

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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To See & Be Seen: T-shirts from the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives opens at the Textile Museum of Canada on the occasion of WorldPride 2014 Toronto

The Textile Museum of Canada is pleased to present *To See & Be Seen: T-shirts from the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives* in conjunction with WorldPride 2014 Toronto. On view daily until September 1, this unique project features 100 T-shirts from the 1970s onwards that represent the fight for visibility and recognition of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer (LGBTQ) communities.

Fashion is a powerful public means to communicate personal identity and political views. This array of T-shirts, from organizations such as ACT UP, Queer Nation and LGBTQ Pride events in North America, demonstrate a diversity of messages from expressions of identity, political and social struggles, to the celebration of community, love and pride. In LGBTQ communities, T-shirt design has embodied these messages in ways that are veiled, humorous and defiant, evolving in tandem with wider popular and political cultures.

Set against a backdrop of images from 1970s Toronto gay pride marches, the exhibition presents a wide range of designs that capture protest and political statements, references to popular culture, the work of visual artists, and many other sources. *To See & Be Seen* highlights how over the last twenty years, expressions of celebration have become gradually more prevalent, resonating with the gains and freedoms achieved in the continued fight for awareness and equality.

To See & Be Seen: T-shirts from the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives is guest curated for the Textile Museum of Canada by Joseph Medaglia, and is produced in collaboration with the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives and the Ryerson University Library and Archives with the support of the Textile Museum of Canada and the School of Fashion, Ryerson University.

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