

Rex Ray graphic art collection

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GLBT Historical Society

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2020

Descriptive Summary

Title: Rex Ray graphic art collection

Dates: circa 1990-2014

Collection Number: 2017-04

Creator/Collector: Ray, Rex

Extent: 10 linear feet

Repository: GLBT Historical Society

San Francisco, California 94103

Abstract: Collection contains numerous posters, ephemera, and book covers designed by San Francisco-based queer graphic artist Rex Ray, (September 11, 1956 – February 9, 2015). Many of the works were designed for Bill Graham Presents, dating from the early 1990s to 2014. Ray’s poster designs are, in part, documents of the Bay Area music scene, and his book covers for City Lights and High Risk offer a brief history of LGBTQ+ literature.

Language of Material: English

Access

Collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

Rex Ray graphic art collection. GLBT Historical Society

Acquisition Information

Donated by Amy Scholder, January 2017, August 2018. Donated by Griff Williams, June 2018.

Scope and Content of Collection

Collection contains numerous posters and book covers designed by San Francisco-based queer graphic artist Rex Ray, (September 11, 1956 – February 9, 2015). Many of the works were designed for Bill Graham Presents, dating from the early 1990s to 2014. Ray’s poster designs are, in part, documents of the Bay Area music scene, and his book covers for City Lights and High Risk offer a brief history of LGBTQ+ literature. Vibrant and accessible (intentionally subversively so), Ray’s art effortlessly mixes concepts of high and low culture, beauty and postmodern conceptualism. The bulk of the collection was donated by Ray’s collaborator Amy Scholder and Gallery 16. Also includes: a DVD of the film, Rex Ray: How to Make a Rex Ray, by producer/director Joshua V. Hassel, ephemera designed by Rex Ray, holiday cards created by Rex Ray, postcards and invitations to Rex Ray shows, Some Weird Sin and Shift material, and material related to Frameline and the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

Indexing Terms

Art

Music

Literature
