

MEDIA ALERT

WRIGHTWOOD 659 MARKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF STONEWALL REBELLION WITH
STATE-OF-THE-FIELD SURVEY OF QUEER ART

About Face: Stonewall, Revolt and New Queer Art
Opens May 22, 2019

WHAT

Wrightwood 659 hails the Stonewall Rebellion—which spurred the modern-day movement for LGBTQ equality—with a major exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of that historic event. Entitled *About Face: Stonewall, Revolt and New Queer Art*, the exhibition comprises historical and contemporary works by international artists that, viewed together, provide a nuanced picture of the evolving meaning of queerness.



Deborah Kass, *Daddy I Would Love To Dance*, 2008, acrylic on canvas, 78 x 78 in.

WHERE

Wrightwood 659
659 W. Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614

WHEN

May 22–July 20, 2019

ADMISSION

Tickets are available online only, starting May 13, and may be purchased for \$20 throughout the run of the exhibition. A limited number of free tickets are released each Monday for the current week. Walk-ins are not accommodated. For all tickets: <https://tickets.wrightwood659.org/events>

EXHIBITION

About Face: Stonewall, Revolt and New Queer Art takes as its point of departure Alan Ginsberg's description of the participants in the Stonewall riots, in an article in *The Village Voice*, as having "lost that wounded look." Indeed, the rebellion marked

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the advent of a new spirit of resistance, one whose tenor was decidedly activist, interventionist, and socially engaged. This self-assertion was premised on an emerging idea—that queerness was not an individual pathology but a collective political identity. In turn, this propelled a new kind of queer art, one that was not, as in the past, coded and indirect, but confident, collective, and often openly engaging in political advocacy.

Unlike other exhibitions presented on the anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, *About Face* attempts to provide a state-of-the-field survey of queer art today with more than 250 works by an international roster of artists. They have given form to the idea of a collective queerness, defined by certain commonalities even as it celebrates our racial, gendered, and ethnic differences. Many of the artists, such as Harmony Hammond, Sharon Hayes, Peter Hujar, Deborah Kass, Jacolby Satterwhite, and others, have become canonical, while other equally talented artists in the exhibition have not achieved this acclaim. Above all, this exhibition engages the diversity of queernesses, highlighting the voices of those who have previously been relegated to the margins in an increasingly pluralistic queer art world. The works on view range from painting and sculpture to photography, film and video, and installation and performance art.

FUNDING

About Face: Stonewall, Revolt and New Queer Art is made possible by the Alphawood Foundation Chicago.

CURATORS

Curator of the exhibition is Jonathan David Katz, PhD, Visiting Professor of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies at The University of Pennsylvania and chair of the doctoral program in Visual Studies at the University at Buffalo.

RELATED PROGRAMS

The exhibition will be accompanied by a range of public programs to be announced.

ABOUT WW 659

Wrightwood 659, a private, non-collecting institution which opened in late 2018, presents three public exhibitions annually, devoted to socially engaged art and to architecture. Located in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood, Wrightwood 659 was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Tadao Ando, who transformed a 1920s building with his signature concrete forms and poetic treatment of natural light.

Future exhibitions at Wrightwood 659 will include a presentation of work by Japanese painter Tetsuya Ishida (1973–2005), organized in collaboration with the Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid, on view at Wrightwood 659 in fall 2019. In spring 2020 Wrightwood 659 will present *Allure of Matter*, a major exhibition of contemporary experimental art in China, presented in partnership with the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago.

For additional information: <https://wrightwood659.org/>