

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN ACTION V1 I2

IMPACT



Leather Archives & Museum Plans a Capital Campaign to Acquire Additional Space

A message from the President of the LA&M, Chuck Renslow

When I started the Leather Archives with my friend Tony DeBlase over twenty years ago, we knew the leather community needed a place for its history to be preserved and available. The LA&M moved from my basement to a storefront and then to a 10,000 square foot building that the community has claimed as its own.

As the treasure trove of materials at the Leather Archives continues to grow, we continually find ourselves needing more space. To meet this growing need for additional space in years to come, we have included a capital campaign in our five year strategic plan.

We have engaged architects to provide guidance on cost estimates and preliminary plans. Options for expansion include adding onto the existing building at 6418 N. Greenview Ave., utilizing offsite storage and/or exhibition galleries, and satellite storage and/or exhibition galleries outside of Chicago.

Regardless of which option is ultimately selected, the LA&M will address handicap accessibility issues at its existing Chicago location.

To make our capital campaign a success, we will rely on the continued support of the leather and fetish community, and foundations, granting organizations and other funding sources. I hope those who call the Leather Archives a home for their history will share our excitement for this important developmental stage.



Women's Oral History Summaries



Now Available On The LA&M Website

Over the last several weeks and months, volunteers and staff have been focusing their work on oral histories from women. We are now happy to report that all women's histories currently in our collection have been listened to and given a written synopsis. Those synopses are now available at the LA&M website. To see these synopses, go to

<http://www.leatherarchives.org/collections/oral/oral.htm>

We at the LA&M are very excited with the research opportunities that having these resources available online creates.



THE HEAT IS ON IN THE GUEST ARTIST GALLERY

In July, despite sweltering temperatures, the Guest Artist Gallery at the LA&M had a great turn out for the opening of photographer Richard Yates' show **WOOF**. If you haven't had a chance to see the work of this very hot artist, you still have a few weeks left!

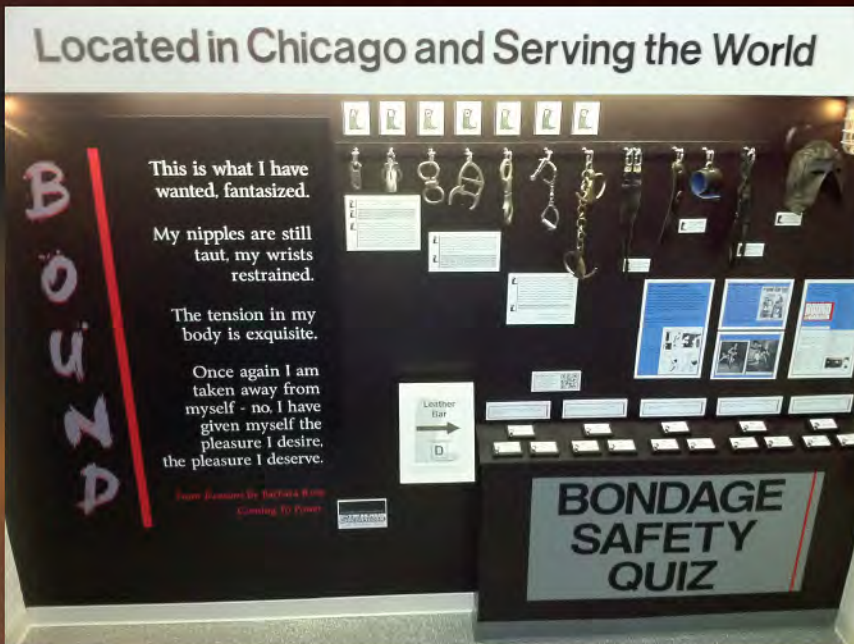
In February, we'll be keeping the heat on with the opening of photographer Justice Howard's show **FLESH**. Howard's photos have appeared in such high profile places as *Easyriders* to the set of the FX networks hit show *Sons of Anarchy*. The show will have an official opening reception Friday, February 1, 2013 at 7:00 PM. Join us for refreshments and a first chance to see the work of this internationally known artist!



