

Press Release

Exhibition
Stonewall 50
April 27–July 28, 2019



Barbara Hammer, *Evidentiary Bodies* (video still), 2018. Three channel HD video: color, sound, 9:30 minutes. Image and work courtesy The Barbara Hammer Estate, and COMPANY, New York, New York.

#Stonewall50CAMH
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HOUSTON, TX (April 11, 2019) Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH) is pleased to present *Stonewall 50*, an exhibition that celebrates the genesis of the LGBT civil rights movement and looks ahead to queer futures. An opening reception will be held on Friday, April 26, and the exhibition remains on view through July 28, 2019.

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On June 28, 1969, a police raid of the New York City bar the Stonewall Inn sparked a revolt by its patrons. Their anger and frustrations over the serial persecution of their sexual and gender identities manifested into street protests that catalyzed cultural change as queer individuals realized their social and political power. For all of these reasons and

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more, making an exhibition that celebrates a riot that took place in Greenwich Village in New York City 50 years ago feels vitally important now. Today, queer artists and allies, activists, and visionaries recognize the importance of putting their stories and representations out there and making themselves seen, even at the risk of peril.

Stonewall 50 offers a snapshot of the complexion, interests, and activities of a diverse group of queer and allied artists. Whether working in local communities or on other continents, these artists' responses to the worlds around them address a complex range of personal and collective concerns and desires. "As they take up their work with cameras and lenses, paintbrushes, porcelain, garbage, glass, and blades, these artists show us how to imagine a future in which the fight to represent ourselves is no longer a necessity, but a pleasure," writes Curator Dean Daderko. The exhibition traces a number of paths: it addresses trans visibility, establishes inter-generational dialogue, and gathers artworks by queer artists from outside the United States. *Stonewall 50* is organized with an understanding that the privileges and disadvantages effecting the self-determination of sex and gender expression are linked inextricably to cultural perceptions around race, nationality, age, ability, economic status, and a host of other issues.

"The artists of *Stonewall 50* encourage us to reflect on what has been fought for and should be celebrated, both then and now," said Christina Brungardt, CAMH Interim Director. "Curator Dean Daderko has brought focus to a vast topic. As these artists tell their stories, an international and intergenerational picture of our contemporary moment begins to emerge."

Today—50 years after the Stonewall Riots—there is much that can be celebrated, and still more work to be done. Social and political equality for queer and gender non-conforming individuals has yet to be realized here in Texas and further afield. Looking ahead, *Stonewall 50* celebrates the creative energies of queer folk and their allies, and their invaluable cultural contributions.

Stonewall 50 participants include: Leilah Babirye, Tony Feher, Chitra Ganesh, Barbara Hammer, Thomas Lanigan-Schmidt, David Lejeune, Nick Vaughan & Jake Margolin, Troy Michie, Zanele Muholi, Catherine Opie, Jean-Michel Othoniel, Christina Quarles, Paul Mpagi Sepuya,



Zanele Muholi
Yaya Mavundia, Parktown, Johannesburg
(detail), 2014
Silver gelatin print, edition 6 of 8
34 x 24 inches
Image and work courtesy the artist, Yancey Richardson, New York, New York, and Stevenson, Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa

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Christina Quarles
We All We Are, 2018
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 48 inches
Image and work courtesy the artist and
Regen Projects, Los Angeles, California

Anthony Sonnenberg, and patrons of the now defunct Houston gay bar Mary's... Naturally.

A full complement of programs for all ages will accompany the exhibition, including live performances by participating artists and community partners, public dialogues, hands-on workshops, and tours. To see a full schedule of these events, please visit camh.org.

Stonewall 50 is curated by Dean Daderko, based on an exhibition proposed by Bill Arning.

Publications

CAMH will mark the exhibition with the publication of a catalogue featuring an introduction by Brungardt and an open letter by Daderko. Featuring full-color reproductions of artworks, installation views, an exhibition checklist and more, the catalogue will be produced by Houston-based design team NUU. The catalogue will be accompanied by a limited-edition *Stonewall 50* poetry supplement produced by CAMH. It features a foreword by Rice University's Alan Dugald McKillop Professor Joe Campana and commissioned poetry by Jos Charles, Alex Dimitrov, Patrick Ryan Frank, Randall Mann, Paige Quiñones, Sam Sax, Paul Tran, and Shelley Wong.

These publications are made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston.

Public Programs

This selection of events are free, open to the public, and take place at Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. Seating is limited. Please check camh.org for the most current information.

Opening Reception | *Stonewall 50*
Friday, April 26, 2019 | 6:30–9PM

In Conversation | CAMH Curator Dean Daderko
Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 2–3PM

Art at Noon | Former Houston Mayor Annise Parker
Friday, May 3, 2019 | Noon–1PM



Nick Vaughan & Jake Margolin
Political Gestures (installation view), 2018
Five-channel HD video: color, sound, 67 minutes
Projection screens, wood, nail lacquer, printed text
Dimensions variable
Image and work courtesy the artists

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Tony Feher
At Least For Now #2 (detail), 2015
Plastic bottles with plastic screw caps, ink, distilled water, stainless-steel wire, and zinc-coated steel chain
162 x 16 x 14 inches
Image and work courtesy Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, New York

Concert | Musiqa
Thursday, May 9, 2019 | 6:30–7:30PM

Performance | Up Rising: A Night of Dance Commemorating the
50th Anniversary of Stonewall
Thursday, May 30, 2019 | 6:30–7:30PM

Performance | Texas Noise and Ambience
Thursday, June 13, 2019 | 6:30–8:30PM

Community Celebration
Saturday, June 22, 2019 | 11AM–2PM

Support

Stonewall 50 is made possible by a grant from The Hollyfield Foundation and support from Marcy Rothman and Tammy Pye.

OutSmart Magazine is the exclusive media sponsor of *Stonewall 50*.

CAMH Mission

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is a leading destination to experience innovative art. CAMH actively encourages public engagement with its exhibitions through its educational programs, publications, and online presence.

General Information

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10AM–7PM, Thursday 10AM–9PM, Saturday 10AM–6PM, and Sunday 12PM–6PM. Admission is always free. For more information, visit camh.org or call 713.284.8250.