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**FIRST MUSEUM EXHIBITION OF ITS KIND EXPLORING
CALIFORNIA'S LGBTQ+ HISTORY AND CULTURE TO
OPEN AT OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA IN
APRIL 2019**

Queer California: Untold Stories Will Combine Art and History to Tell
Under-Recognized Stories of LGBTQ+ Communities

Exhibition to run April 13–August 11, 2019 in OMCA's Great Hall

(OAKLAND, CA) December 12, 2018— In April 2019, the Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) will present a major exhibition **combining art and history to tell the untold and under-recognized stories of California's LGBTQ+ communities**. Going beyond mainstream narratives, *Queer California: Untold Stories* will be the **first museum exhibition of its kind** to deepen and expand our understanding of this history through a multifaceted and interactive experience, providing the opportunity for museum visitors and members of the LGBTQ+ community to add their voices and stories to the conversation.

"At this very tumultuous time in our country, many marginalized communities feel that threats to their basic rights are on the rise. This exhibition is needed now more than ever not only to **share messages of hope and change**, but also provide a deeper understanding of the complex history and important **lesser-known stories of LGBTQ+ communities in California**," said Christina Linden, Exhibition Curator. "*Queer California* will address issues close to the hearts of many visitors who identify as queer, as well as other visitors who have felt like outsiders in mainstream culture."

With transgender and LGBTQ+ rights increasingly in the news, the exhibition will be a timely opportunity to shine light on the history of **California as a major site of LGBTQ+ community, culture, and politics**. *Queer California* will explore a range of powerful stories through **examples of social activism, contemporary artwork, historical materials, rarely-seen artifacts, archival documents, photographs, films and videos, costumes, and ephemera** such as zines, stickers, and flyers.

The exhibition **aligns important milestones in LGBTQ+ culture with untold stories**, focusing on the **diversity of queer identities, civil rights, and resistance to oppression**. A timeline will help ground visitors in the key moments, movements, and figures in California's LGBTQ+ history, as well as the organizations, events, and people not often mentioned in that history. This exhibition will draw on histories of struggle for self-determination to help us imagine a more inclusive future.

“OMCA continues its commitment to presenting programming that **addresses topics of real relevance to our local community** as well as urgent national themes that resonate today,” said Director and CEO Lori Fogarty. “*Queer California* will offer a space for visitors to learn, reflect, and see themselves represented in the powerful, untold stories of California’s LGBTQ+ communities.”

Upon entering the exhibition, visitors will encounter artist Yetunde Olagbaju’s luminous and uplifting video *Universal Exchange*, as well as the entrance to an adjacent screening room featuring LGBTQ+ films. Two profound objects will set the stage for the exhibition in a section titled ***What Gets Left Out***, including the **original eight-color rainbow flag** designed by Gilbert Baker in 1978 situated nearby contemporary artist Amanda Curreri’s hand-dyed flag displaying two of the colors removed from the original design. Visitors will also encounter a recording by artist Eve Fowler featuring lesbian and trans Californians reading aloud from **Gertrude Stein’s 1922 story about women in love that introduced the use of the word *gay*** to mean homosexual. Black and white photographs, sculpture, drawings, and personal photo albums complete this section.

Several **original works and commissioned pieces** will be featured throughout the exhibition, including a new video featuring members of California native communities discussing stories of gender and identity in Native American culture. Artist **Chris E. Vargas’ *MOTHA (Museum of Trans Hirstory and Art)*** will serve as a mini-museum within the gallery, including materials representing significant events in this *hirstory*, such as the Compton’s Cafeteria Riot of 1966, and people who have challenged gender norms in the San Francisco Bay Area such as Lou Sullivan, José Sarria, Sylvester, Louise Lawrence, and Miss Major.

