



CONTACT:

Tony Valenzuela (he/him), tvalenzuela@oneinstitute.org
Executive Director, One Institute

“HERB RITTS: ALLIES & ICONS” EXHIBITION OPENS NOVEMBER 14 AT THE ONE GALLERY

**Exhibit Features Iconic Photographs of Cultural Figures who
Transformed the Global Fight Against AIDS – Including Elizabeth
Taylor, Elton John, Magic Johnson, Madonna, Barbra Streisand,
Sharon Stone, Tina Turner, Keith Haring, and More**

**Exhibition Coincides with the Grand Opening of
STORIES: The AIDS Monument**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Los Angeles, CA (November 11, 2025) - One Institute, in partnership with the Herb Ritts Foundation and the Fahey/Klein Gallery, will present **Herb Ritts: Allies & Icons** at the ONE Gallery in West Hollywood, November 14-December 21. This intimate exhibition of Herb Ritts' photographs features striking black and white portraits of the cultural activists who stood at the forefront of AIDS activism, including Elizabeth Taylor, Elton John, Magic Johnson, Madonna, Barbra Streisand, Sharon Stone, Tina Turner, Keith Haring, and many others.

“Herb Ritts is the embodiment of artistry and activism. His groundbreaking talent revolutionized photography, and his extraordinary empathy and advocacy continues to impact HIV/AIDS research and awareness to this day through his foundation,” said Tony Valenzuela, Executive Director of One Institute. “The One Institute is proud to host this special curation of portraits from Ritts at the ONE Gallery. These photographs showcase the history and power of Ritts’ art, honoring the great allies of the LGBTQ+ community and inspiring visitors through his lifelong commitment to social justice.”

The exhibition coincides with the dedication of STORIES: The AIDS Monument, a collaboration between the City of West Hollywood and the Foundation for the AIDS Monument (FAM), which will take place Sunday, November 16 at 4:00 p.m. in West Hollywood Park. The Monument,

designed by artist Daniel Tobin, honors the lives lost, the survivors, and the communities and caregivers who fought tirelessly for dignity, treatment, and remembrance.

In the spirit of the AIDS Monument itself, the photographs on view “remember, celebrate, and educate” with portraits of those that confronted one of history’s greatest crises. Each subject used their voice, fame, and influence to fight stigma, support research, and bring compassion to a world gripped by fear.

Ritts himself lived with AIDS and was a steadfast supporter of amfAR, The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, Project Angel Food, APLA, and was a charter member for the Elton John AIDS Foundation. He used his platform to shift the narrative from silence to compassion, contributing books such as *Duo* and *Notorious* to raise significant funds for AIDS research and awareness.

The exhibit will be on view from November 14 through December 21, Thursday–Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The ONE Gallery is located at 626 N. Robertson Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90069, and is free to the public.

For more information about Herb Ritts: Allies & Icons exhibition at the ONE Gallery, visit <https://www.herbritts.com/#/events/herb-ritts-allies-icons-in-celebration-of-stories-the-aids-monument/>.

One Institute is a non-profit organization that relies on a variety of funding sources to sustain its core programming, including many members and supporters who contribute throughout the year. To join them and support important LGBTQ+ programming for current and future generations, make a gift today at oneinstitute.org/donate/.

About One Institute

Founded in 1952, One Institute (formerly ONE Archives Foundation) is the oldest active LGBTQ+ organization in the United States. One Institute produces one-of-a-kind exhibitions and public programs that elevate queer and trans history and embrace emerging stories. Through K-12 teacher trainings, lesson plans, and youth mentorship programs, One empowers the next generation of teachers and students bringing queer and trans history into classrooms and communities. Additionally, the Institute assists in promoting the materials within ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, which houses the largest collection of LGBTQ+ materials in the world.

The curatorial and educational choices made by One Institute are guided by our commitment to social equity and justice. We engage with the complexity of LGBTQ+ history and representation through highlighting the intersectional and authentic narratives of Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC), women, gender-nonconforming and transgender people, people of various abilities, youth, and elders across all socio-economic classes. Learn more at oneinstitute.org, and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram [@oneinstitutela](https://www.instagram.com/oneinstitutela).

Press Contact

One Institute, Tony Valenzuela, Executive Director, tvalenzuela@oneinstitute.org

SELECTED PRESS IMAGES

Elizabeth Taylor photographed by Herb Ritts



Elton John photographed by Herb Ritts



VIEW MORE IMAGES at <https://www.herbritts.com/#/search/allies+%20icons>