OUT OF THE ARCHIVES, INTO THE COMMUNITY

This year, more people than ever have had the opportunity to experience the vast art collection here at the LA&M. In April, our traveling exhibit **The Art of Drummer: New Outlines in Masculinity** was seen by the many attendees at **CLAW 11**. In November, the exhibit made another appearance at **Philadelphia Leather Pride Night**.

Additionally, the **Adler School of Professional Psychology** invited the Archives to curate and hang a collection of twenty photos from our art photography collection to be seen during CARAS Alternative Sexuality Conference in May. The exhibit received such a strong response that Adler chose to keep the exhibit for several more months than originally planned.



BOUND: LA&M'S LATEST EXHIBIT A SUCCESS

The LA&M's latest interactive exhibit has opened and has enjoyed great positive feedback. Assembled with the generous help and support of **Shibaricon**, the exhibit debuted in October. Featuring an extensive collection of handcuff, shackle and bondage artifacts and an educational interactive Bondage Safety Quiz, the exhibit will catch the attention of the seasoned pro or the novice alike. Harlequin Romance author and recent visitor Delilah Marvella wrote of the exhibit: "One of my favorite aspects of the museum (aside from the artwork and historical artifacts) was actually the bondage safety quiz. Many of us think we know what bondage involves, until we take a test. I was pleasantly surprised to find that I aced all of the questions."



SCHOLARS AND RESEARCHERS FIND THE ANSWERS

The Teri Rose Library and the Archives have been getting a great deal of use in the last several weeks. In September, Amber R. Clifford-Napoleone (pictured) joined us here to research the ways in which the leather community created the heavy metal pose as part of her project on queering heavy metal. Also in September, the Leatherpage Scholarship was awarded to Abby Tallmer of NYC. She will come to the Archives in the near future to do primary research that supports community research and journalism, invites critical thinking about the structure of our community, and sparks engaged public discourse.



IML RAISES \$60,000 FOR THE LA&M

In June, The Leather Archives & Museum announced that International Mr. Leather weekend raised \$60,000 for the Leather Archives & Museum. In addition to donations from visitors to the IML Leather Market, funds were raised at a silent auction and a roast of the outgoing International Mr. Leather and International Mr. Bootblack.

Executive Director Rick Storer said "International Mr. Leather is an important fundraising vehicle for the museum, with a total budget of \$220,000 about 25% of our support comes from this weekend. The success of IML 2012 combined with the ongoing support of our membership will enable new exhibits and additional focus on our digitization efforts." In addition to fundraising events, approximately 350 people toured the museum during the weekend.

ROCHESTER RAMS, IRA C. SMITH COLLECTIONS AT THE LA&M

In June, the LA&M acquired the records from the Rochester Rams and the papers of artist Ira C. Smith. They will join the permanent collections at the LA&M and be made available to scholars, leatherfolk and all patrons, including parts of each collection on the LA&M website.



The Rochester Rams M.C. [motorcycle club] was founded in 1973 and continues operating today in Rochester, NY. The club's records include meeting minutes, run information, photos, films and memorabilia.

Ira C. Smith is a native New York artist whose drawings first graced the pages of America's erotic magazines in 1990. Working primarily in pencil, Ira draws from live models and photographs. His papers, including letters, an index of published works, sketches and other memorabilia join several of his pieces already in the permanent collections at the LA&M.



LA&M HONORED WITH IMPERIAL TITLE

On October 20th, 2012, the Archives was proud to accept the title "Guardians of the Empire for Life" from Regent Emperor 8 Scott Turner and Empress Alexandra St. James Grey during the Imperial Windy City Court of the Prairie State Empire's 9th Annual Coronation Ceremony. Director of Project Management Chester Munro was on hand to receive the certificate and medallion from the court. Also during the ceremony, LA&M Board President Chuck Renslow was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award.



FOLSOM STREET EVENTS COLLECTION UPDATE

The LA&M has been working hard towards meeting Folsom Street Event's \$7,500 Challenge Grant. The grant will help the Archives with the cost of processing this very large and valuable collection, making it available to the public to enjoy as well as for future research. To find out how you can help, visit leatherarchives.org/folsom/

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