/pride-at-the-fowler-archiving-gay-history

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Lenny Gerard, *No Gender No Race*, Acrylic on canvas, 24" x 24", 2025

SECRET LIVES, STORIES, MUSIC, AND ORIGINAL WRITINGS BY LGBTQ+ SENIORS

Secret Lives explores the stories of the remarkable seniors in the Los Angeles LGBT Center Senior Services program and many historical figures who had to keep secrets to maintain their careers, families, and place in society.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: City of West Hollywood Arts Division
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=EGZ7zv0NH8s

ARTIST TALK: JOEY TERRILL

Artist and retired Director of Global Advocacy and Partnerships for AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Joey Terrill, speaks about his life's work as an artist and activist focusing on issues facing queer Chicano communities.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Hammer Channel
COST: Free
SPONSORS: UCLA César E. Chávez Department of Chicana/o and Central American Studies, Hammer Museum
INFO: channel.hammer.ucla.edu/search?speakers=Joey%20Terrill

COMMUNITY EVENTS

HOW I BECAME A PERSON, BY PAGE PERSON

In celebration of Trans Awareness Week, *Made in LA 2023* artist Page Person presents a sprawling, multi-sensory performance confronting anti-drag and anti-trans hysteria with humor, storytelling, and audience participation.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Hammer Channel
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Hammer Museum, UCLA
INFO: channel.hammer.ucla.edu/video/1861/how-i-became-a-person-by-page-person

TRANS HIRSTORY IN 99 OBJECTS

The book *Trans Hirstory in 99 Objects* is a project of artist Chris E. Vargas's Museum of Trans Hirstory & Art (MOTHA), a conceptual art project "forever under construction." Vargas is joined by book contributors, editors, and artists to celebrate, discuss, and perform trans and non-binary magic; celebrity and activism; and trans-masc hirstories.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Hammer Channel
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Hammer Museum, UCLA
INFO: channel.hammer.ucla.edu/video/1881/trans-hirstory-in-99-objects

STILL HERE BI&*H WITH GERRY WALKER

On this episode of Still Here Bi&*h: LGBTQ+ Seniors Talk Relationships Podcast, Gerry chats with activist, commissioner, social worker and entertainer Sydney Rogers - AKA drag performer Miss Barbie-Q - about learning to value her whole trans self, and her journey toward finding love and true connections in this world. With over 30 years in performance, advocacy, and community healing, she serves as the Equity Lead for Community Programs at the LA LGBT Center and Vice Chair of the LA County LGBTQ+ Commission.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Podcast
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Gerry Walker
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=pszf9lwwsjs

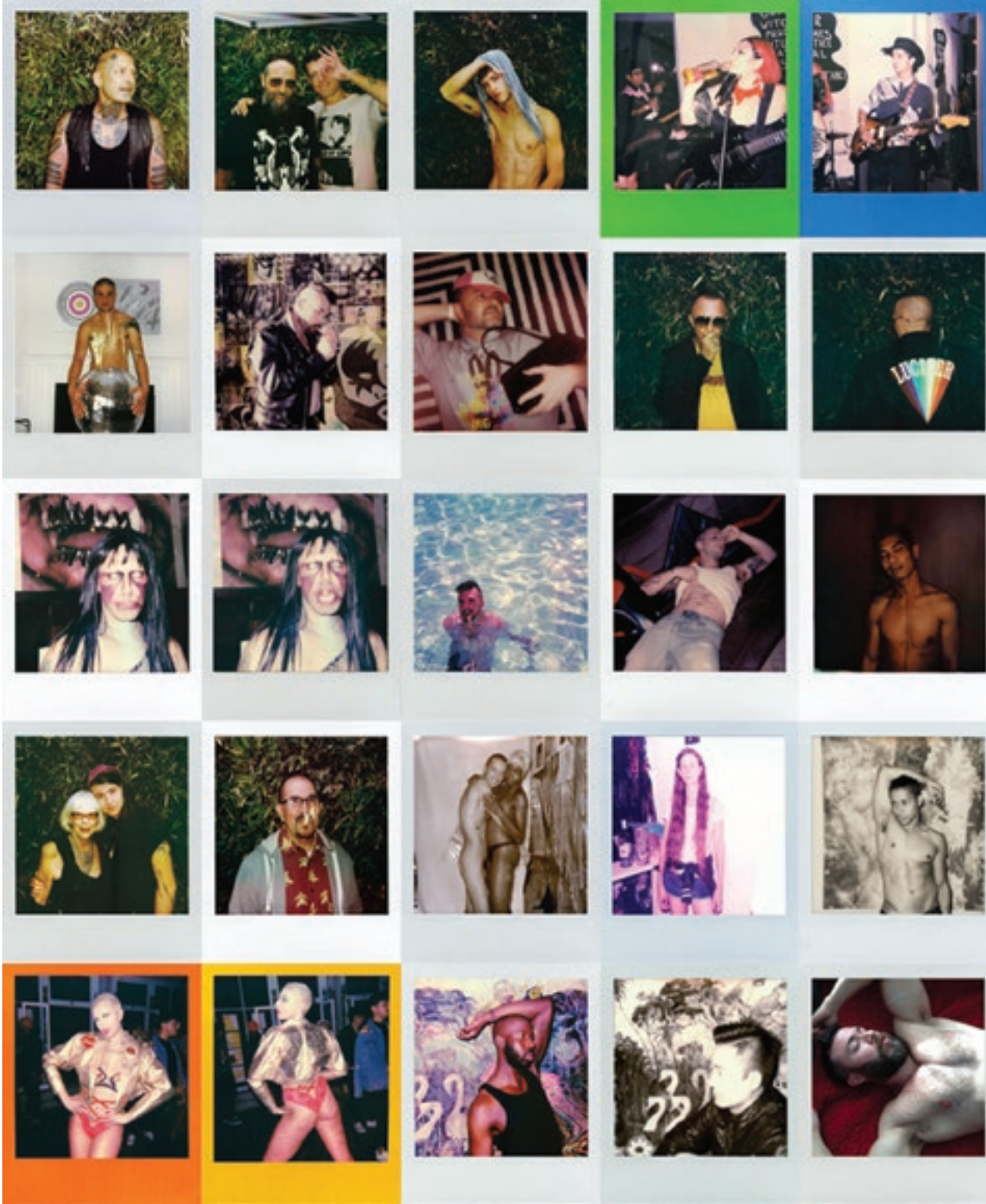
DRAG KINGS, EXPLAINED BY DRAG KINGS

Mo B. Dick, Maxxx Pleasure, Sigi Moonlight, Johnny Gentleman, and King Molasses explain the evolution of drag. We interviewed five drag kings about their relationships to drag, how the art form has transformed, and what they love about it. In the words of King Molasses, drag is full of "that swag you get in the shower that nobody sees." Drag king performances are all about playing with masculine identities: politicizing them, satirizing them, and having fun with them. Today, drag kings are pushing for space in a cis-male-dominated field. And it's working.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Vox
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=IXshUNU65wl



Michael Moore, *Brianna Michelle*, Photography, 2023



Rubén Esparza, *QueerdxPics*, Polaroids, Various, 2009-24 ongoing





Artist Lenny Gerard, *Self Portrait*, courtesy of the artist.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER HERITAGE MONTH 2025

IN THE STUDIO AND IN THE COMMUNITY

LGBT ARTISTS SHAPING CULTURE

As we celebrate Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Heritage Month, we're proud and honored to uplift and highlight a small but powerful cross-section of artists whose work reflects the depth, diversity, and dynamism of our communities.

Selected from the artwork featured in this publication are the voices of artists who offer unique perspectives that span genres, disciplines, and cultural expressions. While their stories are just a glimpse into the richness of LGBT artistic voices, each one invites us to reflect, connect, and celebrate. These spotlights are just a few of the many voices shaping our shared cultural landscape. For a full listing of artists featured, please see page 157.

Contributed by Erin Aguilar

For more information about arts and culture in Los Angeles:



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LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER HERITAGE MONTH 2025

LENNY GERARD



As an LGBTQIA+ artist rooted in Los Angeles, my work serves as both a mirror and a vehicle, reflecting the complexities of queer existence while encouraging healing and unity.

My artistry is a personal outlet and a public offering. I use it to process trauma, mental health, and identity. It's therapeutic for me, but it also serves to teach, inform, and connect. My current body of work features raceless, genderless portraits created through abstraction, distortion, and expressive color. By stripping away recognizable markers, I challenge societal labels and invite viewers to see identity beyond binaries.

Community engagement is central to my practice. I teach workshops in inclusive settings, including at the Braille Institute for blind individuals, helping others express themselves through art. These workshops allow participants to use creativity as a language of healing and communication.

Whether through exhibitions, public programming, or hands-on teaching, I use art as a bridge between people, experiences, and ideas. I remain rooted in the belief that creativity can shift culture, empower marginalized voices, and reflect the beauty of our diverse community. My work exists at the intersection of self-expression, social impact, and shared humanity.

AUSTYN DE LUGO-LISTON



I teach at the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena, where my classrooms serve as extensions of my studio-spaces where queerness, play, and vulnerability are honored as strengths. Whether I'm teaching adult figure painting or leading a drag class for kids, my pedagogy is rooted in the belief that art is a tool for self-discovery, visibility, and joy.

Last summer, I led a weeklong drag workshop for children ages 9–11, many of whom identified as trans or nonbinary. It culminated in a joyful drag ball where families cheered them on with handmade signs and flowers. The class was deeply affirming for everyone involved, and I'm honored to be teaching it again this summer.



Mary Cheung, *Night Is a River*, Digital photography art, 16" x 20", 2024



LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER HERITAGE MONTH 2025

MARY CHEUNG



I find art to be an incredibly powerful tool. I use it to engage people in conversations and encourage critical thinking. As a multidisciplinary artist, I have a variety of mediums at my disposal. The visuals I create typically serve a specific purpose, whether it is to raise awareness, bring joy, or make a social statement. My goal is to stimulate independent thinking and inspire people to question their lives and the current state of affairs. I use my personal experiences and observations through art to connect with people and themselves with others.

