





IRREVERENT

A CELEBRATION OF CENSORSHIP

CURATED BY
JENNIFER TYBURCZY

FEBRUARY 13 –
MAY 3, 2015



Leslie + Lohman
museum
of Gay and Lesbian Art

front cover
Alma López
Our Lady, 1999 (detail)
Digital print on canvas
17.5 x 14 inches
Courtesy the artist

p1
Michelle Handelman
Still from *Dorian, A Cinematic Perfume*, 2009/2012
4-channel HD video 63 min. displayed on four screens
Courtesy the artist

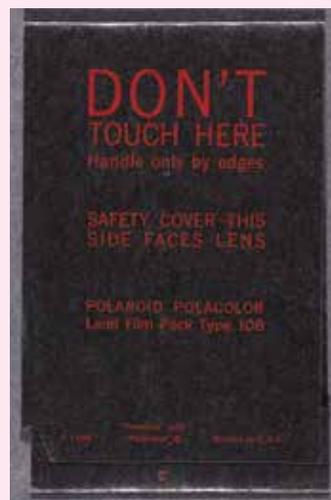
For decades, censors—would-be and actual—have attempted to suppress queer creativity. With prohibitions, backroom dealings and cover-ups, break-ins, and vandalism, artwork has been excluded from exhibitions or damaged or destroyed after installation.

Taking inspiration from the censorship of Robert Mapplethorpe’s art in the 1980s and 1990s, and the more recent withdrawal of David Wojnarowicz’s *A Fire in My Belly* from the National Portrait Gallery, we explore the innovative responses to watershed moments in the history of censored LGBTQ art in Canada, England, Ireland, the Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, and the United States. Here we see the counter-history of artists, artworks, and exhibitions that were considered too irresistible for the taboo-frenzied sanitizers of the world.

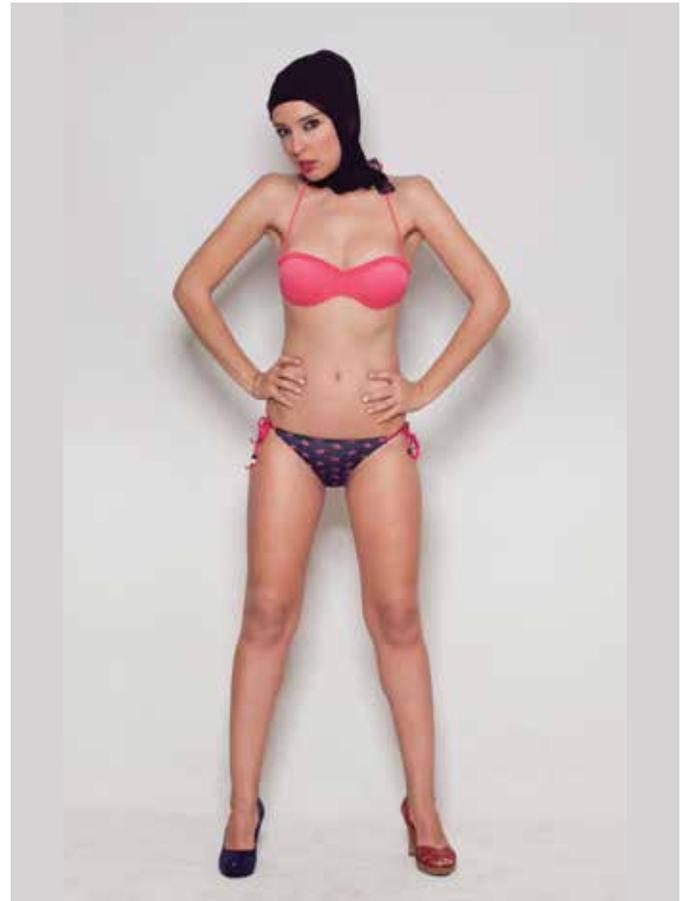
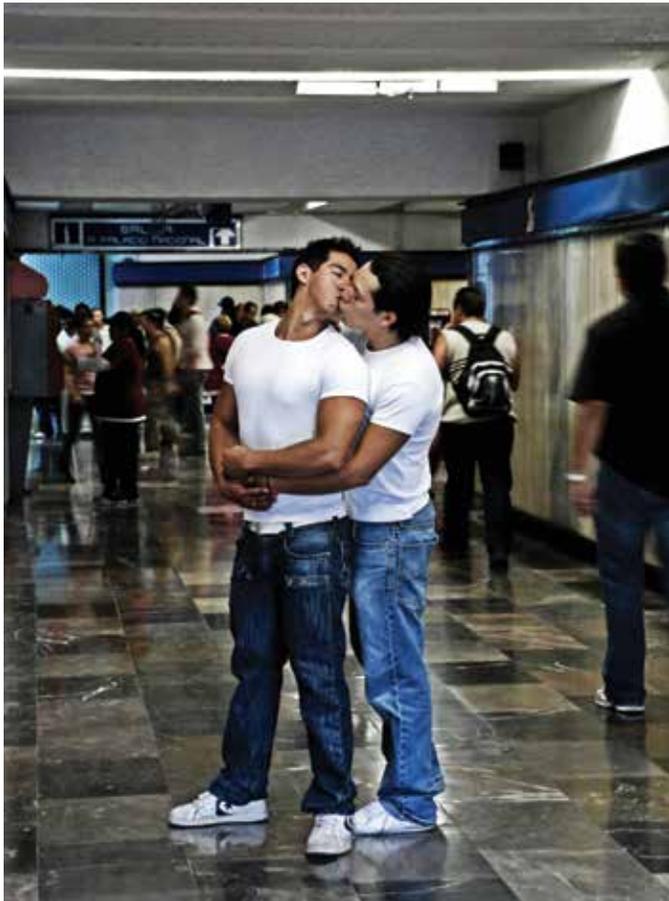
Sex—queer, dissident, explicit—is a central theme, as this subject is often what triggered a response from the censors and haters. While the defamers of queer life have consistently used depictions of sexual acts as an excuse to exclude works, sexual acts have also been used as a political tool to silence minority voices on a variety of issues that range from immigration and religion, to race, gender, and disability, to globalization and capitalism.

