



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 22, 2011

**ONE NATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN ARCHIVES PRESENTS A
MAJOR THREE-PART EXHIBITION OF ITS POSTWAR ART COLLECTION
AS PART OF PACIFIC STANDARD TIME**



CRUISING the **ARCHIVE:** Queer Art and Culture in Los Angeles, 1945-1980

Wink Wink, ONE Archives Gallery & Museum, West Hollywood, Oct. 1, 2011 – Apr. 1, 2012

Rare Looks, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, West Adams, Oct. 1, 2011 – May 31, 2012

Queer Worldmaking, Doheny Memorial Library, USC, Jan. 11, 2012 – May 31, 2012

Los Angeles — ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives presents an exhibition of artworks and archival items from its unique collections that illuminate the vital role Los Angeles has played in LGBTQ history. *Cruising the Archive* will open October 1, 2011 at ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives in West Adams and at ONE Archives Gallery & Museum in West Hollywood; and January 11, 2012 at the Doheny Memorial Library at the University of Southern California (USC). This exhibition will highlight the work of visionary artists and community organizers who helped lay the groundwork for gay liberation and subsequent queer activism in Los Angeles and beyond.

“Los Angeles has an incredibly rich history of queer community building dating back to the 1940s and even earlier,” said co-curator of *Cruising the Archive* David Frantz. “We really wanted to pay tribute to these artists and activists, many of whom have received little or no attention for their tremendous work.”

Cruising the Archive explores the divergent, ambiguous, and sometimes humorous ways in which queer artists and activists have contributed to the aesthetic and political field of cultural production. Focused primarily on the period between 1945 and 1980, *Cruising the Archive* highlights the rich history of queer activism and community building in Los Angeles sometimes forgotten in the wake of New York’s Stonewall rebellion and the rise of AIDS activism in the 1980s and 1990s. Los Angeles was home to a vibrant and politically active queer culture in the post-World War II era, giving birth to our country’s first gay publications, *Vice Versa* (1947-48) and *ONE Magazine* (1952-1967). As the

oldest and largest repository for LGBTQ materials in the United States, ONE Archives is uniquely positioned to contextualize this period in history.

Culled entirely from the collections at ONE Archives, the exhibition includes artworks by both well-known and unknown or amateur artists. Each exhibition space showcases different but overlapping thematic threads within queer culture and activism in Los Angeles. *Wink Wink* presents artworks that convey a particular emphasis on social scenes, queer humor, playfulness, and abstraction. Artists in *Wink Wink* include Steven Arnold, Don Bachardy, Mitch Berman, B. Bow, Sidney Bronstein, Claire Falkenstein, Anthony Friedkin, Sister Corita Kent, Robert Legorreta (Cyclona), McAlister, Kate Millett, Robert Opel, Phranc, John Quitman, Don Sorenson, Anne Stockwell, Patssi Valdez, and others.

Rare Looks presents artworks alongside archival materials, emulating the archive as a site for engaging with historical materials. Artists in *Rare Looks* include Veray Bizelle, Sidney Bronstein, Rudi Gernreich, Sister Corita Kent, Robert Legorreta (Cyclona), Mundo Meza, Kate Millett, John Quitman, Lisa Moschini, Alva Rogers, and others.

Queer Worldmaking presents a range of documents, photographs and ephemera from the collections at ONE Archives. This show includes some artworks, such as a drawing by activist Ivy Bottini, but will primarily present objects suitable for viewing in a library context. In many cases these archival materials are directly related to artworks exhibited in *Wink Wink* and *Rare Looks*. *Queer Worldmaking* will include queer publications from Los Angeles such as *Vice Versa*, *ONE Magazine*, *Transvestia*, and *The Lesbian Tide*, a silver lamé jacket worn by singer and club owner Beverly Shaw, photographs and materials related to FTM philanthropist Reed Erickson, performance ephemera from drag star Charles Pierce, an original mask by Radical Faerie mask-maker Kenneth Bartmess, and a pink leather motorcycle outfit worn by Lee Leonard in a Christopher Street West pride parade during the 1970s.

“One of the driving forces behind *Cruising the Archive* has been a desire to shed light on the extensive holdings at ONE Archives and to bring these historical materials into dialogue with contemporary artists and scholars,” said co-curator Mia Locks. “We hope this is the beginning of many other guest-curated and artist-initiated projects at ONE Archives.”

Cruising the Archive is accompanied by a full-color exhibition catalogue published by ONE Archives. The publication includes essays by **Ann Cvetkovich, Vaginal Davis, Jennifer Doyle, Judith “Jack” Halberstam, Catherine Lord, Richard Meyer, Ulrike Müller, and Dean Spade**. The publication will be available for purchase October 2011 at ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, select bookstores, and online at cruisingthearchive.org/catalogue.

ONE Archives presents a number of related programs in conjunction with *Cruising the Archive*, including two panel discussions with contemporary artists and scholars as well as a performance art event and a curatorial walkthrough of the exhibition. In addition, a newly commissioned site-specific project by Catherine Lord, *To Whom It May Concern* (2011), will be on view at ONE Archives in West Adams in the mezzanine space. This project, comprised of hundreds of photographs of the dedication pages in books, draws from the library at ONE Archives to create a collage-like installation that envelops the library stacks.

For more information, please visit the exhibition website: cruisingthearchive.org.

Cruising the Archive is organized by Guest Curators David Frantz and Mia Locks. Major support for *Cruising the Archive* is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and Kathleen Garfield and the Aldridge Families. Additional support is provided by the University of Southern California Libraries, and Jehan Agrama and Dwora Fried. Select public programming is made possible through a grant from Visions and Voices: The USC Arts & Humanities Initiative.