For instance, I created an art series titled “Not One of Us,” which is a commentary on society’s pressures to be popular and to fit in. The series employs a sarcastic and tongue-in-cheek approach, utilizing fun, bold, and intriguing images that often highlight the absurdity of feeling the need to conform in order to gain acceptance. By using art in this manner, I hope to reflect relatable experiences and to illustrate the ridiculousness of these social situations. My goal is for viewers to realize, “Hey, it’s okay for me to just be me. I don’t need to seek acceptance and approval to be happy.”

MONICA OROZCO



My artistic practice is rooted in self-portraiture as personal exploration and cultural reflection. Through my alter ego, deMonica, I explore identity, transformation, aging, and self-expression. She is bold, creative, and unapologetic-an embodiment of the freedom I believe everyone deserves.

This work is deeply therapeutic, allowing me to process my journey while honoring the artistic and social influences that have shaped me. In inhabiting deMonica, I access a space where imagination, resistance, and radical fearlessness converge. She dares where I might hesitate and takes up space without apology.

I often recreate iconic imagery-not just to pay tribute to those before me, but to preserve visual history and pass it forward. As someone shaped by both American and Mexican culture, I see my art as a bridge-linking past and present, youth and experience, self and community.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER HERITAGE MONTH 2025

IMANI TOLLIVER



My artistry begins with a memory, a story, or a song refrain. Expressing my voice through poetry and visual arts creates a solid foundation that I walk upon each day. I am committed to the big work, taking the big chances, and telling the big truths.

As a descendant of Harriet Tubman, our blood shares the same intention: an unwavering commitment to liberation and equal rights for our community and all those we love. In addition, I am thankful that the process of creating and appreciating art allows us to see the sacred interconnectedness of all humanity. Once you know someone’s story through an expression of art, they cease to be a stranger. Art can dissolve the barriers built by distance and assumption.

Rooted in social justice, I have taught, curated, and produced a multidisciplinary portfolio of arts and cultural programming. Each workshop, festival, and performance celebrates, reflects, and amplifies the voices of our beautifully diverse community in Southern California, specifically Los Angeles County. Creating, sharing, and teaching is a gift, and I am extraordinarily grateful to play a part in the healing alchemy of the arts.

RICK CASTRO



For nearly Forty years I have creating photography depicting queer community and sensibility. When I started off, there was little public space that allowed for such imagery. I was continuously confronted with overt censorship. Gradually repressions lifted as acceptance was generated through younger people eager to embrace inclusivity with no hang ups about gender & sexuality.

Unfortunately we find ourselves once again back in a repressive era. Something I never thought I would have to relive.

I will continue to create bold photographic images that push against hypocrisy and promote GLBTQ communities fighting to retain their civil rights.

All images pages 86-93, courtesy of the artists. Page 86, **Lenny Gardner**, *Self Portrait*; page 88, at top, **Lenny Gerard**, *Mosaic Muse*, Polaroid film photo collage (Archival enlargement print), 30” x 30”, 2024; page 88, at bottom, Austyn de Lugo-Liston; page 91, at top, **Mary Cheung**, *Positive Body Self Portrait*; page 91, at bottom, **Monica Orozco**, “Channeling Susan Sontag and Peter Hujar” *Self-Portrait*, Digital archival photographic print, 10” x 12”, 2016; page 92, at top, Imani Tolliver; Page 92, at bottom, Rick Castro & Tristian.



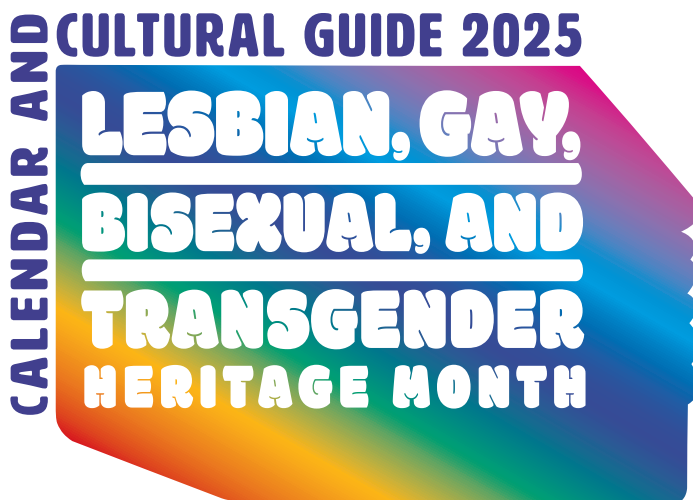
Imani Toliver, *Three Little Birds*, Mixed media, 8" x 8", 2025



Vojislav Radovanovic, above, *Glancing Cruising Staring II*, Acrylic on canvas, 40" x 30", 2024, at right, *Glancing Cruising Staring I*, Acrylic on canvas, 40" x 30", 2024







SUGGESTED READING

LGBT LITERATURE

In celebration of this year's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Heritage Month, we present the following bibliography representing fictional and non-fictional works from a variety of LGBT experiences. These books are recommended for adult readers, ages 18 and over, and many may be available through the Los Angeles Public Library.

Many books, music, periodicals, and films can be downloaded for free from the Los Angeles Public Library website, lapl.org. Live in Los Angeles but don't have a library card? You can get immediate access to digital collections with an e-card that you can obtain at the lapl.org website. The e-card gives you immediate, unlimited, and free access to Los Angeles Public Library online resources.



Jennifer Celio, *Species in Danger: Palos Verdes blue butterfly: Denial of Trans(cendence)*, Graphite on wood panel, 16" x 12", 2024

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE 2025

SUGGESTED READING



Jade Ali, *Starlet Cabaret – I*, Filmography, 2024

BASTARD OUT OF CAROLINA

by Dorothy Allison

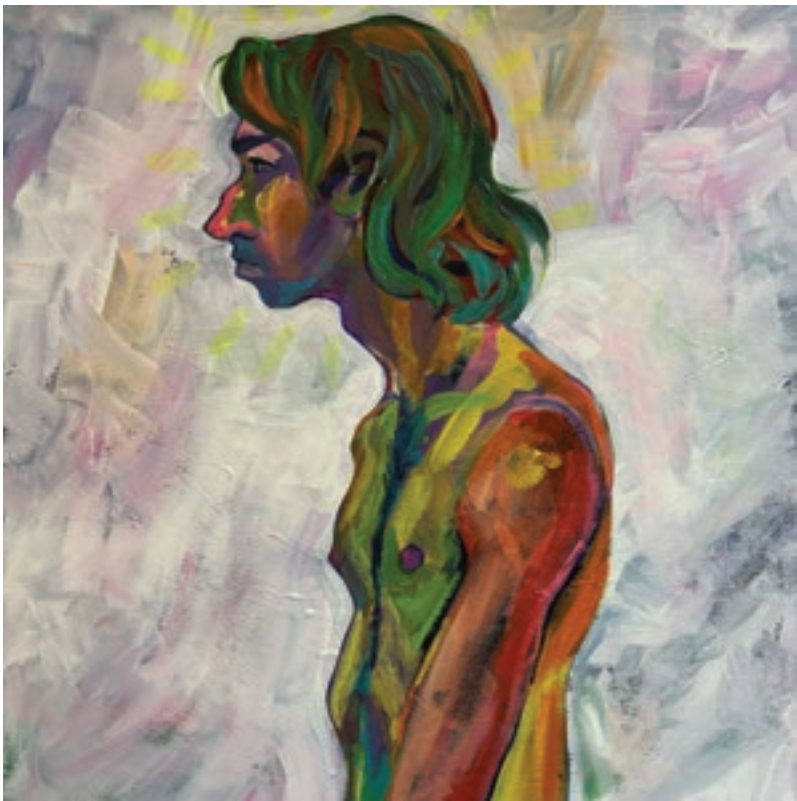
Greenville County, South Carolina, is a wild, lush place that is home to the Boatwright family—a tight-knit clan of rough-hewn, hard-drinking men who shoot up each other’s trucks, and indomitable women who get married young and age too quickly. At the heart of this story is Ruth Anne Boatwright, known simply as Bone, a bastard child who observes the world around her with a mercilessly keen perspective. When her stepfather Daddy Glen, “cold as death, mean as a snake,” becomes increasingly more vicious toward her, Bone finds herself caught in a family triangle that tests the loyalty of her mother, Anney—and leads to a final, harrowing encounter from which there can be no turning back.

GIOVANNI’S ROOM

by James Baldwin

David is a young American expatriate who has just proposed marriage to his girlfriend, Hella. While she is away on a trip, David meets a bartender named Giovanni to whom he is drawn in spite of himself. Soon the two are spending the night in Giovanni’s curtainless room, which he keeps dark to protect their privacy. But Hella’s return to Paris brings the affair to a crisis, one that rapidly spirals into tragedy. David struggles for self-knowledge during one long, dark night—“the night which is leading me to the most terrible morning of my life.” With a sharp, probing imagination, James Baldwin’s now-classic narrative delves into the mystery of loving and creates a deeply moving story of death and passion that reveals the unspoken complexities of the human heart.

SUGGESTED READING



Austyn de Lugo-Liston, *Dean*, Acrylic on canvas, 24" x 30", 2024

BEEBO BRINKER

by Ann Bannon

Designated the “Queen of Lesbian Pulp Fiction” for authoring five landmark novels beginning in 1957, Ann Bannon’s work defined lesbian fiction for the pre-Stonewall generation. Unlike many writers of the period, however, Bannon broke through the shame and isolation typically portrayed in lesbian pulps, offering instead women characters who embrace their sexuality against great odds. With *Beebo Brinker*, Bannon introduces a butch 17-year-old farm girl newly arrived in New York after she is driven from her Wisconsin home town for wearing drag to the State Fair. Befriended by the gay Jack Mann, a father-figure with a weakness for runaways, Beebo sets out to find love.

