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LIVING ARTS ANNOUNCES THEN, HERE/NOW: CREATING COMMUNITY IN THE CENTER.

Opening Friday, June 7th, 2019, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM Living Arts will present our June group exhibition, *Then, Here/Now: Creating Community in the Center*. This group exhibition will feature works that illuminate the histories and presence/presents of LGBTQIA+ art collectives and projects.

The exhibition will remain open through July 12th.

Exhibition Statement:

Curatorial Statement for June Show

Then, Here/Now: Creating Community in the Center is a group exhibition that illuminates the histories and presence/presents of LGBTQIA+ art collectives and projects that help to ensure visibility and resilience in the middle of the map. This exhibition highlights myriad ways in which people identify and build community through visual practices. Certainly, the work shown within the exhibition is a fraction of the groups, collectives, and artistic endeavors that are undertaken, upheld, and created within this region. Visibility is difficult and vexed: this exhibition acknowledges the multitude of LGBTQIA+ elders and siblings that have created space, provided safety, and risked livelihoods in order to live authentically.

The Then, Here/Now exhibition will be located at Living Arts of Tulsa, 307 East Brady St. Tulsa, Oklahoma 74120. Email Sina at admin@livingarts.org for more information about the exhibit or press photos.

Sampled Artists/Projects:

Rachel Trusty is an artist, educator, and independent curator originally from central Arkansas. Her artwork and research focus on traditional feminist art-making techniques, queer art history, and on gendered materiality. Her work *Friends*

and Lovers is a mixed-media series representing images of love that are historically invisible. Based on anonymous found photographs, the small paintings depict same-sex female couples from different historical time periods. The *Friends and Lovers* series seeks to show relationships in a tender and natural way, leaving room for the viewer to understand the relationship presented in on their own terms.

The Ordinance Project, directed by Austin R. Williams, won the “Courage Award” for best feature-length documentary at the 2018 Kansas City LGBT Film Festival. Williams is a doctoral candidate at the University of Missouri-Kansas City whose current work focuses on Kansas City’s response to the AIDS epidemic and its impact upon LGBTQ civil rights. In 1990, the city council of Kansas City, Missouri voted on a highly contested piece of civil rights legislation—a measure which would have officially outlawed discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS, gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals in the areas of housing, employment, and public accommodations. *The Ordinance Project* contextualizes the controversy surrounding this human rights ordinance within the broader resurgence of activism fueled by the AIDS epidemic.

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Participating Artists/Projects:

Oklahoma for Equality / OkEq (Oklahoma)
Rachel Trusty (Arkansas)
Secret Love Collective (Colorado)
Sky Cubacub (Illinois)
The Ordinance Project (Missouri)

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