



**SOMARTS**  
cultural center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SOMArts Cultural Center Presents  
Man as Object: Reversing the Gaze**

*Women artists open new possibilities for the gaze through an examination of gender, society and the politics of exposure, November 4–30, 2011*

**San Francisco, CA—** *Man as Object: Reversing the Gaze* is a traveling survey of 117 artworks debuting at SOMArts Cultural Center which place the male form in a position of objecthood and reverse conventional hierarchies in the culture of display. The exhibition includes an extensive collection of male adoration, male impersonation and male appendages, as well as works which probe contemporary expressions of feminism.

The exhibition is open from Friday, November 4 through Wednesday, November 30, at SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street, San Francisco. Accompanying events include an opening reception with performance, a peep show drawing circle, a screening of historic feminist film “Fuses” by Carolee Schneemann, and a featured artists panel with feminist art pioneers and transdisciplinary artists Schneemann and Annie Sprinkle.

Artworks selected by Tanya Augsburg, Ph.D., and curated by Karen Gutfreund and Priscilla Otani, present diverse perspectives on masculinity and desire from a female perspective while simultaneously highlighting problematic societal definitions of feminine and masculine.

Participating artists represent a range of gender, sexual and cultural identities working in a broad spectrum of media ranging from visual art to new media and performance.

Featured artists include:

Juana Alicia	Carolee Schneemann
Nancy Buchanan	Sylvia Sleigh
Guerrilla Girls On Tour!	Annie Sprinkle
Lynn Hershman Leeson	Elizabeth Stephens
Jill O'Bryan	May Wilson
ORLAN	Melissa P. Wolf

Exhibition co-curator Karen Gutfreund commented, “*Man as Object* marks an important development in feminist art, which has long concentrated on images of women meant to challenge stereotypical notions of womanhood. A gallery filled with works depicting men, created by women, actively resists the prevalence of the male gaze in art as well as the continued domination of male artists exhibiting in galleries and museums.”



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An opening reception on Friday, November 4, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. features a performance by Chanel Matsunami Govreau, whose new work “Hapa Bruthas” explores Hapa male and Asian male sexuality, brotherhood, and the effects of interracial dating in Asian American communities from a mixed-Asian woman's perspective.

Govreau will reprise “Hapa Bruthas” for a public drawing circle with a nude male model on Sunday, Nov 13, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. A closing event features a screening of historic feminist film “Fuses” by Carolee Schneemann, and a panel discussion “Looking at Men: Then and Now” with Schneemann, Tanya Augsburg, Ph.D., and Annie Sprinkle.

*Man as Object: Reversing the Gaze* is one of four exhibition proposals selected to receive a 2011–12 Commons Curatorial Residency at SOMArts. Selected artists and curators receive curatorial stipends and a support package valued at over \$20,000, as well as access to one of the largest and most beautiful gallery spaces in the heart of the city to expand their practice, engage the Bay Area’s cultural communities, and turn vision into reality.

*Man as Object: Reversing the Gaze* is sponsored by the National Women's Caucus for Art and made possible through grants and assistance from SOMArts Cultural Center, the San Francisco Arts Commission and the San Francisco Foundation. The exhibition will travel in part in April, 2011 to the Kinsey Institute Gallery in Bloomington, Indiana.

#### **CALENDAR LISTING**

##### ***Man as Object: Reversing the Gaze***

November 4–30, 2011. Tues.–Fri. 12–7PM, Sat. 12–5PM. Free Admission

[www.somarts.org/manasobject](http://www.somarts.org/manasobject)

##### **Opening Reception with Artwork Dedication & Performance**

Friday, Nov 4 2011, 6–9PM. Free Admission.

Dedication of Sylvia Sleigh’s painting “Lawrence and Susana Delgado” to Mills College. Chanel Matsunami Govreau performs “Hapa Bruthas,” an exploration of Hapa male and Asian male sexuality, brotherhood, and the effects of interracial dating in Asian American communities from a mixed-Asian woman's perspective.

##### **Man as Object: A Peep Show Drawing Circle & Performance**

Sunday, Nov 13, 2011, 12–3PM. \$8 Suggested Donation.

Advance tickets: <http://manasobject.eventbrite.com/>

Featuring a reprise of Chanel Matsunami Govreau’s performance “Hapa Bruthas.” A male model will be drawn by the heightened vantage point of the public. All drawings will be exhibited on site for the event, then taken home by the artists.

##### **Closing Reception, Screening & Discussion Panel**

Wednesday, November 30, 2011, 6–9PM. Free admission.

Screening of historic feminist film *Fuses* by Carolee Schneemann followed by “Looking at Men: Then & Now,” a panel discussion with Tanya Augsburg, Ph.D., Carolee Schneemann, and Annie Sprinkle.



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### **ABOUT SOMARTS CULTURAL CENTER**

SOMArts (South of Market Arts, Resources, Technology, and Services) was founded in 1979 and operates the South of Market Cultural Center, one of four city-owned cultural facilities in San Francisco.

SOMArts supports exhibitions, performances, classes and other collaborations that serve its mission: to promote and nurture art on the community level and foster an appreciation of and respect for all cultures.

For more information about upcoming events, space rentals and technical services, visit [www.somarts.org](http://www.somarts.org) or call 415-863-1414. SOMArts programs are supported by the San Francisco Arts Commission's Community Arts and Education Program, with funding from Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund and the San Francisco Foundation.

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