FUN HOME: A FAMILY TRAGICOMIC

by Alison Bechdel

Distant and exacting, Bruce Bechdel was an English teacher and director of the town funeral home, which Alison and her family referred to as the “Fun Home.” It was not until college that Alison, who had recently come out as a lesbian, discovered that her father was also gay. A few weeks after this revelation, he was dead, leaving a legacy of mystery for his daughter to resolve. In her hands, personal history becomes a work of amazing subtlety and power, written with controlled force and enlivened with humor, rich literary allusion, and heartbreaking detail.





LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE 2025

SUGGESTED READING



Amina AmXn, *Color Them Beautiful*, Digital photography, 13" x 19", 2018

LIE WITH ME

by Philippe Besson, translated by Molly Ringwald

We drive at high speed along back roads, through woods, vineyards, and oat fields. The bike smells like gasoline and makes a lot of noise, and sometimes I'm frightened when the wheels slip on the gravel on the dirt road, but the only thing that matters is that I'm holding on to him, that I'm holding on to him outside. Just outside a hotel in Bordeaux, Philippe chances upon a young man who bears a striking resemblance to his first love. What follows is a look back at the relationship he's never forgotten, a hidden affair with a gorgeous boy named Thomas during their last year of high school. Without ever acknowledging they know each other in the halls, they steal time to meet in secret, carrying on a passionate, world-altering affair. Besson's powerfully moving coming-of-age story captures the eroticism and tenderness of first love - and the heartbreaking passage of time.

RUBYFRUIT JUNGLE

by Rita Mae Brown

A landmark coming-of-age novel that launched the career of one of this country's most distinctive voices, *Rubyfruit Jungle* remains a transformative work more than forty years after its original publication. In bawdy, moving prose, Rita Mae Brown tells the story of Molly Bolt, the adoptive daughter of a dirt-poor Southern couple who boldly forges her own path in America. With her startling beauty and crackling wit, Molly finds that women are drawn to her wherever she goes-and she refuses to apologize for loving them back. This literary milestone continues to resonate with its message about being true to yourself and, against the odds, living happily ever after.

At left: Kelly Perez, *Slice of Life*, Acrylic on canvas, 6' x 7', 2021



© Michael R. Moore

Michael Moore, *Hakeem's Guitar*, Digital photography

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SUGGESTED READING

IN AT THE DEEP END

by Kate Davies

Until recently, Julia hadn't had sex in three years. But now: a one-night stand is accusing her of breaking his penis; a sexually confident lesbian is making eyes at her over confrontational modern art; and she's wondering whether trimming her pubes makes her a bad feminist. Julia's about to learn that she's been looking for love – and satisfaction – in all the wrong places

HEAVEN'S COAST

by Mark Doty

The year is 1989 and Mark Doty's life has reached a state of enviable equilibrium. His reputation as a poet of formidable talent is growing, he enjoys his work as a college professor and, perhaps most importantly, he is deeply in love with his partner of many years. The harmonious existence these two men share is shattered, however, when they learn that Wally has tested positive for the HIV virus.

ASEGI STORIES: CHEROKEE QUEER AND TWO-SPIRIT MEMORY

by Qwo-Li Driskill

In the Cherokee language *Asegi udanto* refers to people who either fall outside of men's and women's roles or who mix men's and women's roles. *Asegi*, which translates as "strange," is also used by some Cherokees as a term similar to "queer." For Driskill, the word provides a means by which to reread Cherokee history in order to listen for those stories rendered "strange" by colonial heteropatriarchy. As the first full-length work of scholarship to develop a tribally specific Indigenous Queer or Two-Spirit critique, *Asegi Stories* examines gender and sexuality in Cherokee cultural memory, how they shape the present, and how they can influence the future.

MAURICE

by EM Forster

Maurice Hall grows up confident in his privileged status and well aware of his role in society. Modest and generally conformist, he nevertheless finds himself increasingly attracted to men. Through Clive, whom he encounters at Cambridge, and through Alec, the gamekeeper on Clive's country estate, Maurice gradually experiences a profound emotional and sexual awakening. A tale of passion, bravery and defiance, this intensely personal novel was completed in 1914, but remained unpublished until after Forster's death. Compellingly honest and beautifully written, it offers a powerful condemnation of the repressive attitudes of British society, and is at once an intimate tale of one man's erotic and political self-discovery and a moving love story.

THE GILDA STORIES

by Jewelle Gomez

This remarkable novel begins in 1850s Louisiana, where Gilda escapes slavery and learns about freedom while working in a brothel. After being initiated into eternal life as one who "shares the blood" by two women there, Gilda spends the next two hundred years searching for a place to call home. An instant lesbian classic when it was first published, *The Gilda Stories* has endured as an auspiciously prescient book in its explorations of blackness, radical ecology, re-definitions of family, and yes, the erotic potential of the vampire story.

SUGGESTED READING



M.M.I.X., *Red Mirror*, Digitally manipulated photography, 14" x 11", 2023

WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HERE: A QUEER MUSLIM MEMOIR

by Samra Habib

Samra Habib has spent most of their life searching for the safety to be themselves. As an Ahmadi Muslim growing up in Pakistan, they faced regular threats from Islamic extremists who believed the small, dynamic sect to be blasphemous. From their parents, they internalized the lesson that revealing their identity could put them in grave danger. When their family came to Canada as refugees, Samra encountered a whole new host of challenges: bullies, racism, the threat of poverty, and an arranged marriage. So begins an exploration of faith, art, love, and queer sexuality, a journey that takes them to the far reaches of the globe to uncover a truth that was within them all along. A triumphant memoir of forgiveness and family, both chosen and not, *We Have Always Been Here* is a rallying cry for anyone who has ever felt out of place and a testament to the power of fearlessly inhabiting one's truest self.

THE PRICE OF SALT

By Patricia Highsmith

Based on a true story plucked from Highsmith's own life, *The Price of Salt* (or *Carol*) tells the riveting drama of Therese Belivet, a stage designer trapped in a department-store day job, whose routine is forever shattered by a gorgeous epiphany, the appearance of Carol Aird, a customer who comes in to buy her daughter a Christmas toy. Therese begins to gravitate toward the alluring suburban housewife, who is trapped in a marriage as stultifying as Therese's job. They fall in love and set out across the United States, ensnared by society's confines and the imminent disapproval of others, yet propelled by their infatuation. A brilliantly written story that may surprise Highsmith fans and will delight those discovering her work.

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SUGGESTED READING



Monica Orozco, "Issey Miyake by Irving Penn Tribute" Self-Portrait, Digital archival photographic print, 10" x 11", 2022

THE SWIMMING-POOL LIBRARY

by Alan Hollinghurst

The dazzling first novel from the best-selling, Booker Prize-winning author of *The Line of Beauty* and *The Sparsholt Affair*. An enthralling, darkly erotic novel of homosexuality before the scourge of AIDS; an elegy, possessed of chilling clarity, for ways of life that can no longer be lived with impunity. The Swimming-Pool Library focuses on the friendship of two men: William Beckwith, a young gay aristocrat who leads a life of privilege and promiscuity, and Lord Nantwich, an elderly man searching for someone to write his biography and inherit his traditions.

AIN'T I A WOMAN: BLACK WOMEN AND FEMINISM

by bell hooks

A classic work of feminist scholarship, this book has become a must for all those interested in the nature of Black womanhood. Examining the impact of sexism on Black women during slavery, the devaluation of Black womanhood, Black male sexism, racism among feminists, and the Black woman's involvement with feminism, hooks attempts to move us beyond racist and sexist assumptions. The result is nothing short of groundbreaking, giving this work a critical place in every feminist scholar's library.

SUGGESTED READING



Nathan Cheung, *Look In My Eyes*, Medium format photograph, archival pigment print, 2024

THE HENNA WARS

by Adiba Jaigirdar

Nishat doesn't want to lose her family, but she also doesn't want to hide who she is, and it only gets harder once a childhood friend walks back into her life. Flávia is beautiful and charismatic, and Nishat falls for her instantly. But when a school competition invites students to create their own businesses, both Flávia and Nishat decide to showcase their talent as henna artists. In a fight to prove who is the best, their lives become more tangled - but Nishat can't quite get rid of her crush, especially since Flávia seems to like her back. As the competition heats up, Nishat has a decision to make: stay in the closet for her family, or put aside her differences with Flávia and give their relationship a chance.

GOODBYE TO BERLIN

by Christopher Isherwood

Goodbye to Berlin has been popularized on stage and screen in *I Am a Camera* and *Cabaret*. Isherwood magnificently captures 1931 Berlin: charming, with its avenues and cafés; marvelously grotesque, with its nightlife and dreamers; dangerous, with its vice and intrigue; powerful and seedy, with its mobs and millionaires – this was the period when Hitler was beginning his move to power. The book is inhabited by a wealth of characters: the unforgettable Sally Bowles; plump Fraulein Schroeder, who considers reducing her Buste relieve her heart palpitations; Peter and Otto, a gay couple struggling to come to terms with their relationship; and the distinguished and doomed Jewish family, the Landauers.

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SUGGESTED READING



Mary Cheung, *Your Life Is a Soap Opera*, Digital photography art, 16" x 24", 2022

FAMILY DANCING

by David Leavitt

This is a book of remarkable short stories, including "Territory," in which a well-intentioned, liberal mother, presiding over her local Parents of Lesbians and Gays chapter, finds her acceptance of her son's sexuality shaken when he arrives home with a lover. In the title story, a family extended through divorce and remarriage dances together at the end of a summer party-in the recognition that they are still bound by the very forces that split them apart. Tender and funny, these stories reveal the intricacies and subtleties of the dances in which we all engage.

SISTER OUTSIDER: ESSAYS AND SPEECHES

by Audre Lorde

Presenting the essential writings of black lesbian poet and feminist writer Audre Lorde, the book celebrates an influential voice in 20th-century literature. In this charged collection of 15 essays and speeches, Lorde takes on sexism, racism, ageism, homophobia, and class and propounds social difference as a vehicle for action and change. Her prose is incisive, unflinching, and lyrical, reflecting struggle but ultimately offering messages of hope. Lorde's philosophies resonate more than 20 years after they were first published.



