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YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN ACTION V1 I1

IMPACT



New Exhibits

In the last several months, the Leather Archives & Museum has been very busy putting together several **new and exciting exhibits**, both here in the building and to take out on the road.



Ever wonder why the parallels between the bear and leather community are so strong? The display in our Main Exhibit Gallery ***From Sir to GRRR: The Bear Community and its Leather Origins*** examines in detail how the Leather community inspired an entire new movement.



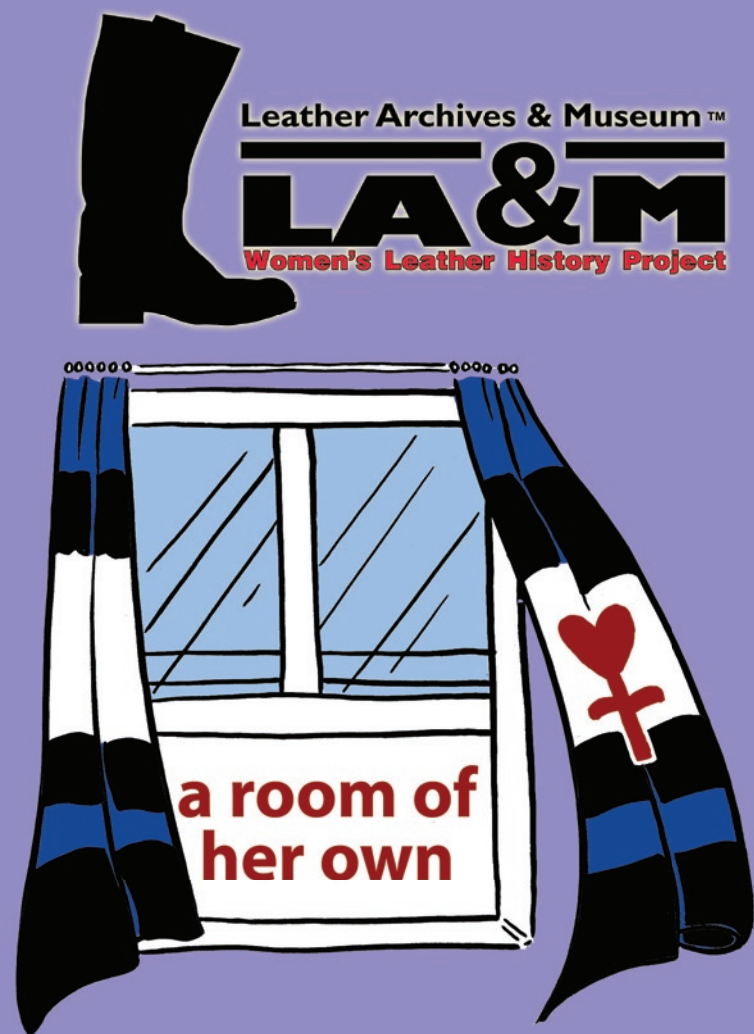
In January, we had the pleasure of bringing the work of sculptor **Philip Hitchcock** to our Guest Artist Gallery with his show ***Of Myths and Mortals***. *Myths* explores the relationship between the human and the divine with a decidedly erotic bent. The exhibit will be in the GAG until June, and in May Mr. Hitchcock will be returning to the LA&M for a demonstration of his technique in creating these works of art. A special thank you to **Cleveland Leather Awareness Wekkend (CLAW)** for their support in this program.

Our two new traveling exhibits have been made possible through a partnering of our member support and the generosity of two of our board members. This summer saw the debut of **our new Road Show display**, utilizing newly designed information panels with a contemporary, professional convention display. October saw the debut of our traveling exhibit ***The Art of Drummer: New Outlines of Masculinity*** in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The 20+ works in this collection represent many of the artists who contributed art to *Drummer* over the years. This exhibit comes labeled, framed and with a guide and ready for hanging. **Both exhibits are available** and can be booked by contacting us at archives@leatherarchives.org



THE ART OF DRUMMER New Outlines of Masculinity





Women's Leather History Project

The Leather Archives & Museum's **Women's Leather History Project (WLHP)** celebrated **a momentum building year in 2011**. In May, the LA&M WLHP opened **A Room of Her Own** to a packed gallery. Co-founder Sarah Humble called the exhibit "a milestone for the LA&M Women's Leather History Project." The exhibit's curator, **Dr. Alex Warner**, was named project historian for the WLHP. Dr. Warner received her doctorate from the History Department at Rutgers University on May 15th, 2011. Her doctoral work and subject matter expertise will assist in her work at the LA&M developing collections, working with historians and managing special projects.

New items added to the collections came from many places: International Ms. Leather's (IMsL) 25th anniversary in April 2011 yielded **sashes, papers and artifacts from former IMsL winners**. Many books and magazines were added to the Teri Rose library during the year, including "Tough Girls" and "Sapphistory". The LA&M fine art and photography collections grew thanks to **contributions from Janet Ryan and Master Ces Williams**, among others. Finally, more women's stories became available through the oral history collection thanks to **interviewers Sarah Humble, Tracy Wolf and Cherries Jubilee**. These will be digitized and made available online.

2012 holds much in store for the LA&M WLHP. As work continues toward the second exhibition (expected to open in early 2014), **the traveling exhibit is expected to receive a facelift** and update and will be on location in San Francisco for International Ms. Leather 2012.



Copy Berg

in the United States Navy in 1976 when the Navy gave him an other than honorable discharge for being in a relationship with another man. Berg fought the discharge, and won an honorable discharge, permanently changing the way in which the Navy handled such discharges.

We also began our program of docent tours. So far, with guides such as **Chester Munro, Rick Storer and Jack Rinella**, they have gotten off to a great start and promise to get better as we sign on more folks to lead them. Be sure to be on our email blast list to receive updates on upcoming tours and guides.

To cap it all off, the LA&M is now **offering free hours every Thursday between 3:00 and 7:00 PM**. Each Thursday, we dedicate those hours to an organization, club or event that has been a friend to the LA&M, and announce their name as well as include a mention with a link on all or social media sites and monthly email blast. Contact us to add your name to the list!

NEW RATES AND NEW TOURS

In 2012, the Leather Archives & Museum is aiming to get more visitors to our exhibits than ever before. In January, we were proud to announce our **50% discount to veterans and active duty members of the United States Armed Forces**. As the recent repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" made history by once and for all ending the ban on gays and lesbians from serving in the military, we felt it was time to honor all the men and women who serve our country to uphold the rights that particularly we at the Archives enjoy. Our building itself honors one of those men. Through a generous donation from Frank Theis and J.P. Weir during our Capital Campaign, **our lobby is dedicated to the memory of Copy Berg**, an Ensign



LA&M DIGITIZATION PROJECT



2011 was a busy year for the digitization equipment at the Leather Archives. Our current focus is films on VHS. These tapes have a twenty to thirty year shelf life, so films put on tape in the 1980s will soon be unplayable. Thanks to generous support of the Leather Masked Ball, **over 150 films have been transferred to DVD** on archival quality discs. In addition to documentary films, LA&M staff have selected **historically significant erotic films** for digitization and preservation. When possible, clips from these films **are uploaded to the Leather Archives website** or to YouTube(TM).

