Descriptive Summary
Title: GLBT Historical Society Art and Artifacts collection
Dates: circa 1930-2020
Collection Number: GLBT-ART
Creator/Collector:
Extent: Over 600 works of art and artifacts of varying size
Online items available https://www.glbthistory.org/art-artifacts-collection-database
Repository: GLBT Historical Society
San Francisco, California 94103
Abstract: The GLBT Historical Society collection of LGBTQ art and artifacts encompasses a diverse range of
two-dimensional and three-dimensional objects, including paper materials such as drawings and sketches, architectural
plans and banners; metal objects such as pins, buttons, plaques, medallions and badges; three-dimensional artifacts such
as sculptures, framed works of art, historic business signs and theatrical props; and textiles, such as costumes, uniforms,
ribbons and flags. These objects provide visual and material evidence of the San Francisco queer community’s engagement
with the social, cultural, political and physical dynamics of the city, from the late 19th century to the present day.
Language of Material: English
Access
Collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
Contact the GLBT Historical Society archives for information about permissions and rights.
Preferred Citation
GLBT Historical Society Art and Artifacts collection. GLBT Historical Society
Acquisition Information
This is an artificial collection of various donations assembled over many years by staff of the GLBT Historical Society.
Item-level provenance information is available for many of the objects. Contact the archives to learn more.
Scope and Content of Collection
The GLBT Historical Society collection of LGBTQ art and artifacts encompasses a diverse range of two-dimensional and
three-dimensional objects, including paper materials such as drawings and sketches, architectural plans and banners;
metal objects such as pins, buttons, plaques, medallions and badges; three-dimensional artifacts such as sculptures,
framed works of art, historic business signs and theatrical props; and textiles, such as costumes, uniforms, ribbons and
flags. These objects provide visual and material evidence of the San Francisco queer community’s engagement with the
social, cultural, political and physical dynamics of the city, from the late 19th century to the present day. The collection
includes over 600 items. A detailed inventory of the collection is available in the archives. An online database of selected
items from the collection is available on the GLBT Historical Society’s website, including photographs and item descriptions
(https://www.glbthistory.org/art-artifacts-collection-database). A project to inventory, photograph, and preserve this
collection was made possible through the generous support of the San Francisco Office of Economic and Workplace
Development’s Historic Preservation Fund.
Indexing Terms
Gay men
Lesbians
Bisexual/Pansexual
Transgender people
Drag
Kink
Leather
AIDS (disease)
Art
Erotica