Lenny Gerard, *Tethered*, Acrylic and ink on canvas, 24" x 36", 2024

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SUGGESTED READING

TALES OF THE CITY

by Armistead Maupin

The first novel in the beloved *Tales of the City* series, Armistead Maupin's bestselling San Francisco saga. For almost four decades Armistead Maupin's *Tales* series has blazed a trail through popular culture-from a groundbreaking newspaper serial to a classic novel, to a television event that entranced millions around the world. The first of ten novels about the denizens of the mythic apartment house at 28 Barbary Lane, *Tales* is both a sparkling comedy of manners and an indelible portrait of an era that changed forever the way we live.

THE SONG OF ACHILLES

by Madeline Miller

A tale of gods, kings, immortal fame, and the human heart, *The Song of Achilles* is a dazzling literary feat that brilliantly reimagines Homer's enduring masterwork, *The Iliad*. An action-packed adventure, an epic love story, a marvelously conceived and executed page-turner, and an unforgettable journey back to ancient Greece in the Age of Heroes.

LIKE A LOVE STORY

by Abdi Nazemian

Reza is an Iranian boy who has just moved to the city with his mother to live with his stepfather and stepbrother. He's terrified that someone will guess the truth he can barely acknowledge about himself. Reza knows he's gay, but all he knows of gay life are the media's images of men dying of AIDS. Judy is an aspiring fashion designer who worships her uncle Stephen, a gay man with AIDS who devotes his time to activism as a member of ACT UP. Judy has never imagined finding romance until she falls for Reza and they start dating. Art is Judy's best friend, their school's only out and proud teen. He'll never be who his conservative parents want him to be, so he rebels by documenting the AIDS crisis through his photographs. As Reza and Art grow closer, Reza struggles to find a way out of his deception that won't break Judy's heart - and destroy the most meaningful friendship he's ever known.

THE STONEWALL READER

by New York Public Library (Editor), Jason Baumann (Editor)

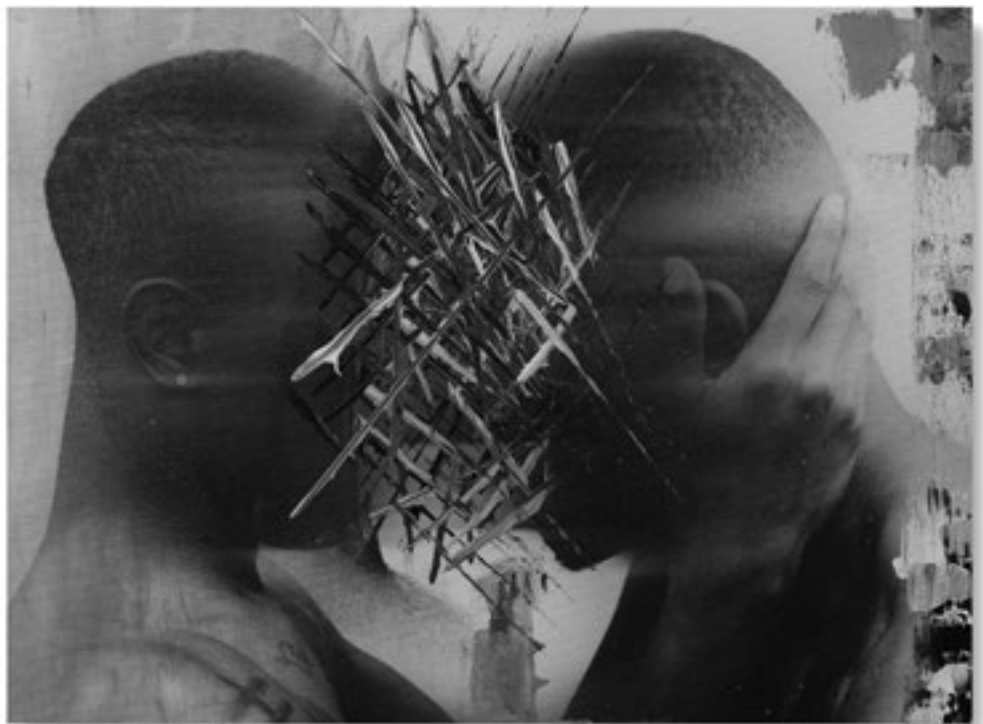
For the fiftieth anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, an anthology chronicling the tumultuous fight for LGBTQ rights in the 1960s and the activists who spearheaded it, with a foreword by Edmund White. June 28, 2019 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the uprising, which is considered the most significant event in the gay liberation movement, and the catalyst for the modern fight for LGBTQ rights in the United States. Drawing from the New York Public Library's archives, *The Stonewall Reader* is a collection of first accounts, diaries, periodic literature, and articles from LGBTQ magazines and newspapers that documented both the years leading up to and the years following the riots. Most importantly the anthology spotlights both iconic activists who were pivotal in the movement, such as Sylvia Rivera, co-founder of Street Transvestites Action Revolutionaries (STAR), as well as forgotten figures like Ernestine Eckstein, one of the few out, African American, lesbian activists in the 1960s. The anthology focuses on the events of 1969, the five years before, and the five years after.

UNDER THE UDALA TREES

by Chinelo Okparanta

Ijeoma comes of age as her nation does; born before independence, she is eleven when civil war breaks out in the young republic of Nigeria. Sent away to safety, she meets another displaced child and they, star-crossed, fall in love. They are from different ethnic communities. They are also both girls. When their love is discovered, Ijeoma learns that she will have to hide this part of herself. But there is a cost to living inside a lie.

SUGGESTED READING



Lenny Gerard, *Tipping Point*, Acrylic and ink on canvas, 20" x 16", 2025

WHAT IS NOT YOURS IS NOT YOURS

by Helen Oyeyemi

Playful, ambitious, and exquisitely imagined, *What Is Not Yours Is Not Yours* is cleverly built around the idea of keys, literal and metaphorical. The key to a house, the key to a heart, the key to a secret-Oyeyemi's keys not only unlock elements of her characters' lives, they promise further labyrinths on the other side.

THE HOUSE OF HIDDEN MEANINGS: A MEMOIR

by RuPaul

From drag icon to powerhouse producer of one of the world's largest television franchises, RuPaul's ever-shifting nature has always been part of his brand as both supermodel and supermogul. Yet that adaptability has made him enigmatic to the public. In this memoir, his most intimate and detailed book yet, RuPaul makes himself truly known. *In The House of Hidden Meanings*, RuPaul strips away all artifice and recounts the story of his life with breathtaking clarity and tenderness, bringing his signature wisdom and wit to his own biography. From his early years growing up as a queer Black kid in San Diego navigating complex relationships with his absent father and temperamental mother, to forging an identity in the punk and drag scenes of Atlanta and New York, to finding enduring love with his husband Georges LeBar and self-acceptance in sobriety, RuPaul excavates his own biography life-story, uncovering new truths and insights in his personal history.

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SUGGESTED READING



Mike Salazar, *Nocturne at the Pier*, Digital Photography, 11.75" x 11.25", 2022

ARISTOTLE AND DANTE DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE

by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship-the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.



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SUGGESTED READING



Harpreet Kaur Sandhu, *Flowers in Hand in a Field of Blooms*, Portrait photography, painting, collage, Varies, 2020

RAINBOW BOYS

by Alex Sanchez

The first book of a trilogy, the story of three teenage boys, coming of age and out of the closet. Jason Carrillo is a jock with a steady girlfriend, but he can't stop dreaming about sex... with other guys. Kyle Meeks doesn't look gay, but he is. And he hopes he never has to tell anyone-especially his parents. Nelson Glassman is "out" to the entire world, but he can't tell the boy he loves that he wants to be more than just friends. A novel that percolates with passion and wit, Alex Sanchez follows these very different high-school seniors as their struggles with sexuality and intolerance draw them into a triangle of love, betrayal, and ultimately, friendship.

FUNNY BOY

by Shyam Selvadurai

The second son of a privileged family in Sri Lanka, a son that prefers staging make-believe wedding pageants with his female cousins to battling balls with the other boys. When his parents discover his innocent pastime, Arjie is forced to abandon his idyllic childhood games and adopt the rigid rules of an adult world. Bewildered by his incipient sexual awakening, Arjie painfully grows toward manhood and an understanding of his own "different" identity.

WHIPPING GIRL: A TRANSEXUAL WOMAN ON SEXISM AND THE SCAPEGOATING OF FEMININITY

by Julia Serano

Julia Serano, a transsexual woman whose writing reflects her diverse background as a lesbian transgender activist and professional biologist, shares her powerful experiences and observation, both pre- and post-transition-to reveal the ways in which fear, suspicion and dismissiveness toward femininity shape our societal attitudes toward trans women, as well as gender and sexuality as a whole. The author's well-honed arguments stem from her ability to bridge the gap between the often-disparate biological and social perspectives on gender. She exposes how deep-rooted the cultural belief is that femininity is frivolous, weak, and passive, and how this "feminine" weakness exists only to attract and appease male desire. In addition to debunking popular misconceptions about transsexuality, Serano makes the case that today's feminists and transgender activists must work to embrace and empower femininity-in all of its forms.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER HERITAGE MONTH

CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE 2025

SUGGESTED READING



Nahshon Dion, *Lake Merritt, the Jewel of Oakland*, Digital 4500 × 2531 pixels, 2024

AND THE BAND PLAYED ON: POLITICS, PEOPLE, AND THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

by **Randy Shilts**

By the time Rock Hudson’s death in 1985 alerted all of America to the danger of the AIDS epidemic, the disease had spread across the nation, killing thousands of people and emerging as the greatest health crisis of the 20th century. America faced a troubling question: What happened? How was this epidemic allowed to spread so far before it was taken seriously? In answering these questions, Shilts weaves a coherent story, pinning down every evasion and contradiction at the highest levels of the medical, political, and media establishments. He shows that the epidemic spread wildly because the federal government put budget ahead of the nation’s welfare; health authorities placed political expediency before the public health; and scientists were often more concerned with international prestige than saving lives. Against this backdrop, the author tells the heroic stories of individuals in science and politics, public health and the gay community, who struggled to alert the nation to the enormity of the danger it faced.

