



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ONE NATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN ARCHIVES PRESENTS
A GROUP SHOW OF CONTEMPORARY QUEER ARTISTS WITH ADDITIONAL
ARTWORKS FROM THE COLLECTIONS AT ONE**



LET YOUR BODY IN

April 21 – July 1, 2012

ONE Archives Gallery & Museum
626 North Robertson Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Reception: Saturday, April 21, 2012, 5-8pm

Los Angeles — ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives presents *Let Your Body In*, an exhibition of work by contemporary queer artists alongside artworks and objects from the collections at ONE Archives. Participating artists include **EMR (Math Bass & Dylan Mira)**, **Maya Bookbinder**, **Laurel Frank**, **Aimee Goguen**, **Kim Kelly**, and **Lee Relvas**. Additional pieces from the archives include works by Roger Campbell, Harold L. Dittmer, G.N., Olaf Odegaard, Tomata du Plenty, John Quitman, and James Snodgrass. The exhibition explores creative approaches to activating the body and playful ways of engaging with queer histories and culture.

As a follow-up to ONE Archives' Pacific Standard Time exhibition *Cruising the Archive: Queer Art and Culture in Los Angeles, 1945-1980*, which presented works of art alongside archival items culled entirely from the collections at ONE, this exhibition looks at artworks outside a strictly historical context, allowing new interpretations for queerness to emerge between the contemporary and archival. *Let Your Body In* includes works by artists presented in *Cruising the Archive*, as well as pieces by artists that did not make

the Pacific Standard Time exhibition. As such, *Let Your Body In* is another opportunity for the public to engage with ONE Archives' extensive collections.

Emphasizing queer-feminist perspectives, the contemporary artists included in *Let Your Body In* skew the gender division in collections at ONE, especially the art collection, which predominates with depictions of men by men. Building from this under-representation in the archives, *Let Your Body In* strives to complicate the viewer's ability to discern the historical from the contemporary, with the hope that bringing together these works will point to the complexities of queer identity, both past and present, while hinting toward futures possibilities.

Lee Relvas' series *You Make Me Feel Plenty* explores kinship structures, both experienced and imagined. Built through feelings of scarcity and abundance, loneliness and community, Relvas' work reflects on her participation in various and overlapping DIY, feminist, queer and friendship networks.

Night Pages: The Paintings, a series by Kim Kelly, is based on a late night project with artist Dylan Mira in response to the lack of W4W listings on craigslist.org. Based on Kelly and Mira's shared aesthetic sexuality, these paintings, cast out into the interweb, attempt to illicit responses from like-minded "women."

Maya Bookbinder's series *Lesbians Illustrated: How and Why* is loosely inspired by pornographic books from the 60's and 70's disguised as sexual education for adults on lesbians. These publications were intended to titillate readers by exploring how such women got "that way" and how they perform.

Laurel Frank's sculptures speak to the process by which ordinary film set decoration can be elevated to prop status by magical chance in the ritual choreography of narrative. Beginning with the materials that are used in a prop shop – clay, cardboard, glue – she creates the basic forms of the objects, taking care to leave handprints, exposed edges, and other clues to the physical process by which the objects come into being. By injecting humor and lyricism into her materials and their synthesis, Frank creates objects that are, in fact, no longer props but beings unto themselves.

The video *Somethings Gonna Soon* by EMR (Extreme Mature Respect), a collaboration between Math Bass and Dylan Mira, is a sigil, a magic sex symbol abstracted from the words TRUST ME (NOT) TO HURT YOU that is spread across rituals of the beast.

Aimee Goguen's videos explore psycho-sexuality, falsification of memory, and the abject using role-playing and absurdist theatre. A helmet used in her experimental narrative *Lets Talk About Cars* will also be exhibited as both a performative relic and sculptural object.

Works pulled from the archives include paintings by Tomata du Plenty, James Snodgrass, and G.N, which playfully depict male bodies. Roger Campbell's hyperrealistic drawing of a pair of underwear meticulously records the object's use by highlighting its tears, stains, and fraying edges. A small painting by John Quitman depicts multiple bodies verging together into almost entirely abstract, organic forms. Collages assembled from gay pornography by Olaf Odegaard disrupt the viewer's apprehension of scale and space, producing complicated, sometimes abstract, compositions. Humorous collages by Harold L. Dittmer combine physique photographs with images of women's jewelry cut from advertisements, adorning muscular male bodies with a campy sensibility.

Let Your Body In will be on view at the ONE Archives Gallery & Museum from April 21 through July 1, 2012. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, April 21, from 5 to 8pm.

For more information on this exhibition, including images and artist bios, please visit cruisingthearchive.org/letyourbodyin.

Let Your Body In is organized by David Frantz, Curator at ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives. ONE Archives would like to thank the University of Southern California Libraries, the City of West Hollywood, Onya Hogan-Finlay, and especially the participating artists, Math Bass, Maya Bookbinder, Laurel Frank, Aimee Goguen, Kim Kelly, Dylan Mira and Lee Relvas.

Exhibition Location

ONE Archives Gallery & Museum
[626 North Robertson Boulevard](#)
[West Hollywood, CA 90069](#)

Enter gallery on El Tovar Place. Parking is free for the first hour before 6pm at a parking garage located at the end of El Tovar Place.

Hours: Friday, 4:30 – 8:30pm; Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 – 5:00pm; Closed Monday – Thursday

Admission is free – suggested donation of \$5

Opening reception on Saturday, April 21, 2012, 5-8pm.

About ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives is the oldest active LGBTQ organization in the United States and the largest repository of LGBTQ materials in the world. Founded in 1952, ONE Archives currently houses more than two million archival items including periodicals, books, films, video and audio recordings, photographs, artworks, organizational records and personal papers. In October 2010, ONE Archives became a part of the University of Southern California Libraries.

For more information, please visit onearchives.org.

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Images: (left) Lee Relvas, *Hags*, 2009. From the series "You Make Me Feel Plenty." Watercolor and gouache on paper, 15 x 20 inches. Courtesy of the artist. (right) Tomata du Plenty, *The Many Loves of G.I. Joe*, c. 1980. Acrylic on board, 27 x 42 inches. ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives.