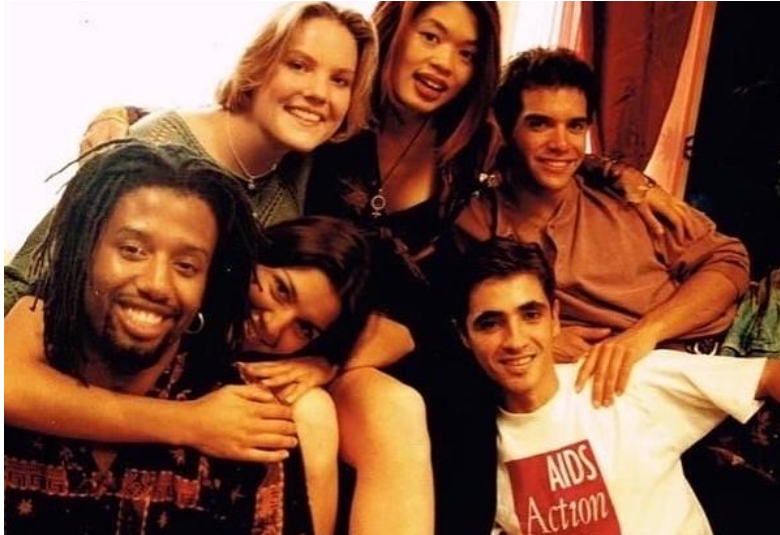




Palm Springs
Art Museum

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Q+ Art Season Opens with *The Real World* Conversation on Queer Visibility

Series creator Jonathan Murray and cast member Judd Winick join USC professor Karen Tongson to discuss television, representation, and cultural change

PALM SPRINGS, CA (September 24, 2026) — Palm Springs Art Museum opens its 2026–27 Q+ Art season with *The Real World: Queer Visibility and Cultural Change* on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the museum’s Annenberg Theater. Jonathan Murray, cofounder Bunim/Murray Productions, and Judd Winick, a cast member of *The Real World: San Francisco*, will join moderator Karen Tongson to discuss how the series brought LGBTQ+ lives to a national audience and helped shift the cultural conversation.

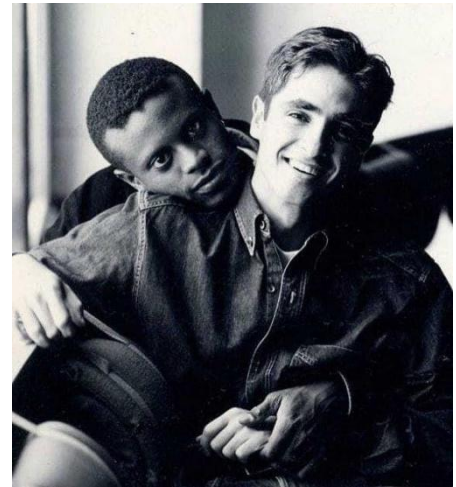
When *The Real World* premiered on MTV in 1992, it introduced viewers to young adults from different backgrounds through their relationships, conflicts, and everyday lives. The series made space for conversations about sexuality and identity while giving LGBTQ+ cast members a sustained presence on television.

The 1994 San Francisco season remains a defining part of this history. Cast member Pedro Zamora, an HIV/AIDS educator, joined the series to bring his message to a wider audience. Viewers came to know him through his advocacy, his friendship with Winick, and his relationship with Sean Sasser. Zamora and Sasser’s commitment ceremony marked a television first for a

gay couple. Zamora died at age 22, hours after the season finale aired, but his advocacy continues to influence HIV/AIDS education and LGBTQ+ representation.

Murray created *The Real World* with his late producing partner, Mary-Ellis Bunim. A Television Academy Hall of Fame inductee and Emmy Award winning producer, he serves on the board of Palm Springs Art Museum.

Winick is a cartoonist and author of *Pedro and Me*, a graphic novel about his friendship with Zamora. He is also the creator of the bestselling *Hilo* series and has written comics including *Batman*, *Green Lantern*, and *Green Arrow*.



Tongson is the Barbra Streisand Professor of Contemporary Gender Studies at the University of Southern California and director of its Consortium for Gender, Sexuality, Race and Public Culture. Her books include *Normporn: Queer Viewers and the TV That Soothes Us*, *Why Karen Carpenter Matters*, and *Relocations: Queer Suburban Imaginaries*.

Event details

The Real World: Queer Visibility and Cultural Change

Saturday, October 3, 2026

11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Annenberg Theater at Palm Springs Art Museum

Palm Springs Art Museum is proud to present this event as part of [Q+ Art](#), an initiative that advances the recognition of LGBTQ+ artists and their art histories. Q+ Art is made possible by the generosity of the museum's donors and supporters. For more information about supporting Q+ Art at Palm Springs Art Museum, contact MarJon Hudson, Director of Development, at mhudson@psmuseum.org.

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Palm Springs Art Museum

Palm Springs Art Museum is the largest cultural institution in the Coachella Valley and a campus of architecturally significant buildings dedicated to art, architecture, design, and performance. The campus includes the museum's 1975 flagship building designed by E. Stewart Williams, the Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion, originally designed by Williams in 1961, *Frey House II*, completed by Albert Frey in 1964, and *Aluminaire House™*, designed by Albert Frey and A. Lawrence Kocher and originally constructed in 1931. The museum's permanent collection includes more than 20,000 objects spanning modern and contemporary art, architecture and design, photography, studio glass, and art of the Western Americas. Its architecture and design holdings include more than 50,000 architectural assets and ephemera documenting the people, ideas, and built environment that have shaped modern design in Palm Springs and beyond. Each year, the museum welcomes thousands of visitors to experience exhibitions, performances, and public programs across its campus, including free community programs for children and families