LUMBERJANES, VOL. 1: BEWARE THE KITTEN HOLY

by **Noelle Stevenson, Grace Ellis, Shannon Watters**

Illustrated by **Brooklyn Allen**

Lumberjanes is a graphic novel series featuring five rad ladies who fight monster baddies with the power of friendship! At Miss Qiunzella Thiskwin Penniquiquil Thistle Crumpet’s Camp for Hardcore Lady Types, things are not what they seem. Three-eyed foxes. Secret caves. Anagrams! Luckily, Jo, April, Mal, Molly, and Ripley are five butt-kicking best pals determined to have an awesome summer together... and they’re not gonna let a magical quest or an array of supernatural critters get in their way! The mystery keeps getting bigger, and it all begins here.

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SUGGESTED READING

TRANSGENDER HISTORY

by Susan Stryker

Covering American transgender history from the mid-twentieth century to today, *Transgender History* takes a chronological approach to the subject, with each chapter covering major movements, writings, and events. Chapters cover the transsexual and transvestite communities in the years following World War II; trans radicalism and social change, which spanned from 1966 with the publication of *The Transsexual Phenomenon*, and lasted through the early 1970s; the mid-'70s to 1990, the era of identity politics and the changes witnessed in trans circles through these years; and the gender issues witnessed through the '90s and '00s.

ON EARTH WE'RE BRIEFLY GORGEOUS

by Ocean Vuong

A letter from a son to a mother who cannot read. Written when the speaker, Little Dog, is in his late 20s, the letter unearths a family's history that began before he was born - a history whose epicenter is rooted in Vietnam and serves as a doorway into parts of his life his mother has never known, all of it leading to an unforgettable revelation. At once a witness to the fraught yet undeniable love between a single mother and her son, it is also a brutally honest exploration of race, class, and masculinity. The book is as much about the power of telling one's own story as it is about the obliterating silence of not being heard.

THE COLOR PURPLE

by Alice Walker

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, *The Color Purple* is a powerful cultural touchstone of modern American literature. It depicts the lives of African American women in early-twentieth-century rural Georgia. Separated as girls, sisters Celie and Nettie sustain their loyalty to and hope in each other across time, distance, and silence. Through a series of letters spanning nearly thirty years, first from Celie to God, then from the sisters to each other, the novel draws readers into a rich and memorable portrayal of Black women-their pain and struggle, companionship and growth, resilience and bravery. Deeply compassionate and beautifully imagined, the book breaks the silence around many issues, and carries readers on an epic and spirit-affirming journey toward transformation, redemption, and love.

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

by Oscar Wilde

A gothic and philosophical novel, written by Irish writer and playwright Oscar Wilde. In the wealthy and vain hedonist Dorian Gray, London painter Basil Hallward has found his muse. Only when the portrait of Dorian begins to age, while the man himself remains untouched by time, do they realize they may have made a deal with the devil. The author's only novel takes a witty, philosophical, and harrowing look at our obsession with youth and the price we pay for it.

WRITTEN ON THE BODY

by Jeanette Winterson

A beguiling novel from the author of *The Passion* and *Sexing the Cherry*. Winterson chronicles the consuming affair between the narrator, who is given neither name nor gender, and the beloved, a complex and confused married woman.

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SUGGESTED READING



Imani Toliver, *Calling All Angels*, Mixed Media, 8" x 8", 2025

ORLANDO: A BIOGRAPHY

by Virginia Woolf

Orlando follows the titular character over a period of 300 years as he miraculously transforms from a man into a woman. Opening while *Orlando* is living in Elizabethan England as a nobleman, we observe as he shifts through centuries and identities while Woolf compares the societal roles of men and women throughout history. Often marked as the first literary text to explore transgender characters, *Orlando* challenges traditional gender roles, dismissing the idea of gender binaries and the constraints of the patriarchy. First published in 1928, the book was written as a mock biography for Woolf's close friend and lover, Vita Sackville-West, as a dedication of love.

SOURCES:

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- British Vogue*, [vogue.co.uk/arts-and-lifestyle/article/queer-literary-classics](https://www.vogue.co.uk/arts-and-lifestyle/article/queer-literary-classics)
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Edmund Liang, *Pansies*, Digital painting, 8" x 8", 2023



DRAG HAS GONE PUBLIC

By Rubén Esparza

What used to be a semi-underground phenomenon, characterized by its do-it-yourself, hyper-glam aesthetic and the campy beauty of gay culture, has now entered the mainstream. Today, drag has gone public, full-force with screaming commercials on TV on prime time, and beyond.

The term “drag” originates from ancient theatrical traditions and has evolved within modern LGBTQ+ culture. It traces back to male actors playing female roles in ancient Greece, and it is said to derive from the long skirts these actors wore, which would “drag” along the floor. So, it’s only the name and not the drag performance that we know now. Contemporary drag history or “herstory” is a colorful and soulful one in that it originated from marginalized people, mostly from people of color from the Queer (a derogatory term fixed in the past) and Gay (a blanket word to describe the LGBTQ community back in the days) bars, neighborhoods, and house parties from east to west coasts and sprinkled along the parts in between. The history of the performances has created a storied and legendary lineage where drag language and traditions began.

New York’s Ball culture was instrumental in shaping the drag scene as we know it today. Historically, the earliest drag balls can be traced back to the post-Civil War era, when Harlem became a hub for exciting drag events. These balls transcended racial, gender, and sexual boundaries, initiated by a Black collegiate fraternity. Both male and female impersonators took to the stage, often featuring female impersonators in glamorous pageant gowns. Notably, 1869 marked the inaugural drag ball in the United States. These performances and fanfares happened in private halls and people’s homes, which were somewhat safe from the persecutory general public, which could prove deadly.

In 1928, Francis Renault was recognized as the best-known “female impersonator” (though not technically a drag queen). This elegant white woman was seen as a curiosity that intrigued people and was mostly perceived as a freak show. In 1972, Harlem drag queens Lottie and Crystal LaBeija founded the first drag house, inspiring diverse segments of the community.

These “Houses” of drag and ball culture began to exclusively celebrate Black and Latinx queer identities, fostering legendary figures like Crystal LaBeija, Willi Ninja, and Hector Valle (Father Xtravaganza), whose legacy continues today. Various Houses have emerged around the country, including those in New York City, Newark, Jersey City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Chicago, and Oakland, California. These spaces also served as alternative families for many black and latinx LGBTQ+ individuals ostracized by their biological families and society. Led by experienced members of the ballroom scene—often drag queens, gay men, or transgender women—these “mothers” and “fathers” provide guidance and support for their house “children.”

A more significant renaissance of drag culture took place alongside the Ball scene in the late 1980s and 1990s, celebrated for its glamour and lip-sync numbers. During this time, high-concept drag visionaries were pushing creative boundaries

“I started to do drag after a traumatic time of my life and when I first stepped on the stage and the light hit, it was the beginning of a new world for me. Drag gives me the opportunity to therapeutically express my emotion and advocate for my drag king, BIPOC, and Trans/Enby community.”

Johnny Gentleman

from VoyageLA Magazine



DRAW HAS GONE PUBLIC



Many Angeleno's are introduced to the joy of drag through Drag Queen Bingo and Drag Queen Story Hour readings. Places such as Toni's Hi-Dive and Hamburger Marys join Drag performance with comedy, music, and, of course, bingo games. Performer Roxy Wood, above, is known for her glamorous and humorous turn as the Bingo Babe Trans-Goddess.

beyond pageantry and heteronormative beauty standards. Notable figures include Divine, RuPaul, Lady Bunny, Jackie Beat, Raja Gemini, Bianca Del Rio, Bob the Drag Queen, and many other illustrious performers. The evolution of drag has also included transgender artists such as Carmen Carrera, Sonique Love, and Gia Gunn.

The 1970s saw the emergence of drag kings that personified male gender stereotypes, that explored and celebrated lesbian butchness and masculinity but also challenged gender norms, including subverting patriarchal power play, mostly presented as entertainment peppered with camp and outrageousness. Early icons in the 1970s included Vesta Tilley, Hetty King, Gladys Bentley, and Stormé DeLarverie - although called cross-dressers before the term Drag King came about as a form of empowerment and pride in self-naming. Contemporary kings include King Molasses, Landon Cider, and Dred. Transgender men who perform as drag kings include stage names like Lucky Johnson, Miles Long, and Havok Von Doom.

Drag kings are not too far in getting recognition in the world of gender nuance and identity exploration. Murray Hill is a standout with his craft as a comedian and actor; his look hearkens to dandyism, a period of tailored suits, grooming, and fancy mustaches; his résumé includes a long history of hosting events in New York in the 1990s with numerous cameos and featured in film and television shows. The media recently announced that he will host an upcoming drag reality competition series, *King of Drag*, starting this year. The series focuses specifically on drag kings.

He also privately maintains his manly, tailored, and good-humored persona, proclaiming, "I am the hardest-working middle-aged man in show business." His dynamism and authenticity sure inspire upcoming kings. His visibility is a form of activism.

DRAG HAS GONE PUBLIC



Above, Drag King performer, Johnny Gentleman, a Los Angeles based Trans Latinx Icon, Drag Papi, show host, actor, producer of [@dapperpussent](#). From his interview with *ShoutOut LA*, “Dapper Puss Entertainment was created as a drag production company that produces shows and safe spaces for members of the QTBIPOC community.” Dapper Puss is LA’s first drag king brunch, creating a safe space for humans of all ages and highlighting a drag king dominated cast of LA’s best drag performers.

