



MEDIA CONTACT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ONE NATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN ARCHIVES PRESENTS A RETROSPECTIVE
EXHIBITION OF NEVER BEFORE SEEN WORKS BY ACCLAIMED QUEER
PHOTOGRAPHER AND FILMMAKER STEVEN ARNOLD (1943-1994)**



STEVEN ARNOLD: Cabinet of Curiosities

October 27, 2012 – January 13, 2013

ONE Archives Gallery & Museum
626 North Robertson Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Reception: Saturday, October 27, 2012, 5-8pm

Film Screenings: Saturday, November 17, 2012, and Saturday, January 12, 2013

Los Angeles — October 19, 2012 — ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives presents *Steven Arnold: Cabinet of Curiosities*, a retrospective exhibition of this groundbreaking yet under-recognized queer artist at the ONE Archives Gallery & Museum in West Hollywood. The exhibition celebrates Arnold's radical imagination, presenting many of his *tableaux vivant* photographs alongside never before exhibited drawings, sketchbooks, paintings and original poster art. In conjunction with the exhibition, ONE will screen Arnold's four films, including *Luminous Procureess* (1970), which featured The Cockettes and was lauded by Salvador Dali.

Steven Arnold (1943-1994) is best known for his film work during the 1960s Francisco and early 70s in San Francisco and later for his visionary *tableaux vivant* photographs produced at Zanzibar, his Los Angeles studio, during the 1980s. Deeply influenced by Jungian archetypes, Eastern philosophy, and ancient ritual, Arnold understood visual production as a key to the spiritual and subconscious, depicting alternative worlds with dramatic style and sly humor across numerous mediums. Arnold spoke about his practice of drawing as a means of making his dreams visible and compared his photography to religious meditation.

Steven Arnold: Cabinet of Curiosities presents works from the entirety of Arnold's output as an artist, including his elaborate black and white photographs from the 1980s, many on view for the first time. The exhibition also features two accordion sketchbooks from 1967, which unfold to reveal a continuous dreamlike landscape, and a series of erotic drawings that join, contort and convolute ambitiously gendered bodies. Additionally, a number of surrealist portraits Arnold produced between 1973 and 74 will be on display, as well as original poster art used to promote films and psychedelic rock concerts in San Francisco during the late 1960s. By presenting Arnold's later photographs alongside earlier drawings and paintings, the exhibition strives to uncover aspects of the artist's visual language he explored throughout his lifetime. All works are on loan from the Steven Arnold Archive.

In conjunction with this exhibition, ONE will screen all four of Arnold's films as well as a special preview of an upcoming documentary about Arnold at the West Hollywood Library located next to the ONE Gallery. On Saturday, November 17, 2012 ONE will show two of Arnold's short films, *The Liberation of Mannique Mechanique* (1967) and *Various Incarnations of a Tibetan Seamstress* (1967), with his feature-length *Luminous Procureess* (1970), which starred Arnold's muse Pandora and featured the gender-bending San Francisco performance troupe The Cockettes. *Luminous Procureess* brought Arnold considerable attention as an avant-garde filmmaker, and so impressed Salvador Dali that he invited Arnold to Spain to assist in embellishing and inaugurating his Theatre-Museum Dali.

As a closing celebration for the exhibition on Saturday, January 12, 2013 ONE will screen Arnold and collaborator Michael Wiese's *Messages, Messages* (1968), for which they were invited to the Directors Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival. The screening will be followed by a special preview of the upcoming feature-length documentary *Steven Arnold's Heavenly Bodies* produced by artist and filmmaker Stephanie Farago, Creative Director of the Steven Arnold Archive. Many of Arnold's films have received renewed critical attention, being recently shown at the Tate Modern, London; the Museum of the Moving Image, New York; and the Centre Pompidou, Paris, among other recent venues. This screening series will be the first time all of Arnold's films have been shown in Los Angeles.

Arnold's work was recently included in ONE's Pacific Standard Time exhibition *Cruising the Archive: Queer Art and Culture in Los Angeles, 1945-1980*, a major, three-part showing of the archives' extensive collections. With this exhibition, ONE is pleased to work with the Steven Arnold Archive to present Arnold's work to the public with a greater depth and insight worthy of this visionary artist.

Steven Arnold: Cabinet of Curiosities will be on view at the ONE Archives Gallery & Museum from October 27, 2012 through January 13, 2013. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, October 27, from 5 to 8pm. See below for additional programs.

For more information on this exhibition, please visit onearchives.org/stevenarnold.

ONE Archives would like to thank the Steven Arnold Archive, especially Stephanie Farago and Blake Moffitt; the University of Southern California Libraries; and the City of West Hollywood. *Steven Arnold: Cabinet of Curiosities* is organized by David Frantz, Curator at ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, with assistance from the Steven Arnold Archive. Screenings in conjunction with this exhibition have been presented with support from the City of West Hollywood. Generous support for exhibitions and programming during ONE's 60th Anniversary is provided by Wells Fargo.



Exhibition Programs

Opening Reception

Saturday, October 27, 2012, 5-8pm

ONE Archives Gallery & Museum
626 North Robertson Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069

Film Screening

Saturday, November 17, 2012, 6-8pm

The Liberation of Mannique Mechanique (1967), *Various Incarnations of a Tibetan Seamstress* (1967), and *Luminous Procuress* (1970)

West Hollywood Library Community Room
625 North San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069
Screening presented with support from the City of West Hollywood.

Film Screening and Closing Reception

Saturday, January 13, 2013, 5-9pm

Messages, Messages (1968) and a special preview of *Steven Arnold's Heavenly Bodies*, an upcoming documentary on Steven Arnold, followed by a Q&A

West Hollywood Library Community Room
625 North San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069
Screening presented with support from the City of West Hollywood.

Exhibition Location

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 before 6pm at a parking garage located at the end of El Tovar Place.

ONE Archives: (213) 741-0094

ONE Gallery: (323) 546-9299

Email: askone@onearchives.org

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

Admission is free – suggested donation of \$5

About the Artist

Steven Arnold (1943-1994) was a California-based artist, photographer, filmmaker and protégé of Salvador Dalí. Arnold held a Master's degree in photography from the San Francisco Art Institute. He authored three photographic collections during his lifetime, *Reliquaries* (1983), *Epiphanies* (1989) and *Angels of Night* (1990). A fourth collection, *Exotic Tableaux* (1996), was published posthumously. Arnold's work is included in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art and ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and the Cincinnati Art Museum, among others. Most recently, Arnold's photography was included in ONE Archives' Pacific Standard Time exhibition *Cruising the Archive: Queer Art and Culture in Los Angeles, 1945-1980*. For more information on Steven Arnold, please visit the Steven Arnold Archive online at stevenarnoldarchive.com.

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 over two million archival items including periodicals, books, film, video and audio recordings, photographs, artworks, organizational records and personal papers. The collections at ONE Archives are a part of the University of Southern California Libraries.

For more information, please visit onearchives.org.

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Images: (Left) Steven Arnold, *Doppelganger*, c. 1980s. Silver gelatin print; (Right) Steven Arnold, *Sea of Transition*, c. 1980s. Silver gelatin print; Both courtesy of the Steven Arnold Archive