



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Body Politics* Exhibition Explores Identity in an Age of LGBTQI+ Awareness**



Dates: Oct 5 – Nov 21

Opening Reception: Friday Oct, 12, 2018
• 7-9pm

Programs:

Wed, Oct 24, 7pm: LGBTQI+ Panel –
moderated by Joey Hernández, LA-
LGBT Center

Thu, Nov 8, 8pm: Professor
Broderick Fox, Occidental College –
Film & Discussion

TBD, invite only: Queer Pop- Up Café
– intimate round-table, moderated

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September 20, 2018 (Glendale, CA) – In alignment with National Coming Out Day and Transgender Awareness Month, Glendale’s Library, Arts and Culture Department will present *Body Politics*, a groundbreaking exhibition in its ReflectSpace Gallery and the PassageWay. The cutting-edge exhibit will feature contemporary visual art and archival selections that trace how the body, in its individual and collective forms, serves as a catalyst, canvas and symbol for political action and expression in LGBTQI+ communities. *Body Politics* is curated by Anahid Yahjian and Ara & Anahid Oshagan.

"Body Politics foregrounds the power and humanity of queer bodies in Glendale," said guest curator Anahid Yahjian, "at a time when marginalized voices around the world are finally being heard in the mainstream."

ReflectSpace is located at the Downtown Central Library, 222 E. Harvard, in Glendale. The exhibition runs from October 5 to November 21, 2018, with the opening reception slated for Friday, October 12 at 7pm, to honor National Coming Out Day.

About the Exhibition

The exhibition is framed by the painstakingly documented—and still ongoing—history of LGBTQI+ civil rights struggles and contemporary visual art by sixteen American and international artists of diverse backgrounds: Enrique Castrejon, Grey James, Nicole Kelly and Phoebe Unter (Bitchface), Devon Shimoyama, Annie Tritt and James Wentzy are the eight artists showing in the ReflectSpace Gallery. Also included is an artist who works with the queer community in Armenia but wishes to be anonymous to protect him/herself and family.

The PassageWay will showcase the history of LGBTQI+ civil rights activism compiled by the ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives at the USC Libraries, as well as limited edition contemporary serigraphs by queer Los Angeles artists contributed by Self Help Graphics. These artists are: Ruben Esparza, Antonio Ibanez y Carlos Bueno, Rigo Maldonado, Miguel Angel Reyes, Gabriel Garcia Roman, Shizu Saldamando, and Hector Silva.

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The selected works span painting, collage, multimedia, photography, serigraph and documentary film. According to ReflectSpace co-curator Ara Oshagan, "The exhibit constructs a narrative about the role queer bodies play in shaping personal and political attitudes and LGBTQI+ identity."

Supporting programs include a presentation by Professor Broderick Fox from Occidental College, who will offer a lecture, with clips, on queer and feminist performativity and autobiography in documentary, from 1968-present. This will be held in the Library Auditorium on November 8, beginning at 8pm. *For more information on Professor Fox, go to: <https://www.oxy.edu/faculty/broderick-fox>.*

An LGBTQI+ panel presentation will be held on Wednesday, Oct 24, at 7pm, and will be moderated by Joey Hernández of the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

In addition, a Queer Pop- Up Café will be hosted inside the ReflectSpace Gallery. This intimate round-table will offer an opportunity for queer community members to share their stories privately in a community setting. The event will be moderated and is invitation-only. * *Please contact aoshagan@glendaleca.gov for additional information.*

About ReflectSpace

ReflectSpace is an inclusive exhibition gallery designed to explore and reflect on major human atrocities, genocides and civil rights violations. Immersive in conception, ReflectSpace is a hybrid space that is both experiential and informative, employing art, technology and interactive media to reflect on the past and present of Glendale's communal fabric and interrogate current-day global human rights issues.

About Library, Arts & Culture

Glendale's Library, Arts & Culture Department began in 1907 and includes six neighborhood libraries as well as the Brand Library & Art Center, housed in the historic 1904 mansion of Glendale pioneer Leslie C. Brand, and the Downtown Central Library, a 93,000 square foot center for studying, learning and gathering. For more information call Library, Arts & Culture at 818-548-2030 or see the website www.GlendaleLAC.org.