Today, RuPaul stands as a dominant figure in contemporary drag, with a long pioneering history dating back to the 80s. Sparking a celebration of drag beauty and confidence with her song, hit *Super Model (You Better Work)* released in 1993, the song captured the public’s imagination worldwide. Her tireless energy, charisma, and innate skill at promotion have taken drag culture to a global scale. Since its debut in 2009, *RuPaul’s Drag Race* has expanded to franchises in Europe, Latin America, and Asia. This reality competition features RuPaul as host, mentor, and head judge. Contestants face various challenges and are judged by RuPaul’s longtime friend, Michelle Visage, and a panel of rotating celebrity judges.

RuPaul and Murray Hill and the countless queens and kings represent examples of courageous hearts of contemporary drag and inspire the LGBTQ+ communities. Cutting and illuminating a hard-won path for others to follow from the historically insular, marginalized, and sometimes dangerous world of drag to the mainstream while radiating authenticity, humor, and joy.

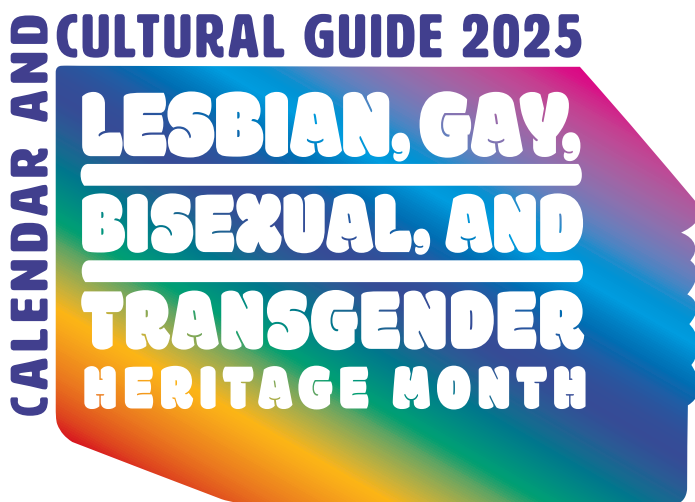
Drag culture has significantly influenced language, gender expression, art, fashion, and progressive artful culture around the world.

Photo Credits: page 122, **Rubén Esparza**, *Carman*, Photography, 2011; page 124 and 126, courtesy of Johnny Gentleman, page 125, courtesy of Roxy Wood; and page 127, courtesy of Pickle the Drag Queen.



Pickle is a live-singing, drag queen host, entertainer, and storyteller. She has focused on blending education initiatives into her drag work and runs the LA chapter of Drag Story Hour. She has partnered with many organizations, including the Academy Museum, the Aquarium of the Pacific, the City of West Hollywood, the Independent Shakespeare Company, LA County Library, LA Public Library, LACMA, the Music Center, Tinder, and many more, to present unique and dynamic drag programming. Pickle is dedicated to expanding drag as a medium both for herself and for the community as a whole.





LITERARY ARTISTS

POETRY

The Department of Cultural Affairs is pleased to present the works of several fine writers in the *2025 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Heritage Month Calendar and Cultural Guide*. The writers are: **Joré Aaron**, **Dove Ayinde**, **Steve Gallindo**, **Adam Jaye Mickey Porter**, **Lee Pulley**, **Sydney Rogers** (aka Miss Barbie-Q), **Bobby Smith**, **e talley ii**, **C. Jerome Woods**, and.

Compilation curated by Erin Aguilar

LITERARY ARTISTS

I DRESS IN ECHOES

By Sydney Rogers (aka Miss Barbie-Q)

I dress in echoes.
Not in fabric, but in memories stitched from 1992 to now.
Each lash line I draw carries the weight of every stage I
stood on
and every bathroom I was told I didn't belong in.
I dress in the drag of survival-
of staying fabulous even when the world tried to snatch
my joy.

I dress in the shimmer of girls like me who didn't make it.
In the faded glitter of Mustache Mondays,
in the basslines of ballrooms,
in the whispers of Black Trans femmes who taught me
how to walk
and told me to never apologize for my presence.
I'm not dressing up.
I'm dressing down centuries of erasure,
buttoning up trauma with resilience,
lacing heels tighter than a broken system.
My wig isn't just hair.
It's protest. It's praise.
It's my mother's softness and my own hard-won strength.
It's a crown built from backrooms and dressing rooms,
where we traded safety tips like secrets
and zipped up our pain alongside rhinestones.

I am not a phase.
I am not a footnote.
I am the whole damn chapter they tried to skip. '

And now-
as an elder, a lover, a leader, a survivor-
I teach the children not just how to beat a face,
but how to walk into the room like it owes you rent.
I dress in echoes.
And in doing so,
I remind the world that we were always here- loud,
brilliant, unbreakable.
And we're not going anywhere.
I remind the world that we were always here- loud,
brilliant, unbreakable.
And we're not going anywhere.

LITERARY ARTISTS

ONE BRICK AT A TIME

By **Steve Galindo**

Trans Resistance = Queer Resistance

From the time the first brick was thrown

You can't sit with us!

Brick

Now the brick is being thrown back at us

By an administration that doesn't care for us

Can we care for each other

Brick

Trans rights equal human rights

Trans right equal queer rights

Gay Lesbian Non Binary Asexual Pansexual

Brick

Pronouns gone too far they say

It's a matter of learning to respect one another

It's too much they say

Will we be too much for one another?

Or will we unite for battle of our lifetime

Brick

For our sovereignty, agency and rights

Brick

For our trans siblings

Brick

We are next !

Brick

The battle is here

Brick

Trans Rights = Queer Rights

Will you fight for Human rights?

Brick

LITERARY ARTISTS

THE POWER OF US

By C. Jerome Woods

We must tell ourselves
Must tell all nations
Document, teach, and model
LGBT+ his and her-story.

Recognize it.
Respect it.
Nurture it.

Queerness
In Real Time
Is
The power of us!

DIRT & BRICKS

By Dove Ayinde

Picking at the dirt instead of
digging out the bricks
Because you still remain
devoured by resistance
I see here and now, and feel beyond
That I'll only taste your
kindness from a distance.

LITERARY ARTISTS

“SUN RIDDLE”

By Adam Jaye Mickey Porter

Run scared of your own desire,
a heat our ancestors never knew,
warms your face from hot concrete,
to burn less and praise the rain,

#120

By Joré Aaron

My dear friend lights my cigarette
And half-jokingly tells me how bad they are

I don't respond with more than a chuckle
But sometimes want to counter with tobacco being a
useful herb in hoodoo

And a former spirit sister once taught me the ritual of
Sipping coffee in the morning
And unpacking the affairs of the world
through wefts of smoke

My former lover always hated the smell
But I hated how they made me feel sometimes
So maybe it was an act of defiance, too.

Is ritual not defiance?

An act of defying the chaos
we are all subjected to?

Is there not power
In carving out stability Consistency
And grounding

In a world that attempts
To make you believe it impossible
Too complicated
And inaccessible?

Isn't it truly rebellious
To give yourself some care?

LITERARY ARTISTS

IN THE LIFE

by e talley ii

his hand holding mine
with feminine tenderness
lulls our love to sleep

my bristling beard
tickles his gentle goatee
with each morning kiss

wrapped in deep delight
his jewels safe within me
fuels our suns rising

a soothing caress
a squeeze of his chiseled chest
wakes my morning gloire

at day-to-night shift
when horizons glisten gold
we embrace with grace

HORIZON... AT THE BAR

By Bobby Smith

I looked in the mirror and I saw my face-
Vacant and empty like the place,
full of faces like my own
Afraid again to spend the night alone.
“This won’t be the same”, I said when I walked in.
“I recognize a few and there’s even one or two
that I still call friend”.
But that empty-time...it came and went.
The clock would not be stalled.
So with elbow and my ego bent,
I tacked my passion on the wall.
Bobby Smith [Robert G. Smith] 5-13-77
The Horizon was a black gay bar on Washington
Boulevard in South Los Angeles that celebrated
its heyday in the 1970s.

LITERARY ARTISTS

AFTER AIDS

By Bobby Smith

behind the sunshine
and
underneath the moon
all through my spirit
I hear you in every tune
Some of us are captured already,
some in swaddling clothes-
Night sweats
and no nights in sweet repose But me-
I'm in the middle
Somewhere in between the magic and the miseries
of loving, losing you
missing you
and all the memories

SELF-LOVE

By Lee Pulley

I am
I am
I am
Even when I can't see me

I am
I am
I am
Even when I can't hear me

I am
I am
I am
Even when you tell me I am not

I encourage myself
I uplift myself
I embrace myself

Your shadow can't follow me
Your cloak I won't wear
Your rejection doesn't stain me

I encourage myself
I uplift myself
I embrace myself

I am
I am
I am
Self-Love

LITERARY ARTISTS

THE PEAK OF BRILLIANCE

By e talley ii

being gay in kindergarten was the best	i never called it love
there was no problem holding jacob's hand all day	i didn't think about what it was between us
every day	it just was
he gave the best hugs too	and it comforted me
at lunch he'd share his French fries with me	made me laugh
i'd let him sip my milk	eased my fears
during recess i could always count on him	gave me joy
to help me up the steep ladder	caused me to smile
so that we could slide down the slide	without me even knowing it
together	what a Divine time it was
if he ever fell	so why is it wrong now?
i would kiss his boo boo	
if i ever cried	
he would wipe away my tears	



Dakota Noot, *Think of the children*, Crayon and color pencil drawings on paper, photo, Variable, 2025



**LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER
HERITAGE MONTH** CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE 2025

**ABOUT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles’s vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA’s residents and visitors, and ensure LA’s varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA’s mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grantmaking, public art, community arts, performing arts, and strategic marketing, development, and design. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please visit culture.lacity.gov or follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/culturela, Instagram [@culture_la](https://instagram.com/culture_la), YouTube [@culturela](https://youtube.com/culturela), and X/Twitter [@culture_la](https://twitter.com/culture_la).