Censorship occurs differently and in multiple ways, locations, and temporal moments. Here we seek to situate the work within its historical context of censorship and to highlight the resilience of the queer artists who audaciously attempt to address diverse social and political issues in their work.

JENNIFER TYBURCZY, GUEST CURATOR
HUNTER O’HANIAN, MUSEUM DIRECTOR



Robert Mapplethorpe,
Invitation to Light Gallery Opening, January 6, 1973, 1972,
Embossed gelatin silver print from Polaroid negative
with adhesive dot and black paper sleeve.
4.125 x 5.125 inches
All Mapplethorpe works © Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation.
Used by permission.





p 4-5
 Seray Ak
Against, 2011
 Exhibition print made with permission of the artist
 11.81 x 17.72 inches

p 4
 Baris Barlas
Invisibles, 2009
 Exhibition print made with permission of the artist
 15.75 x 11.81 inches

p 5
 Damla Mersin
Confuse, 2010
 Exhibition print made with permission of the artist
 24 x 15 inches

p 6-7
 Kent Monkman
Duel After the Masquerade, 2007
 Acrylic on canvas
 20 x 30 inches
 Private collection

Tobaron Waxman
Portrait of Severin, 2015
 Digitally printed still from video shoot of 2002
 6.5 x 30.1 inches
 Courtesy the artist



above
Barbara Nitke
Bathroom Kiss, 1995
Silver gelatin print
14 x 21 inches
Courtesy the artist

below
Zanele Muholi
Being, 2007
Triptych consisting of two silver gelatin prints and one digital print
11.75 x 8.75 inches each
Courtesy the artist and Yancey Richardson, New York

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Michelle Handelman
Still from *Dorian, A Cinematic Perfume*, 2009/2012
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p 12-13
 Alex Donis
Sergeant King and Puppet, 2001
 Oil and enamel on Plexiglas
 28 x 41 inches
 Durón Family Collection

p 13
 Andres Serrano
Roberts and Luca, 1995
 Cibachrome color photograph
 60 x 50 inches
 Collection the artist