A section titled ***Places to Gather*** will highlight **LGBTQ+ clubs and groups formed in California**—particularly in the 1950s and 60s—through photographs, letters, pamphlets, buttons, clothing, and other ephemera, as well as periodicals, magazines, and journals from LGBTQ+ press. Photographs and a **map** by Kaucyila Brooke **will indicate sites where lesbian bars have come and gone** throughout the Bay Area and Los Angeles. Photographs by Tammy Rae Carland will represent feminist and queer land projects in California, part of the back-to-the-land movement of the 1970s in which rural areas were occupied by those looking to flee urban areas. Many of these women-only enclaves and feminist retreats remain open today. Visitors will also be invited to sit on benches and car seats and **listen to audio recordings in an interactive project by artist Kate Clark titled *Queen’s Circle: Cruising Oral Histories of Balboa Park***, derived from the popular cruising site for San Diego’s LGBTQ+ community, Queen’s Circle.

In one of the final sections ***In the Body*, materials and artwork related to self** will be presented, including photography by Laura Aguilar, drawings by Julio Salgado, and films by Barbara Hammer and William E. Jones. A central interactive and social space for visitors—the ***Gaymes Lounge***—will include the vintage games *D.Y.K.E. (Do You Know Enough)* and *It’s Only Natural* from 1986, and *Rainbow Gayme* from 1992.

Contemporary perspectives of the LGBTQ+ community will be explored in a section titled ***Retelling the Stories***, include videos by Tina Takemoto and Patrick Staff, as well as photographs by Torrey Cummings. Through prompts and questions, visitors will be invited to **share their feedback and responses** related to these works that grapple with **complex issues of identity, narrative, performance, and representation.**

Toward the end of the exhibition, *Fluid/Future* will include contemporary sculpture, paintings, and drawings, as well as quotes from different members of the contemporary **LGBTQ+ community expressing ideas about a queer future**. A **three-dimensional timeline** will outline **untold stories of California's LGBTQ+ history alongside well-known events**, including graphic displays, artifacts, personal photographs, and important documents. Visitors will be provided with an opportunity to **gain a deeper understanding of California's history by celebrating significant milestones while also acknowledging its many tragic stories**, including a section about the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Open-ended questions will prompt visitors to **consider what gets left out of this history and to imagine the possibility of what could be in the future**.

Artworks in the exhibition were made by **artists and collaborators** including Absolute Empress III Shirley, Chloe Aftel, Laura Aguilar, Tina Valentin Aguirre, D-L Alvarez, Steven Arnold, Gilbert Baker, Lisa Ben, Andrea Bowers, Kaucyila Brooke, Ginger Brooks-Takahashi, Craig Calderwood, Pat Campano, Monica Canilao, Tammy Rae Carland, Cassils, Jerome Caja, Willy Chavarria, Kate Clark, Torrey Cummings, Amanda Curreri, Cyclona, Cecil Davis, Reed Erickson, Rhys Ernst, Edie Fake, Eve Fowler, William P. Gaddis Jr., Clay Geerdes, Rick Gerharter, James Gobel, Nicki Green, James Gruber, Barbara Hammer, Mick Hicks, William E. Jones, Lenn Keller, Joseph Richard Kapps, Young Joon Kwak, Vero Majano, DJ Brown Amy (Amy Martinez), Jaguar Mary, Helen Nestor, Yetunde Olagbaju, Kari Orvik, Frances Reid, Augie Robles, Peaches, Grace Rosario Perkins, Marlon Riggs, Nica Ross, Julio Salgado, Helen "Sanders" Sandoz, Jose Sarria, Patrick Staff, Chuck Stallard, Eric A. Stanley, A.L. Steiner, Elizabeth Stevens, Sylvester, Tina Takemoto, Xara Thustra, Wu Tsang, Chris E. Vargas, Lex Vaughn, Travis Y., and Cathy Zheutlin. Additional **participants** include L. Frank, Joseph Byron Jones, Miss Major, Toshio Meronek, Deborah A. Miranda, Donovan Nation, Kenny Ray Ramos, Kanyon Sayers-Roods, Kayla Strickland, and Karen Vigneault.

