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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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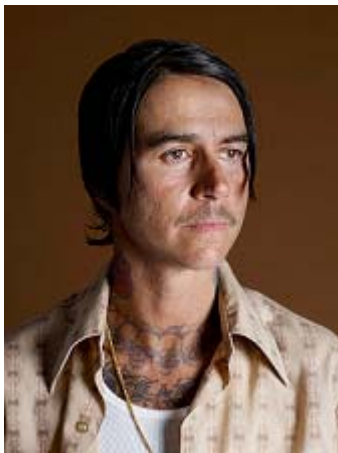
Media Advisory / Calendar Item

***The Tattoo Show* to open at LGBT Center on June 3, 2010**

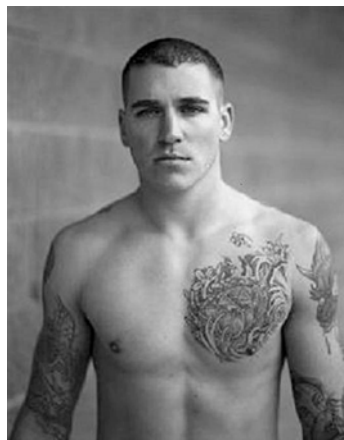
Over the past thirty years, tattooing has transformed from an ostensibly deviant practice to a popular cultural phenomenon. Once a defiant symbol of life at society's margins, the tattoo is now seen by some as a sign of contemporary society's head-on embrace of celebrity, commerciality, and homogeneity. Within the LGBT community, tattooing in the second and third quarters of the 20th centuries was mostly limited to leather men and so-called "radical lesbians", whereas it is now it is almost commonplace, with 31% of LGBT people stating they have at least one tattoo.

The changing meanings and perception of tattoos have also become the subjects for an ever growing number of visual artists. When the imagery of the tattoo is isolated from the human canvas, or when the "tattooed" becomes the subject of art, the ink can become a distinct portrait of the subject, revealing identities, histories, ethnicities, personality quirks, fetishes, addictions, conquests, allegiances. This expansive show presents the tattoo and the tattooed within the realm of fine art, providing a vivid and expansive portrait of the culture of the tattoo.

Curated by Kathleen Cullen and Christopher Hanway, *The Tattoo Show* will include works by Max Snow, Catherine Opie, Tom of Finland, Araki, Alix Lambert, Jason Brooks, Lina Bertucci, Richard Renaldi, Larry Clark, Aaron Cobbett, Assume Vivid Astro-Focus, Herbert Hoffman, Paola Ferrario, Stephanie Tamez, Judy Linn, Mark Chamberlain, Thomas Hooper, Dr. Lakra, Jacki Randall, Matthew Weinstein, Patrick Lee, Victor Gadino and Kiki Smith, among others.



Catherine Opie, *Pig Pen* (2009)



Richard Renaldi, *Craig* (2006)



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- WHAT** *The Tattoo Show* at the Center
- WHO** Max Snow, Catherine Opie, Tom of Finland, Araki, Alix Lambert, Jason Brooks, Lina Bertucci, Richard Renaldi, Larry Clark, Aaron Cobbett, Assume Vivid Astro-Focus, Herbert Hoffman, Paola Ferrario, Stephanie Tamez, Judy Linn, Mark Chamberlain, Thomas Hooper, Dr. Lakra, Jacki Randall, Matthew Weinstein, Patrick Lee, Victor Gadino and Kiki Smith, among others.
- WHEN** Opening and Reception, Thursday June 3, 2010 7:00 PM- 9 PM
- Panel Discussion, "Imprinting Identity: Tattoos and LGBT Culture" (participants TBA)
Tuesday, June 8, 7:00 PM
- Show closes Tuesday, September 7
- WHERE** The Center, 208 West 13th Street
- HOW** Admission to the show is free. Most pieces, as well as limited edition prints, will be available for sale, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting The Center
- CONTACT** Ector Simpson, Director of Cultural Programs
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About the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center

Established in 1983, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center, located at 208 West 13th Street in New York City is the largest LGBT community center on the East Coast. More than 6,000 people visit the Center weekly and 300 groups meet here. More information is available at gaycenter.org.