

GREY ART NYU GALLERY

For Immediate Release

Contact

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GREY ART GALLERY ANNOUNCES MAJOR EXHIBITION ART AFTER STONEWALL, 1969–1989

The first-ever exhibition to extensively survey art of the LGBTQ civil rights movement, presented by NYU’s Grey Art Gallery and the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, organized by the Columbus Museum of Art

On view April 24–July 20, 2019



Adam Rolston
I Am Out Therefore I Am, 1989
Crack and peel sticker, 3 1/2 x 3 1/2 in.
Courtesy the artist

Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprisings, ***Art after Stonewall, 1969–1989*** is a long-awaited and groundbreaking survey that features over 200 works of art and related visual materials exploring the impact of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) liberation movement on visual culture. Presented in two parts—at **New York University’s Grey Art Gallery** and the **Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art**—the exhibition features artworks by openly LGBTQ artists such as Vaginal Davis, Louise Fishman, Nan Goldin, Lyle Ashton Harris, Barbara Hammer, Holly Hughes, Greer Lankton, Robert Mapplethorpe, Catherine Opie, Joan Snyder, and Andy Warhol. On view at the Grey Art Gallery from **April 24 through July 20, 2019** and at the Leslie-Lohman Museum from **April 24 through July 21, 2019**, the exhibition is organized by the Columbus Museum of Art.

“*Art after Stonewall* resists systematic classifications or traditional notions of what is a work of art. Crucial queer cultural practices were created beyond the institutions of the art world,” observes curator Jonathan Weinberg. “Cutting across disciplines and hierarchies of media and taste, this exhibition mixes performance, photographs, painting, sculpture, film clips, video, and music with historic documents and images taken from magazines, newspapers, and television.”

The Stonewall Uprisings, in historian Martin Duberman’s words, “are now generally taken to mark the birth of the modern gay and lesbian political movement... As such, ‘Stonewall’ has become an empowering symbol of global proportions.” Much has been written on the impact of the LGBTQ movement on American society and yet, fifty years after Stonewall, key artists in that story and their works are little known. *Art after Stonewall* brings together an unprecedented

number of artists and activists in dialogue with LGBTQ issues. *Art after Stonewall* juxtaposes works—many of which elude categorization—and music with historical documents and images taken from magazines, newspapers, and television. In fact, the ambition and scope of the exhibition is so grand, it is presented across two New York venues, loosely divided chronologically. The presentation at the Leslie-Lohman Museum concentrates on work from the first decade after the events of Stonewall, and the Grey Art Gallery focuses on the second decade.

Grey Art Gallery Director Lynn Gumpert adds, “Considering the Grey is located in the heart of Greenwich Village, we are thrilled to be joining with Leslie-Lohman to celebrate the diverse group of artists and activists who intersected with and contributed to the modern LGBTQ movement. *Art after Stonewall* is a crucial contribution to our growing understanding of that watershed moment in civil rights.”

Art after Stonewall is organized in seven sections. The first, **Coming Out**, explores how post-Stonewall LGBTQ artists addressed the imperative to reject hiding their sexual identity. **Sexual Outlaws** extends the concept of visibility to works of art that radically challenge mainstream concepts of decorum and decency, considering artworks with blatant sexual content from a new vantage point. Inspired by Audre Lorde’s eponymous 1983 essay, **The Uses of the Erotic** examines how LGBTQ artists re-conceptualized both sex and the sensual. Consistent with Lorde’s view that women’s sense of the erotic is not defined by genital contact, artworks in this section convey a body-like physicality and sensuality. **Gender and Body** reveals how cross-dressing and gender-bending influenced art of the 1970s and 80s, and features works by artists who employed gender as performance as they negotiated a new world with more fluid identities and sexualities. **Things Are Queer** explores how the concept of queerness was developed as a way to resist categorizing people as straight or gay, female or male. If Stonewall represented liberation and the imperative to come out, new generations of LGBTQ artists were increasingly suspicious of categories. **AIDS and Activism** observes how an epidemic that was initially viewed as a disease of homosexuals affected the gay community, artistic communities, and the world in general. The works in the final section **We’re Here** celebrate how, by the end of the 1980s, LGBTQ people had permeated and influenced all aspects of everyday life: queerness could no longer be marginalized in American culture.

As Gonzalo Casals, Executive Director of the Leslie-Lohman Museum, notes, “We are very proud to present this important exhibition on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Inn riots. We believe that shows like *Art after Stonewall* play an important role in bringing visibility to our communities, expanding the understanding of the history of our city, and empowering newer generations of queer individuals to continue to fight for LGBTQ civil rights. Our collaboration with NYU’s Grey Art Gallery allows us to expand the reach of the exhibition’s message beyond our community, as LGBTQ history is New York history.”



