

# TACOMA ART MUSEUM

1701 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## Art AIDS America: Sneak Peek in West Hollywood

Tacoma, WA – HIV/AIDS has touched nearly every American in some way, and has forever influenced American art. The City of West Hollywood's One City One Pride and ONE Archives Gallery & Museum present a select preview of the groundbreaking exhibition *Art AIDS America*, organized by Tacoma Art Museum (WA). The preview opens on June 6 with art on view through September 6.

You can be among the first to connect with this major exhibition and see 47 works in these two

neighboring venues. At West Hollywood Library, explore a wide range of creative expressions from the early years of AIDS to the present. Highlights include a 1985 portrait of Ken Meeks by Alon Reininger, printed in *Life Magazine*, and 2014 self-portraits created by Kia Labeija (who was born with HIV), as well as art by Brian Buczak, the collective fierce pussy, and others. ONE Gallery focuses on California artists, from recent work by Tino Rodriguez and Ann P. Meredith to 1986 photographs by Catherine Opie that have never before been on view.

Since its discovery, AIDS has shaped art, politics, medicine, and pop culture. There have been other AIDS-related art exhibitions. *Art AIDS America* is the first that comprehensively considers the full range of artistic responses during 30 years of the epidemic in the United States, and identifies the resulting change on the direction of American art as whole. It introduces and explores the whole spectrum of artistic responses to AIDS, from the politically outspoken to the quietly mournful, surveying works from the early 1980s to the present.



Visitors will learn how HIV/AIDS became a force that shifted art from neutral, conceptual postmodernism towards a new, more politically insistent and autobiographical expression. The exhibition also shines a light on the continued growth of HIV among people of all orientations and in all walks of life.

Get a glimpse of this preview at West Hollywood Library and the adjacent ONE Gallery. The complete exhibition of more than 115 works debuts at Tacoma Art Museum on October 3, 2015, on view through January 10, 2016, before traveling to Zuckerman Museum of Art, Kennesaw State University, GA, and The Bronx Museum of the Arts, NY.

### **About The City of West Hollywood's One City One Pride Festival**

Each year, the City of West Hollywood celebrates LGBTQ Pride Month with the One City One Pride Arts Festival. For 2015, One City One Pride will run from Harvey Milk Day (May 22) through the end of June Pride Month (June 30). In celebration of West Hollywood's 30th anniversary of Cityhood, One City One Pride takes a look at what it means to turn 30 with the theme '**WeHo@30, Life@30**'. In addition, since the City was founded during the early years of the AIDS crisis, a major component of One City One Pride will be a look back at the impact AIDS has had on art and culture with 'WeHo@30: Art AIDS WeHo', which continues through September with extended exhibits and performances. One City One Pride was recently awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support its programming in 2016, when the theme will be 'Into the Streets', referring to a rallying cry used during the early years of the LGBTQ rights movement. More information is available at [www.weho.org/pride](http://www.weho.org/pride).



#### **Art AIDS America preview Hours and Locations:**

*Art AIDS America* preview is on view at two neighboring locations; overlapping visitor hours are Thursday from 4-7 pm, Friday and Saturday from 1-5 pm.

West Hollywood Library: 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood. Library hours: Mondays through Thursdays, 11 am – 7 pm; Fridays and Saturdays, 10 am – 6 pm; closed

on Sundays, holidays, and June 12-14. Free admission. Call [\(310\) 652-5340](tel:3106525340) to verify hours. [www.weho.org/pride](http://www.weho.org/pride)

ONE Archives Gallery & Museum: 626 N. Robertson Boulevard, West Hollywood. Gallery hours: Thursday, 4 – 8 pm; Friday through Sunday, 1 – 5 pm. Closed Monday through Wednesday, holidays, and June 12-14. Free admission, donations accepted. Call (213) 821-2771 and online at [one.usc.edu](http://one.usc.edu)

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**Image Credits:**

**Tino Rodriguez**, Born Ciudad Obregón, Sonora, Mexico, 1965. *Eternal Lovers*, 2010. Oil on wood, 18 x 24 inches. Private collection.

**Joey Terrill**, Born Los Angeles, California, 1955. *Still-Life with Forget-Me-Nots and One Week's Dose of Truvada*, 2012. Mixed media on canvas, 36 x 48 inches. Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, Foundation purchase.

**Kia Labeija**, Born New York, New York, 1990, 24, 2014. Inkjet print, 16 x 24 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

## **+SUPPORT**

For giving and recognition opportunities with Art AIDS America, or to host a house party for fundraising and awareness, please contact Peter Raffa at 253-272-4258 x3013 or [PRaffa@TacomaArtMuseum.org](mailto:PRaffa@TacomaArtMuseum.org).

## **+STAY INFORMED**

Sign up to be a supporter of Art AIDS America and help us spread the word at [www.TacomaArtMuseum.org/AAA](http://www.TacomaArtMuseum.org/AAA)

*Art AIDS America* is organized by Tacoma Art Museum in partnership with The Bronx Museum of the Arts, and co-curated by Dr. Jonathan D. Katz, Director, Visual Studies Doctoral Program at the University at Buffalo (The State University of New York), and Rock Hushka, Chief Curator at Tacoma Art Museum. The exhibition is made possible by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, and Gilead Sciences, Inc. The presentation of *Art AIDS America* at West Hollywood is supported by The City of West Hollywood and The David Geffen Foundation.

### **About Tacoma Art Museum**

Founded by volunteers in 1935, Tacoma Art Museum has become an anchor in the city's downtown and a gathering space for connecting people through art. TAM's collection contains more than 4,500 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader American west. The collection includes the world's largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on continued view; the world's largest collection of jewelry by Northwest artists; key holdings in 19th century European and 20th century American art; and one of the finest collections of Japanese woodblock prints on the West Coast. TAM recently welcomed a promised gift of 295 works of Western American art in the Haub Family Collection, one of the premier collections in the nation and the first major western American art museum collection in the Northwest. <http://www.TacomaArtMuseum.org>