

MUSEUM OF SEX

RADICAL PERVERTS: Ecstasy and Activism in Queer Public Space, 1975-2000

Opening October 12, 2023 at The Museum of Sex in New York City



Phyllis Christopher, *Klitz Sex Club, San Francisco, CA, 1991*

[Press Kit linked HERE](#)

October 4, 2023, NEW YORK, NY - The Museum of Sex is proud to present *RADICAL PERVERTS: Ecstasy and Activism in Queer Public Space, 1975-2000*, opening to the public on Thursday October 12, 2023. This landmark exhibition of contemporary works and archival ephemera, curated by Alexis Heller, documents the transformative sex culture, political debates and mutual aid that swelled within seminal LGBTQ public spaces, before and amid the height of the HIV/AIDS crisis. On view at the Museum of Sex from October 12, 2023 - April 14, 2024, *RADICAL PERVERTS* makes visible the intersecting histories of pleasure, community power, pain, and public health in these now mostly vanished places of revolutionary communion and care.

Featured artists include Nayland Blake, Tom Burr, Phyllis Christopher, José Luis Cortés, The Fair Oaks Project, Danny Jauregui, Derrick Woods-Morrow, The Pussy Palace Oral History Project, Viva Ruiz, Dean Sameshima, Christian Walker, and Jimmy Wright, with archival ephemera from the Leather Archives & Museum.

During the critical 25 year period between 1975-2000, BDSM bars, bath houses, porn theaters, parks and tearooms were highly-charged sites of sexual freedom for the LGBTQ community. These spaces also served as important grounds for early organizing, safer sex education, and public action around HIV/AIDS. *RADICAL PERVERTS* presents artworks and artifacts by an intergenerational group of artists that reflect both the eroticism and urgency of this time, as well as memorialize the queer kinship and loss inherent to these places.

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“Protest and political action are inextricable from even the kinkiest LGBTQ venues,” says curator Alexis Heller “To promote each other’s survival with unabashed pleasure and joy, in defiance of discrimination and grief, is radical. And that heroic spirit is what inspires me to mine and pay reverence to these histories and archives again and again.”

The museum will host a private opening reception on the evening of Thursday, October 12th and the exhibition will open to the public on Friday, October 13th.

About The Museum of Sex

The mission of the Museum of Sex is to preserve and present the history, evolution and cultural significance of human sexuality. The Museum produces exhibitions, publications and programs that bring the best of current scholarship to the widest possible audiences and is committed to encouraging public enlightenment, discourse and engagement. All guests must be 18 years or older with a valid proof of ID.

Address: 233 Fifth Avenue (@ 27th Street), New York NY 10016

Contact: 212-689-6337

Website: <https://www.museumofsex.com/>

Museum Hours: <https://www.museumofsex.com/museum/about/visit/>.

Instagram: [@museumofsex](https://www.instagram.com/museumofsex)

Twitter: [@museumofsex](https://twitter.com/museumofsex)

Facebook: [@mosex](https://www.facebook.com/mosex)

TikTok: [@superfunlandnyc](https://www.tiktok.com/@superfunlandnyc)

About Alexis Heller

For more than a decade, Alexis Heller worked to empower LGBTQIA+ young people in settings such as foster care, homeless shelters, drop-in centers and schools. She began an independent curatorial practice in 2012 centering marginalized LGBTQIA+ and feminist histories. Heller has organized exhibitions for institutions including the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art, Smack Mellon, The 8th Floor, The Handwerker Gallery at Ithaca College, as well as several alternative art spaces. She currently lives between New York and Costa Rica.

MEDIA CONTACT

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