Contributing archives include The American Philosophical Society; The Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco (AASF); Bay Area Lesbian Archives; California State Archives; The Collections of the Kinsey Institute, Indiana University; The Digital Transgender Archive; The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Historical Society; Lambda Archives; The Lesbian Herstory Archives; ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives at the USC Libraries; San Francisco Public Library; James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center; The UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center; and Willard Library.

Queer California: Untold Stories will be on view in **OMCA's Great Hall April 13 through August 11, 2019**. Historian and activist Susan Stryker and film historian Greg Youmans are consultants on the exhibition.

Queer California: Untold Stories is supported in part by the Oakland Museum Women's Board. Additional support is provided by Jen and Francis Rainin. Additional support is provided by Jen and Frances Rainin.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS & PROJECTS

Pushing West: The Photography of A.J. Russell
Gallery of California Art
May 4–September 1, 2019

Travel back in time through Andrew J. Russell's epic photography of the

Transcontinental Railroad's western expansion, completed 150 years ago in 1869. Though commissioned to document the railroad and its successful development, Russell's photography reveals the tensions between the economic and technological advances and the Railroad's significant impact on western lands and Native peoples. His powerful imagery highlights the majesty of the landscape with locomotive engines set amongst vast plains and colossal mountain ranges, captured through Russell's remarkable technique using the collodion photographic process in remote locations.

In this intimate exhibition, visitors will view rare vintage and digital prints, powerful landscape and 3D images, and original collodion negatives, as well as memorabilia, ephemera, and a video demonstrating the collodion process. Learn about Russell's legacy as one of the most important photographers of the 19th century in this inspiring presentation of one of the most historic and controversial moments in American history.

No Spectators: The Art of Burning Man **Great Hall**

October 12, 2019–February 16, 2020

Marvel at the spectacular artwork and large-scale installations from one of the most widely-celebrated cultural events in the world when *No Spectators: The Art of Burning Man* takes over OMCA in Fall of 2019. Each year the weeklong Burning Man event attracts over 70,000 people to Nevada's Black Rock Desert. Participants create and build Black Rock City, a temporary metropolis where experimental art installations—some ritually burned to the ground—are the centerpiece for innovators, makers, and a burgeoning artistic community. The exhibition will illuminate the values of Burning Man through its guiding Ten Principles: Radical Inclusion, Gifting, Decommodification, Radical Self-reliance, Radical Self-expression, Communal Effort, Civic Responsibility, Leaving No Trace, Participation, and Immediacy.

The immersive and multi-sensory experience will extend beyond the gallery walls into the Museum's public spaces—including an OMCA-commissioned 40-foot-tall outdoor temple by internationally-acclaimed sculptor David Best. Organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery, *No Spectators* will make its final stop at OMCA after traveling to the Cincinnati Art Museum. The exhibition will feature many works by Bay Area artists including jewelry, costumes, "mutant" vehicles, sculptures, photography, and paintings. The companion exhibition within the gallery, *City of Dust: The Evolution of Burning Man*, organized by the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno; will trace Burning Man's origins from its countercultural roots in the San Francisco Bay Area to the world-famous desert gathering it is today.

Don't miss the West Coast debut of the first major museum exhibition of its kind and join in the celebration of Burning Man's deep connections to California and the Bay Area. *No Spectators: The Art of Burning Man* is organized by the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

The museums especially thank colleagues from Burning Man Project, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, for their close collaboration and assistance throughout the preparation of this exhibition and tour.

Lead support for the exhibition was provided by Intel and Bently Foundation. Support for the exhibition's tour is provided by the C. F. Foundation, Atlanta, Georgia and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment Fund.

¡El Movimiento Vivo! Chicano Roots of Days of the Dead

Gallery of California Art

October 16, 2019–February 16, 2020

Celebrate the 25th anniversary of OMCA's beloved *Días de los Muertos* exhibition with a special presentation inspired by the Chicano activists who introduced *Días de los Muertos* traditions to the United States in the 1970s. *¡El Movimiento Vivo! Chicano Roots of Days of the Dead* will explore the lesser-known origins of Days of the Dead, and the ways these traditions continue to inspire social and political change today.

Visitors will discover altars, artworks, and interactive elements that show how Chicanos activists used Days of the Dead traditions to foster pride in their indigenous heritage and unify their communities. Experience a Oaxacan style *ofrenda* and hear first-hand stories of the Chicanos who went to Oaxaca to gather Days of the Dead traditions from elders. Honor members of the first Chicano generation through a special *homenaje* (homage altar), and get to know a younger generation of Chicano artists—including Amalia Mesa-Bains, Ofelia Esparza, Linda Vallejo, and Patricia Terrazas—through a series of beautiful *ofrendas*. Other elements—from historical objects, murals, and intergenerational conversations captured on film—will immerse viewers in the evolving identities, traditions, and artistic expressions of the Chicano community.

ON VIEW

Black Power

Gallery of California History

On View Now

Uncover the history of the Black Power movements in California with a compelling addition to the Gallery of California History. In response to the widely-popular 2016 exhibition, *All Power to the People: Black Panthers at 50*, this new installation will illustrate the creative ways black anti-racist activists in California supported their communities and challenged the U.S. government. Focusing on the example of the Black Panther Party, *Black Power* will bring to light the tensions between a culturally and socially progressive California and examples of economic racism and oppression in the state. This moment in California history will be represented through historic photographs, provocative objects, iconic posters, paintings and interactive prompts that encourage visitors to take action out in the world. Learn more about the Bay Area role in this national story, and the impacts this history continues to have today.

Mildred Howard's TAP: Investigation of Memory

Gallery of California Art

February 2–September 1, 2019

Discover Mildred Howard's *TAP: Investigation of Memory*, a powerful multimedia installation that examines themes of identity, church culture, gentrification, dance, activism, and more. Born to activist parents, Howard's family lineage and community inform much of her work. Part of OMCA's Collection, this major artwork incorporates an antique shoe-shine stand from Oakland's historic California Hotel, once a cultural center for the Black community--as the altar-like centerpiece, alongside white shoes and metal shoe taps arranged in a pattern covering the gallery floor. Symbolizing memories from her past and tap dance's influence on her life, learn how Howard's work has helped shape the narrative of activism in the Bay Area and continues to inspire artists today.

Take Root: Oakland Grows Food
Gallery of California Natural Sciences
Through November 2019

Unearth Oakland's multi-layered world of food in *Take Root: Oakland Grows Food*, an exhibition exploring aspects of growing food in Oakland. Enjoy this hands-on exhibition with the entire family to understand what factors determine where, how, why, and what is grown throughout the city. Hear personal stories from farmers and growers within the community, see compelling illustrations and maps, and meet the diverse flavors of Oakland. Learn what motivations Oaklanders have for growing food—including access to healthy and delicious ingredients, environmental and social justice values, or simply the joy of tending a garden. Visitors will be invited to share personal stories, explore interactive activities, and gain a deeper understanding of Oakland's agriculture.

ABOUT THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) tells the many stories that comprise California, creating the space and context for greater connection, trust, and understanding between people. Through its inclusive exhibitions, public programs, educational initiatives, and cultural events, OMCA brings Californians together and inspires greater understanding about what our state's art, history, and natural surroundings teach us about ourselves and each other. With more than 1.9 million objects, OMCA brings together its multi-disciplinary collections of art, history, and natural science with the first-person accounts and often untold narratives of California, all within its 110,000 square feet of gallery space and seven-acre campus. OMCA is a leading cultural institution of the Bay Area and a resource for the research and understanding of California's dynamic cultural and environmental heritage for visitors from the region, the state, and around the world.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) is at 1000 Oak Street, at 10th Street, in Oakland. Museum admission is \$16 general; \$11 seniors and students with valid ID, \$7 youth ages 9 to 17, and free for Members and children 8 and under. There is a \$5 charge in addition to general admission pricing for special exhibitions. OMCA offers onsite underground parking and is conveniently located one block from the Lake Merritt BART station, on the corner of 10th Street and Oak Street. The accessibility ramp is located at the 1000 Oak Street main entrance to the Museum. museumca.org

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