



Palm Springs
Art Museum

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PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM PRESENTS *TOUCHING HISTORY: STONEWALL 50*

NOW ON VIEW

Exhibition marks 50th anniversary of landmark uprising

PALM SPRINGS, CA (October 18, 2019) – Palm Springs Art Museum has announced *Touching History: Stonewall 50*, an exhibition recognizing the 50th anniversary of New York’s Stonewall riots, the unprecedented uprising against police harassment and social injustice that sparked the gay liberation movement and laid the groundwork for the modern struggle for LGBTQ civil rights. Louis Grachos, the museum’s JoAnn McGrath Executive Director and CEO, says, “We’re excited to present this exhibition of work that is provoking, poignant and, in many ways, celebratory. In fact, we are presenting *Touching History* to coincide with The Art of Pride, the museum’s first LGBTQ party to serve as an official kick-off to Palm Springs Pride Weekend on November 1, 2019.”

Organized by Associate Curator David Evans Frantz, the exhibition brings together an intergenerational group of eight contemporary artists—Marcela Pardo Ariza, Stephen Barker, Robert Andy Coombs, Jess T. Dugan and Vanessa Fabbre, Jonathan Molina-Garcia, Kang Seung Lee, and Joey Terrill—who explore queer kinship, care, and community through the immediacy and intimacy of touch.

“Palm Springs Art Museum is proud to present *Touching History: Stonewall 50* to recognize this important moment in history,” says Rochelle Steiner, Chief Curator & Director of Curatorial Affairs and Programs. “Together, the artists in *Touching History* honor the struggles and tenacity of the queer community, past and present, through drawing, collage, and photography, and visualize queer kinship and community through their works.”

The exhibition includes a selection of intimate collages by **Joey Terrill**, produced while the artist was active in Gay Liberation and Chicano activism during the 1970s, which join together images of individuals obtained from lifestyle magazines to form intimate same-sex couples. **Marcela Pardo Ariza** presents staged photographs of friends and collaborators interacting with life-sized images of everyday queer people, sourced from LGBTQ archives, to envision queer kinship with earlier generations. **Kang Sueng Lee** similarly looks to the past, meticulously drawing iconic photographs of male bodies from the 1980s, purposefully obscuring the figure within a blur of graphite while considering the losses of the AIDS crisis. Similarly, **Stephen Barker**’s photographs, from the series *Nightswimming*, picture the clandestine spaces

of gay bars, bathhouses, and porn theaters in New York City during the heights of the AIDS epidemic, affirming the need for connection and community in the face of stigma and erasure.

A selection of photographs and interviews from the project *To Survive on this Shore* by photographer **Jess T. Dugan** and social worker **Vanessa Fabbre** sheds light on the joys and difficulties of growing older as transgender or gender nonconforming. **Jonathan Molina-Garcia**, who is seropositive, similar works with queer elders to documents instances of connection, mentorship, and love among generations of HIV+ men. **Robert Andy Coombs** is a disabled artist who explores the intersections between disability and sexuality, inviting male identified individuals he meets online to be photographed with him in scenarios that range from tender and explicit.

This exhibition is organized by David Evans Frantz, Associate Curator.

Exhibition Season Sponsors: David Kaplan & Glenn Ostergaard, Brautigam-Kaplan Foundation, the Herman & Faye Sarkowsky Charitable Foundation, the Mary Ingebrand-Pohlrad Foundation, and Yvonne & Steve Maloney.

For more information about Palm Springs Art Museum exhibitions, programs, and events, please visit psmuseum.org or call (760) 322-4800.

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About Palm Springs Art Museum

Palm Springs Art Museum is the largest cultural institution in the Coachella Valley and includes three locations in Palm Springs and Palm Desert. The flagship building, located in downtown Palm Springs, features compelling art exhibitions, a vast permanent collection, and the Annenberg Theater, all in a 150,000-square-foot, architecturally significant building. The Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion, features exhibitions and programming that explore the rich topics of architecture and design. Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert occupies The Galen, an 8,400-square-foot, Silver LEED–certified building, and features rotating exhibitions and special collections. The Galen is surrounded by the four-acre Faye Sarkowsky Sculpture Garden.