



Leslie + Lohman
museum
of Gay and Lesbian Art

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leslie-Lohman Museum Showcases Thirty Young, New York-Based Queer Artists Connected Through Social Media.



Scooter La Forge, *Masters of the Universe*, 2011, Oil on canvas, 50 x 58.5 in. Collection of David W. Perkins and George Constant.



Derek Dewitt, *Stella Rose Saint Clair*, 2013, 22 x 17 in. Courtesy the artist.



Natasha Gornik, *Andi*, 2014, Photographic inkjet print, 20 x 24 in. Courtesy the artist.

Interface: Queer Artists Forming Communities Through Social Media

#QueerArtInterface

Curated by Walt Cessna

May 15 - August 2, 2015

Public Opening: May 15, 2015, 6 – 8 pm

[New York, NY - March 2015] ***Interface: Queer Artist Forming Communities Through Social Media*** is an eclectic mix of queer, New York-based artists, working in a wide variety of styles and mediums, who use social media to create a community to exhibit their work. In many cases, social media has led these artists to become friends and colleagues. This exhibition emblemizes a shifting time in the art world, when technology allows artists not only to create in a different way, but also alters the way the public encounters them and their art. ***Interface*** opens at the Leslie-Lohman Museum on May 15 and runs through August 2, 2015.

Join us live at the opening reception from 6 to 8 pm on May 15, and join us virtually throughout the exhibition at ***#QueerArtInterface***.

Taking a cue from the punk ethos of New York's East Village art scene of the late '70s and early '80s, this group of artists, also impatient with the professional gallery system, are using the computer screen and Internet rather than the walls of a gallery to showcase their work. Just as early '80s artists would display their work on rotting piers, abandoned furniture, tenement bathroom walls, and subway billboards, the current generation lets its creativity circulate across the multifaceted online landscape, where a potentially infinite virtual audience can instantly connect with work, repost images and/or blog about it. Social media sites allow LGBTQ artists to gain independence from typical art outlets, changing the perception of what constitutes queer art.

Curated by Walt Cessna, **Interface** presents thirty New York queer artists who work in a wide variety of styles and mediums including painting, photography, sculpture and installation. Cessna says, "What I hope the viewer sees is how wide-ranging, diverse, truly unique, and heartfelt the current art scene actually is. It seems like the mainstream art world has become inundated with too many large, pointless, grossly extravagant, or just plain old ugly living room wall pieces created for people with the resources to buy them who often lack any kind of original taste or true appreciation of art. By mixing painters, photographers, illustrators, sculptors, videographers, craftsman, installation artists, designers, and performance artists together in a sometimes jarring, but always attentive way, **Interface** spawns, in a very contemporary way, the earlier spirit of artists who are distinctive with these future-retro artists of today."

Museum Director Hunter O'Hanian says, "By utilizing social media as a viable alternative to the usual, age-old route of finding a way to show in galleries or museums, artists can take their lives and careers into their own hands. While some post or blog new work, others dig deeper."

Artists being exhibited include Dietmar Busse, Chick Byrne, Isauro Cairo, Bubi Canal, Adrian Carroll, Walt Cassidy, Ben Copperwheat, Derek DeWitt, Jordan Eagles, Alesia Exum, Benjamin Fredrickson, Natasha Gornik, Joel Handorff, Leo Herrera, Erika Keck, Brian Kenny, Naruki Kukita, Scooter La Forge, Brett Lindell, Slava Mogutin, Diego Montoya, Chuck Nitzberg, Maria Piñeres, Gio Black Peter, James Salaiz, Ethan Shoshan, William Spangenberg, Tom Taylor, George Towne, and Todd Yeager.

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About Walt Cessna

Walt Cessna is a writer, photographer and former fashion designer who started his career in fashion as a *Vogue*-obsessed thirteen year old eventually working with knockoff king and dress mogul Jack "Fast Jack" Mulqueen and designer Norma Kamali. He established himself as a fashion designer with his acclaimed Dom Casual label, designing and self-producing a line of men's and women's sportswear. His short stories have appeared in magazines such as *Paper* as well as numerous blogs. His photography can be found virtually anywhere on the Internet as well as in his published photo collections *Fukt 2 Start Wit* and *Wolfpack!* He currently lives in New York City.

About the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art

"...invaluable museum." **Holland Cotter, New York Times, June 2013**
Best place for gay culture, Time Out New York: New York's Best 2012

The Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art is the first and only dedicated gay and lesbian art museum in the world with a mission to exhibit and preserve gay and lesbian art, and foster the artists who create it. The Museum has a permanent collection of over 24,000 objects, 6-8 major exhibitions annually, artist talks, film screenings, readings, THE ARCHIVE - a quarterly art newsletter, a membership program, and a research library. The Leslie-Lohman Museum is operated by the Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation, Inc., a non-profit founded in 1987 by Charles W. Leslie and Fritz Lohman, who have supported gay and lesbian artists for over 30 years. The Leslie-Lohman Museum embraces the rich creative history of the gay and lesbian art community by educating, informing, inspiring, entertaining, and challenging all who enter its doors.

The Museum is located at 26 Wooster Street in the SoHo neighborhood of New York City. Admission is free, and hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 12-6 pm, and Thursday, 12-8 pm. The Museum is closed Monday and all major holidays. The Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization and is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)3 of the IRS Code. The Museum can be reached at 212-431-2609. For more information, go to LeslieLohman.org.