Peter Hujar
Daniel Ware (Cockette), 1971
Gelatin silver print, 20 x 16 in.
© 1987 The Peter Hujar Archive LLC;
Courtesy Pace/MacGill Gallery, New York
and Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco

Exhibition Catalogue

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully-illustrated 300-page catalogue with essays by more than 20 established and emerging scholars and artists, including Anna Conlan, Andrew Durbin, Harmony Hammond, Richard Meyer, Alpesh Patel, Flavia Rando, Christopher Reed, Chris Vargas, and Margaret Rose Vendryes. The catalogue is published by Rizzoli Electa.

Sponsorship

The exhibition is curated by artist and art historian Jonathan Weinberg, currently a critic at the Yale School of Art, in concert with Tyler Cann, CMA's Head of Exhibitions and Pizzuti Curator of Contemporary Art, and Drew Sawyer, the Phillip Leonian and Edith Rosenbaum Leonian Curator of Photography at the Brooklyn Museum (formerly Associate Curator of Photography at CMA). The exhibition opens in New York City at the Grey Art Gallery, New York University (April 24–July 20, 2019) and the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art (April 24–July 21, 2019), before being presented at The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum in Miami, Florida (September 14, 2019–January 6, 2020), and the Columbus Museum of Art (February 14–May 17, 2020) in Columbus, Ohio. Major support for the exhibition is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the Keith Haring Foundation, Inc. Additional support has been provided by Jeff Chaddock & Mark Morrow; Envisage Wealth; Tom W. Davis; Equitas Health; Prizm; Lynn Greer & Stevie Walton & the Women's Collective; John & Michaela Havens and Parker Havens & Dean Panik, in honor of Barbara Havens; D. Scott Owens & Kevin Kowalski; Harlan Robins & Shawn Shear; Dickinson Wright PLLC; and John L. Wirchanski. Key sponsorship for the presentation at the Grey Art Gallery is provided by Deloitte. Generous funding is provided by the Charina Foundation and Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. Additional support is provided by Gregory C. Albanis and Richard Harrison; Agnes Gund; Robert E. Holmes; Stephen Figge and Ian Alteveer; the Abby Weed Grey Trust; and the Grey's Director's Circle, Inter/National Council, and Friends. Funding for the presentation at the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art has been received in part from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

About Grey Art Gallery

The Grey Art Gallery is New York University's fine arts museum, located on historic Washington Square Park in New York City's Greenwich Village. It offers the NYU community and the general public a dynamic roster of engaging and thought-provoking exhibitions, all of them enriched by public programs. With its emphasis on experimentation and interpretation, and its focus on studying art in its historical, cultural, and social contexts, the Grey serves as a museum-laboratory for the exploration of art's environments.

Exhibitions organized by the Grey have encompassed all the visual arts: painting, sculpture, drawing and printmaking, photography, architecture and decorative arts, video, film, and performance. In addition to producing its own exhibitions, which often travel to other venues in the United States and abroad, the Gallery hosts traveling shows that might otherwise not be seen in New York and produces scholarly publications that are distributed worldwide.

About Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art

The Leslie-Lohman Museum is the only dedicated art museum in the world to exhibit and preserve artwork that speaks about the LGBTQ experience. Our roots trace back to 1969 when Charles Leslie and Fritz Lohman held an exhibit of gay artists for the first time in their SoHo loft. Throughout the 1970s, they continued to collect and exhibit gay artists while supporting the

SoHo art community. During the AIDS pandemic of the 1980s, the collection continued to grow as they rescued the work of dying artists from families who, out of shame or ignorance, wanted to destroy it. This led to the formation of the Leslie-Lohman Gay Art Foundation in 1987. In recognition of its importance in the collection and preservation of LGBTQ history, the organization was accredited as a museum in 2016. With a collection of over 30,000 objects, the Museum hosts six major exhibitions annually, offers several public programs throughout the year, publishes an arts newsletter, and maintains a research library of over 3,000 volumes.

About Columbus Museum of Art

Columbus Museum of Art (CMA) creates great experiences with great art for everyone. The Greater Columbus Arts Council, Nationwide Foundation, Ohio Arts Council, and the Henry D. and Carol B. Clark; Paul-Henri Bourguignon and Erika Bourguignon Fund for Visual Arts; Vada Beetler Memorial; and Robert B. Hurst funds of The Columbus Foundation provide ongoing support.

General Information

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26 Wooster St, New York, NY 10013
Tel: 212/431-2609
E-mail: katherine@suttonpr.com, Website: www.leslielohman.org

Hours

Grey Art Gallery:
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 11 am–6 pm
OPEN LATE Wednesday: 11 am–8 pm
Saturday: 11 am–5 pm
Closed Sunday, Monday, and major holidays

Leslie-Lohman Museum:
Wednesday–Sunday: 12–6 pm
Thursday: 12–8 pm
Closed Monday, Tuesday, and major holidays

Admission

Grey Art Gallery:
Suggested donation: \$5; NYU students, faculty, and staff: free of charge

Leslie-Lohman Museum:
Suggested admission: \$10