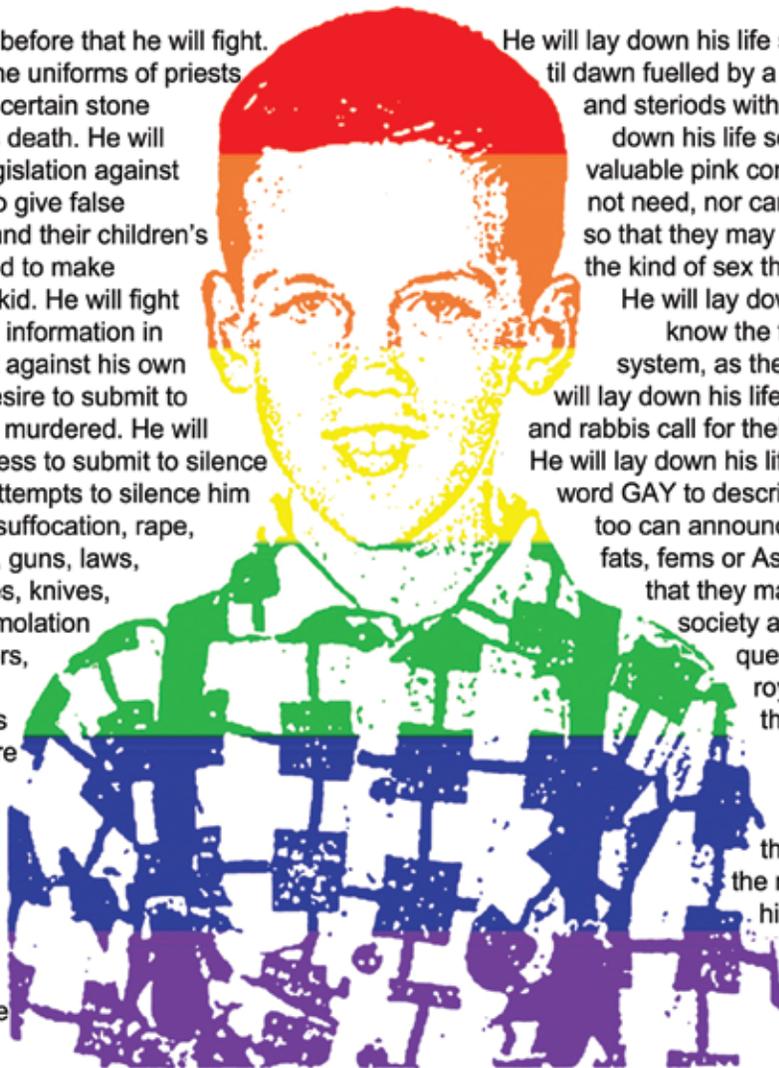
p 14-15
 Jason Woodson
This Kid – 20 Years on – A Tribute to David Wojnarowicz's "Untitled – This Kid", 2010
 Digital print
 23.39 x 33.11 inches
 Exhibition print made with permission of the artist

p 14
 Corrine Bot
Jack and Jill - Underwear, 2010
 Digital print
 17.72 x 11.8 inches
 Exhibition print made with permission of the artist

p 15
 Kimi Tayler
The Stags in Drag (The Nature of Beauty), 2010
 Mixed media on wood
 15.75 x 13 inches
 Courtesy the artist