Exhibition Locations

Cruising the Archive: Wink Wink

October 1, 2012 – April 1, 2012

ONE Archives Gallery & Museum

626 North Robertson Boulevard

West Hollywood, CA 90069

Enter gallery on El Tovar Place. Parking is free for the first hour at a parking lot at the end of El Tovar Place.

Hours: Friday, 4:30 – 8:30pm; Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 – 5:00pm; Closed Monday – Thursday

Admission is free – suggested donation of \$5

Opening reception on Saturday, October 15, 2011, 5-8pm.

Cruising the Archive: Rare Looks

October 1, 2012 – May 31, 2012

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives

909 West Adams Boulevard

Los Angeles, CA 90007

Parking is free. Enter parking lot off of Scarff Street.

Hours: Tuesday & Friday, 1:30 – 5:30pm; Wednesday & Thursday 3:30 – 9:00pm; Saturday, 11:00am - 5:00pm;

Closed Sunday & Monday

Admission is free – suggested donation of \$5

Opening reception for *Rare Looks* and *To Whom It May Concern*, a site-specific project by Catherine Lord, on Saturday, October 22, 2011, 5-8pm.

Cruising the Archive: Queer Worldmaking

January 11 – May 31, 2012

Doheny Memorial Library, Treasure Room

University of Southern California (University Park Campus)

3550 Trousdale Parkway

Los Angeles, CA 90089-0185

Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:00am – 10:00pm; Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm; Saturday, 9:00pm – 5:00pm; Sunday, 12:00pm – 8:00pm

Admission is free

Opening reception on Tuesday, January 24, 2011, 5-7pm.

Reception presented by USC Libraries

Public Programs

Curators' presentation and exhibition walkthrough

Sunday, October 16, 2011, 2:00 – 4:00pm

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives

909 West Adams Boulevard

Los Angeles, CA 90007

Join Guest Curators David Frantz and Mia Locks for a discussion about the exhibition followed by a walkthrough of *Cruising the Archive: Rare Looks*.

Presented as part of ONE Archives' monthly Culture Series.

Queer Aesthetics and Archival Practices

Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 7:00 – 9:00pm
Doheny Memorial Library, Friends Lecture Hall, Room 240
University of Southern California (University Park Campus)
3550 Trousdale Parkway
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0185

Panel discussion with artists and scholars about “the archive” and its relationship to contemporary art today. Moderated by curator and performer **Malik Gaines**, the panel features **Ann Cvetkovich**, Professor of English and Women’s and Gender Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, **Catherine Lord**, Professor of Studio Art at UC Irvine, and **Ulrike Müller**, artist and co-editor of the queer feminist art journal *LTTR*.

Presented by Visions and Voices: The USC Arts & Humanities Initiative. Co-sponsored by USC Libraries. Please join us before the panel for a reception at the Doheny Memorial Library Treasure Room from 5:00 – 7:00pm.

Transactivation: Revealing Queer Histories in the Archive

Thursday, March 1, 2012, 6:00 – 9:00pm
ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives
909 West Adams Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90007

Artists **Heather Cassils**, **Zackary Drucker**, **Wu Tsang** and **Chris Vargas** will present a series of live performances and video projects inspired by the collections at ONE Archives. These artists explore trans content in their multidisciplinary work and are interested in a discussion about LGBTQ archives and the “Ts” and “Qs” often missing from historical records. The performance will be followed by a discussion moderated by Dean Spade, assistant professor at the Seattle University School of Law.

Presented by Visions and Voices: The USC Arts & Humanities Initiative. Organized by **Onya Hogan-Finlay** and co-sponsored by LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions).

ONEoff: Don Bachardy in conversation with Susan Morgan

Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 7:00 – 9:00pm
Doheny Memorial Library, Friends Lecture Hall, Room 240
University of Southern California (University Park Campus)
3550 Trousdale Parkway
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0185

A conversation with celebrated portrait artist **Don Bachardy** moderated by writer **Susan Morgan**.

About ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives is the oldest active LGBTQ organization in the United States and the largest repository of LGBTQ materials in the world. Founded in 1952, ONE Archives currently houses more than two million archival items including periodicals, books, films, video and audio recordings, photographs, artworks, organizational records and personal papers.

For more information, please visit: onearchives.org.

About Pacific Standard Time

Cruising the Archive is part of Pacific Standard Time. This unprecedented collaboration, initiated by the Getty, brings together more than sixty cultural institutions from across Southern California to tell the story of the birth of the L.A. art scene.



PACIFIC STANDARD TIME:
ART IN L.A. 1945-1980

Presenting Sponsors



The Getty

Bank of America

For more information, please visit pacificstandardtime.org.

#

MEDIA CONTACT

Bud Thomas
213.741.0094
bthomas@onearchives.org

ABOVE (left to right): Sidney Bronstein, *Unknown (Sailor with Schlitz)*, 1952. Oil on canvas, 12 x 9 inches. Collection of ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives; Sister Corita Kent, *E eye love*, 1968. Serigraph, 18 x 24 inches. Collection of ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, courtesy of the Corita Art Center, Immaculate Heart Community, Los Angeles; Patssi Valdez, *Cyclona*, 1982. Hand-painted photograph, 13 x 7 3/4 inches. Cyclona Collection, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, courtesy of the artist; Steven Arnold, *The Advantages of Modern Marriage*, c. 1980s. Gelatin silver print, 8 x 7 3/4 inches. Collection of ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, courtesy of the Steven Arnold Archives