Presented by:



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Adam Jaye Mickey Porter, *Dither Chartreuse*, Gouache paint, pen, marker on paper, 18" x 14", 2024

DCA FACILITIES (36 TOTAL)

- DCA manages and programs 24 Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers including: 9 Arts and Cultural Centers, 6 Performing Arts Theaters, 2 Historic Sites, and 7 Galleries.
- DCA oversees an additional 9 Public/Private Partnership Arts Facilities.
- DCA also manages 4 Prop K Facilities in Development.



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Rubén Esparza, *Love Savage Ranch*, Digital photography, 2015

DCA NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTERS

DCA’s neighborhood facilities offer high-quality instruction for young people and adults in the performing, visual, and new media arts. The Arts and Cultural Centers offer after-school and summer arts programs, produce solo and group art exhibitions, create outreach programs for under-served populations, and produce a variety of festivals during the year that celebrate the cultural diversity of the community.

DCA MANAGED ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTERS (9)

**Barnsdall Arts Center and
Barnsdall Junior Arts Center
Barnsdall Park**

4800 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90027
323.644.6295 Barnsdall Arts Center
323.644.6275 Barnsdall Junior Arts Center

Canoga Park Youth Arts Center

7222 Remmet Avenue
Canoga Park, CA 91303
818.346.7099

Lincoln Heights Youth Arts Center

2911 Altura Street
Los Angeles, CA 90031
323.224.0928

**Sun Valley Youth Arts Center
(The Stone House)**

8642 Sunland Boulevard
Sun Valley, CA 91352
818.252.4619

**Watts Towers Arts Center and
Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center**

1727 East 107th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90002
213.847.4646 Watts Towers Arts Center
323.566.1410 Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center

William Grant Still Arts Center

2520 South West View Street
Los Angeles, CA 90016
323.734.1165

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Jade Ali, *Angels of Change*, Mixed Media, Photography, 2025

DCA MANAGED PERFORMING ARTS THEATERS (6)

Through its professional theater facilities, DCA serves the performing and media arts community by offering below-market theater rentals. In turn, the arts community presents year-round dance, music, theater, literary, and multi-disciplinary performances; supports the development of emerging and established Los Angeles-based performing and media artists; and offers workshops for playwrights and writers of all ages.

Barnsdall Gallery Theatre
Barnsdall Park
4800 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90027
323.644.6272

Lankershim Arts Center
5108 Lankershim Boulevard
North Hollywood, CA 91602
818.752.7568

Madrid Theatre
21622 Sherman Way
Canoga Park, CA 91303
818.347.9938

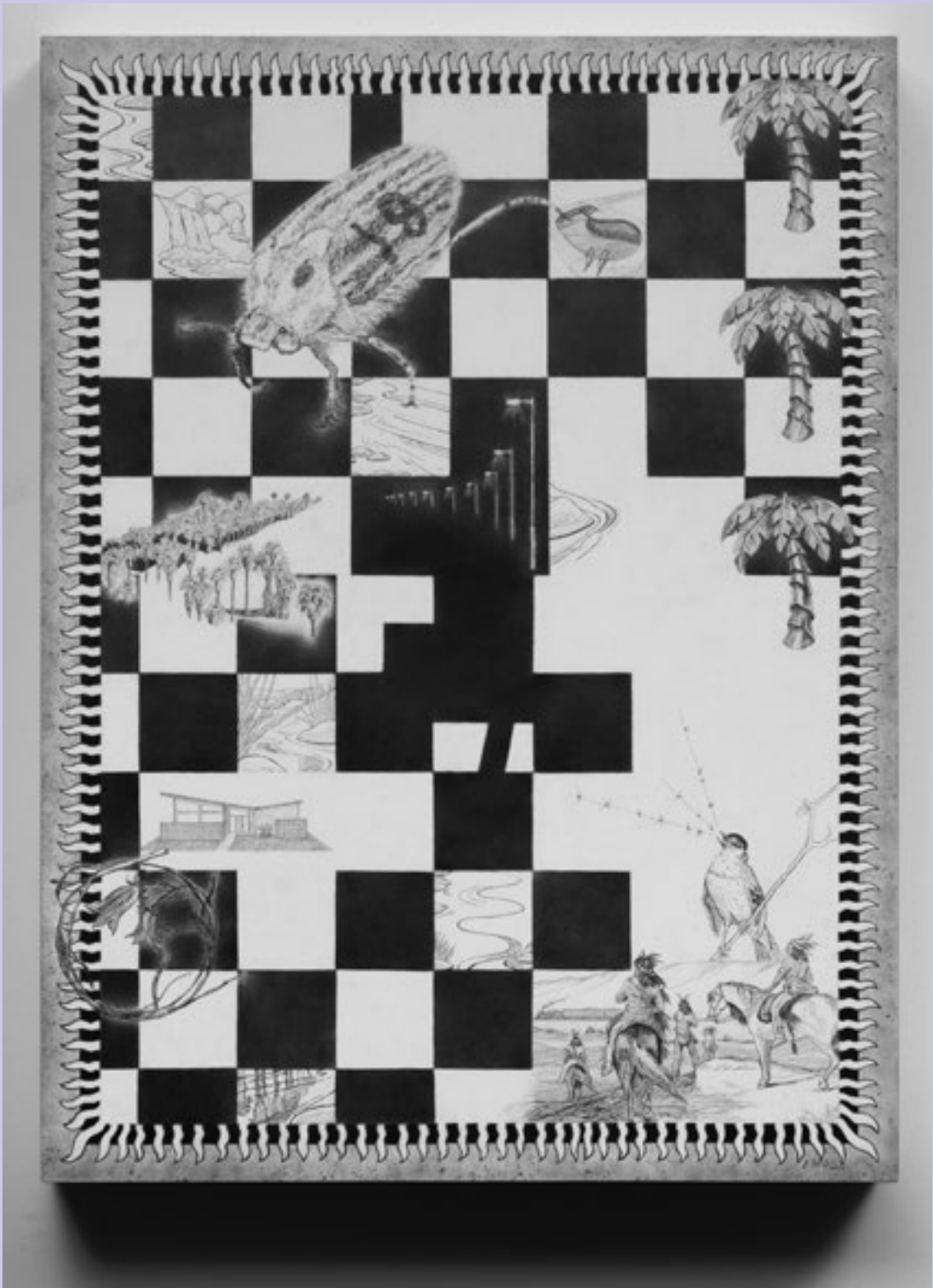
Taxco Theatre
7242 Owensmouth Avenue
Canoga Park, CA 91303
818.347.9938

Vision Theatre
3341 West 43rd Place
Los Angeles, CA 90008
213.202.5508

Warner Grand Theatre
478 West 6th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731
310.548.7672



Rubén Esparza, *Autoretrato Con Rosas y Perlas*, Fabric flag, 40" x 25", 2025



Jennifer Celio, *Species in Danger: Casey's June beetle: Manifest Destiny*, Graphite on wood panel, 16" x 12", 2024

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Lenny Gerard, *Boundless Between*, Polaroid Film Self-Portrait Photograph
(Archival Enlargement Print), 30" x 30", 2012

DCA MANAGED HISTORIC SITES (2)

DCA provides conservation services and educational programming and tours for two of LA's most treasured historic sites, Hollyhock House and the Watts Towers. Conservation efforts are coordinated through DCA's Historic Site Preservation Office. DCA's Museum Education and Tours Program coordinates tours and interpretive programs for both young people and adults.

Hollyhock House is Frank Lloyd Wright's first Los Angeles project. Built between 1919 and 1921, it represents his earliest efforts to develop a regionally appropriate style of architecture for Southern California. Barnsdall Park, including the iconic Hollyhock House, was awarded landmark status in 2007 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As the nation's highest historic landmark designation, the site has been formally recognized for its role in interpreting the heritage and history of the United States. Hollyhock House was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2019.

Hollyhock House
Barnsdall Park
4800 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 9002
323.913.4031

The **Watts Towers**, built over 34 years by Simon Rodia, are a Los Angeles icon. Built from found objects, including broken glass, sea shells, pottery, and tile, the Towers stand as a monument to the human spirit and the persistence of a singular vision. The Watts Towers, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are a National Historic Landmark, a State of California Historic Park, and Historic-Cultural Monument No. 15 as previously designated by the City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission.

Watts Towers
1765 East 107th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90002
213.847.4646



Edmund Liang, *Limp Wrist*, Digital Painting, 8" x 10", 2022

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DCA MANAGED GALLERIES (7)

DCA's Galleries serve to promote the visual arts and artists of the culturally diverse Los Angeles region.

The **Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG)** at Barnsdall Park is the City's primary exhibition venue and is devoted to showcasing the work of local emerging, mid-career, and established artists in group and individual presentation formats.

Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG)
Barnsdall Park
4800 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90027
323.644.6269

The **Barnsdall Junior Arts Center Gallery** supports smaller exhibitions, many displaying works created in classes at Barnsdall Park.

Barnsdall Junior Arts Center Gallery
Barnsdall Park
4800 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90027
323.644.6275

DCA's **Henry P. Rio Bridge Gallery at City Hall** showcases the work of young people, adults, and seniors enrolled in City art programs, as well as themed exhibitions celebrating the City's Heritage Month Celebrations.