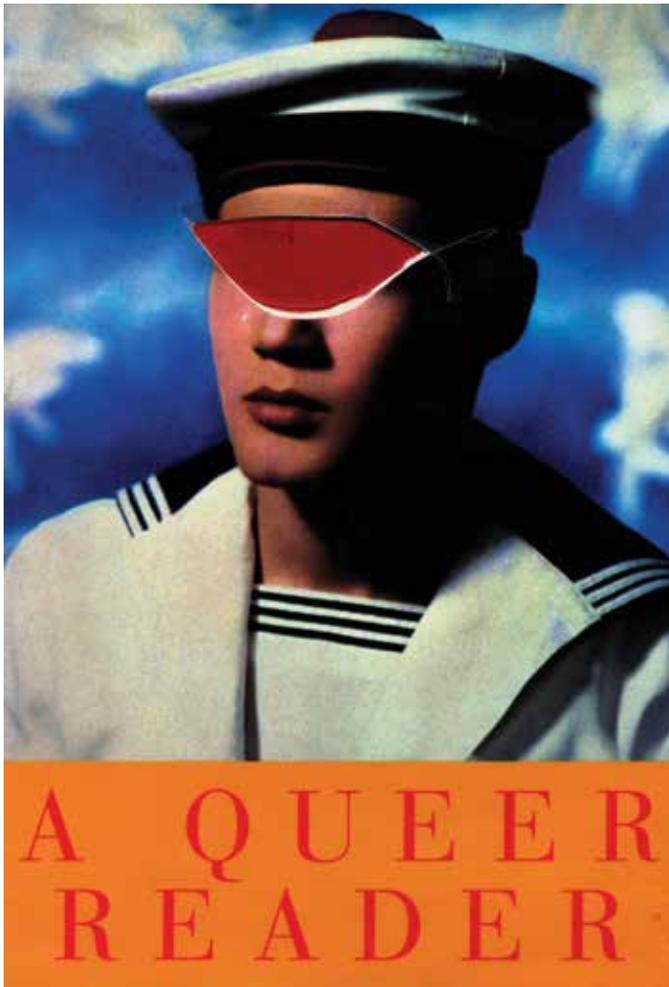


One day this kid will die. But before that he will fight. He will fight men who wear the uniforms of priests and rabbis, men who inhabit certain stone buildings, who will call for his death. He will fight politicians who enact legislation against him. He will fight families who give false information to their children and their children's children, information designed to make existence intolerable for this kid. He will fight against all of this activity and information in his environment. He will fight against his own suicidal impulses, his own desire to submit to danger in the hopes of being murdered. He will fight against his own willingness to submit to silence and invisibility. He will fight attempts to silence him with strangling, fists, prison, suffocation, rape, intimidation, drugging, ropes, guns, laws, menace, roving gangs, bottles, knives, religion, decapitation and immolation by fire. He will fight the doctors, psychologists and research scientists who pronounce this kid curable as if his brain were a virus. He will fight despite being subjected to loss of home, civil rights, jobs and all conceivable freedoms. He will fight and he will die for all of the boys, who like him, discover they desire to place their naked body on the naked body of another boy.



He will lay down his life so that one day they may dance til dawn fuelled by a heady cocktail of drugs, alcohol and steroids without fear of the police. He will lay down his life so that they may be considered a valuable pink commodity and sold things they do not need, nor can afford. He will lay down his life so that they may enjoy watching and partaking in the kind of sex that killed him and call it intimacy. He will lay down his life so that they will never know the fear of the virus that invaded his system, as they think themselves invincible. He will lay down his life so that when those new priests and rabbis call for their deaths, they can go shopping. He will lay down his life so that when society uses the word GAY to describe anything they don't like, they too can announce that they are not interested in fats, fems or Asians. He will lay down his life so that they may take their place in a bold new society as the bitchy queen or the drama queen or any other form of comedic royalty. He will lay down his life so that their Pride will be signified by the sound of a thousand shrill whistles as they push and step over the unconscious bodies of their fallen brethren on the way to the next tea dance. He will lay down his life for all of the boys, who like him, discover they desire to place their naked body on the naked body of another boy and they will forget him.





Harmony Hammond
A Queer Reader, 2010
 Archival inkjet print on paper
 43 x 29 inches
 Courtesy Alexander Gray Associates, New York
 © Harmony Hammond/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

David Wojnarowicz
 Untitled from *The Ants Series (spirituality)*, 1988-89
 Gelatin silver print, ed. 2/5
 27.5 x 36 inches
 Courtesy the Estate of David Wojnarowicz and P.P.O.W Gallery, New York

The Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art is the first and only LGBTQ art museum in the world dedicated to the mission of exhibiting and preserving LGBTQ art and of fostering the artists who create it.

Accredited by the New York State Board of Regents, the Museum has a permanent collection of over twenty-two thousand objects, spanning more than three centuries of queer art.

The Leslie-Lohman Museum hosts six to eight major exhibitions annually, artist talks, film screenings, panel discussions, readings, and other events. In addition, it publishes a quarterly art newsletter, THE ARCHIVE, and maintains a substantial research library.

The Museum is a premier resource for anyone interested in the rich legacy of the LGBTQ community and its influence on and confrontation with the mainstream art world. There is no other organization like it in the world.

The Leslie-Lohman Museum is operated by the Leslie-Lohman Gay Art Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit founded in 1987 by Charles W. Leslie and J. Frederic (Fritz) Lohman who have supported LGBTQ artists for over thirty years. The Leslie-Lohman Museum embraces the rich creative history of the LGBTQ art community by informing, inspiring, entertaining, and challenging all who enter its doors.



Leslie + Lohman
museum
 of Gay and Lesbian Art

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 LeslieLohman.org • (212) 431-2609
 Tuesday - Sunday, 12 - 6 pm
 Thursday, 12 - 8 pm

Support provided by



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