DCA's Henry P. Rio Bridge Gallery at City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The galleries at the **Watts Towers Campus** include:

Noah Purifoy Gallery
Charles Mingus Gallery
Dr. Joseph and Bootsie Howard Gallery
1727 East 107th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90002
213.847.4646

Engaging exhibitions can also be viewed at DCA's gallery at the **William Grant Still Arts Center**:

William Grant Still Arts Center Gallery
2520 South West View Street
Los Angeles, CA 90016
323.734.1165



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Vojislav Radovanovic, *In the Moonlight*, Mixed media on assembled canvases, 72" x 60", 2025

DCA PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ARTS FACILITIES

ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTERS (5)

Art in the Park

5568 Via Marisol
Los Angeles, CA 90042
323.259.0861

**Eagle Rock Community Cultural Center /
Center for the Arts Eagle Rock**

2225 Colorado Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90041
323.561.3044

**Encino Arts and Cultural Center
(Previously the Center for Folk Music)**

16953 Ventura Boulevard
Encino, CA 91316

McGroarty Arts Center

7570 McGroarty Terrace
Tujunga, CA 91042
818.352.5285

William Reagh - LA Photography Center

2332 West Fourth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90057
213.382.8133

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Mike Salazar, *My Break Room*, Digital Photography, 11.375" x 11.75", 2019

DCA PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ARTS FACILITIES

PERFORMING ARTS THEATERS (2)

**Los Angeles Theatre Center /
The NEW LATC**
514 South Spring Street, 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90013
213.489.0994

Nate Holden Performing Arts Center
4718 West Washington Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90016
323.964.9768



Clarke Stone Massei, *Trans Day of Visibility Ball*, Digital photography, 8" x 12", 2025

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Shareef Jamal, *She Is*, Digital photography, 8" x 12", 2021

DCA PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ARTS FACILITIES:

DCA PROP K FACILITIES IN DEVELOPMENT (4)

Downtown Youth Arts Center
(Fire Station # 23)
225 East 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Highland Park Youth Arts Center
111 North Bridewell Street
Los Angeles, CA 90042

Manchester Youth Arts Center
5730 South Crenshaw Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90043

Oakwood Junior Youth Arts Center
(Vera Davis McLendon Youth Arts Center)
610 California Avenue
Venice, CA 90291

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OR CONTACT:



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Michael Moore, *Raven The Red Goddess*, Digital photography, 20" x 50", 2020



LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER HERITAGE MONTH

CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE 2025



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

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The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs gives special thanks to our calendar artists for generously allowing us to showcase their work in this publication.

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NATHANSCHEUNG.COM

Eudell Cunningham
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EUELLE_CUNNINGHAM](https://www.instagram.com/eudell_cunningham)

Austyn de Lugo-Liston
[INSTAGRAM.COM/AUSTYNLISTON](https://www.instagram.com/austynliston)

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LENNYGERARD.COM

Annie Hong
HOOTNANNIEART.COM

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RINALDOHOPF.COM

Shareef Jamal
[INSTAGRAM.COM/SHOTBYREEF](https://www.instagram.com/shotbyreef)

Edmund Liang
EDMUNDLIANG.COM

Matt Lifson
MATTLIFSON.COM

Clarke Stone Massei
CLARKESTONE.NET

M.M.I.X.
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ED.DE.LA.TORRE@YAHOO.COM

Leon Mostovoy
LEONMOSTOVOY.NET

Dakota Noot
DAKOTANOOT.COM

Monica Orozco
DEMONICAPHOTO.COM

Kelly Perez
KELLYANIMATION.COM

At left: **Jordan Service**, *Pickle at Natural History Museum*, Digital Photography, Drag, 22.93" x 34.4", 2025

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER
HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE 2025

CALENDAR ARTISTS

Pickle the Drag Queen
PICKLEDRAQUEEN.COM

Philip Pirolo
PHILIPPIROLO.COM

Adam Jaye Mickey Porter
ADAMJAYEPORTER.COM

Lee Pulley
LEEPULLEY@GMAIL.COM

Vojislav Radovanovic
VOJISLAVRADOVANOVIC.COM

Sydney Rogers (aka Ms. Barbie Q)
MISSBARBIEQ.COM

Mike D. Salazar
MIKEDSALAZAR@GMAIL.COM

Harpreet Kaur Sandhu
HARPREETKAURSANDHU.COM/WORK

Jordan Service
JORDANSERVICEPHOTOGRAPHY.SQUARE.SITE

Bobby Smith
CLYDESENTRA@GMAIL.COM

David Stine
DAVIDJSTINE.COM

e. talley ii
INSTAGRAM.COM/ETALLEYTWO

Imani Tolliver
IMANITOLLIVER.COM

Harmony Azul Vasquez
HARMONYAZULART.COM

Roxy Wood
ROXYSGOTBALLS.COM

C. Jerome Woods
CHASTE.WOODS@GMAIL.COM

Courtesy of
The Huntington
HUNTINGTON.ORG

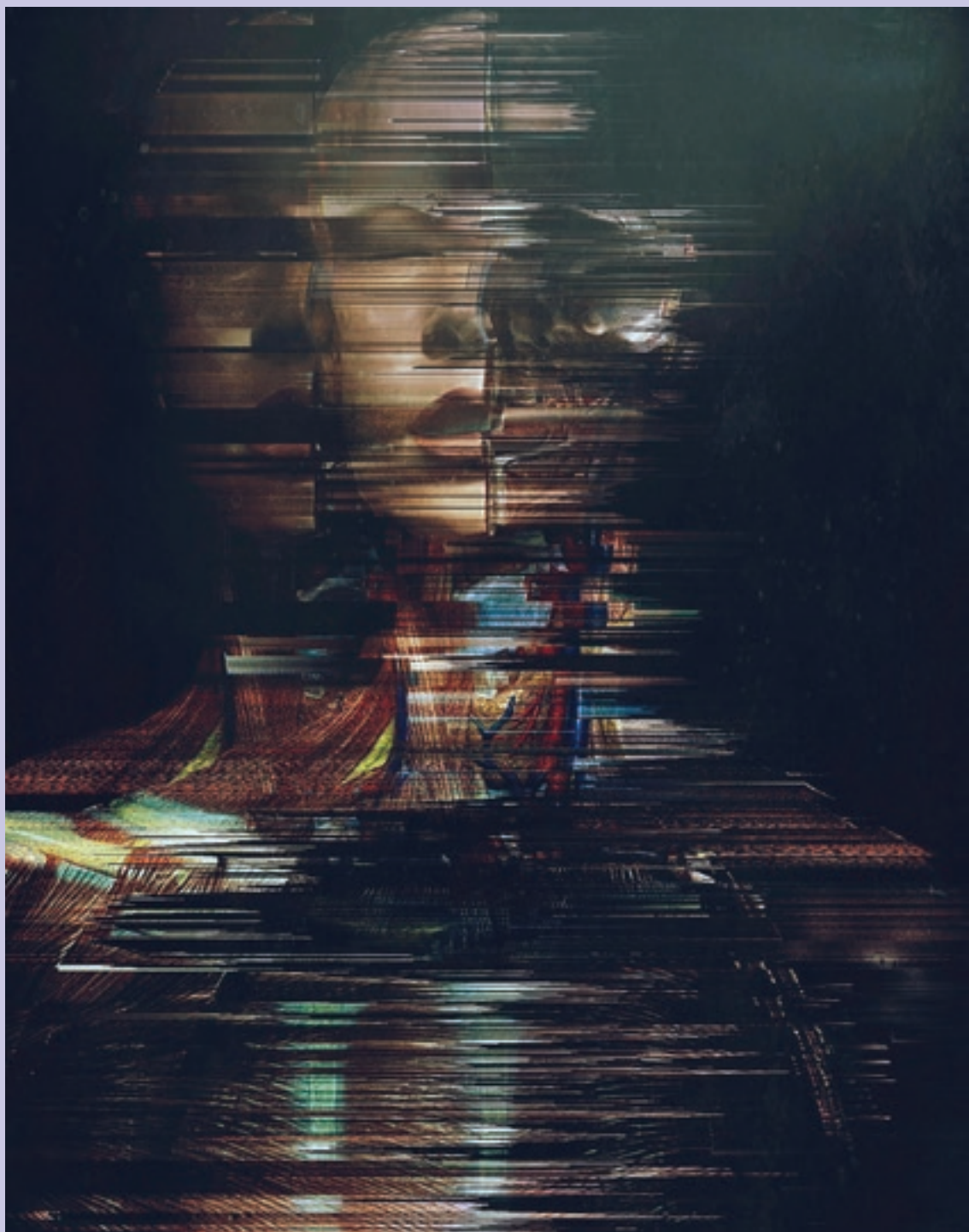
Don Bachardy

Courtesy of
Israeli Art in Los Angeles
ISRAELIARTLOSANGELES.COM

Dror Yisrael Hemed

Courtesy of
The Estate of Michael Moore
ADONEDEAL8@GMAIL.COM
FACEBOOK.COM/MICHAELRMOORE.STUDIOS

Michael Moore



M.M.I.X., *Blood Runs Hot*, Digitally manipulated photography, 11" x 14", 2023

COVER ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



AMINA AMXN

Art.Is.Try.

I’m an artist. I can paint.

Amina AmXn
Quote from *My Kindergarten Graduation Speech*

My name is Dr. Amina Humphrey aka Amina AmXn. I am an artist, Black feminist, teacher, Critical Race Theory scholar, Pan Africanist, BIPOC book activist, agrarian, and ethnographic researcher.

I am a Ford Fellow, Fulbright recipient, and UCLA alumna. And I am the founder of the *BLACK! Critical Media Literacy Conference: Awareness! Action! Advocacy! in the African Diaspora*. And in 2023, I organized and presented *What’s Going On?: Voices from the African Diaspora* at the United Nations’ UNESCO Conference.

As Amina AmXn, the self-taught artist, I am a writer, quilter, painter, and photographer from a small farm in Oak Grove, Arkansas. I make political and thought-provoking social justice art, informed by the context of observations of life in the African Diaspora, ethnographic research, and teaching. My art reflects empowerment as I acknowledge the underrepresented and misrepresented.

My social justice art activism continues on the continent of Africa as I build micro-libraries, play, and art centers in Mombasa, Kenya for children, and currently, for women who have been trafficked and their children with Ms. Tanaka Muparadzi, founder of the Trafficking in Persons Advocacy Network trust (TPANT) in Harare, Zimbabwe. I will continue to open other micro-libraries, play, and centers in Africa.



Mary Cheung, *Anew*, Digital photography art, 16" x 24", 2020



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