

Queer A.F.

Queer Arts Featured

575 Castro St. San Francisco, CA, 94114

For Immediate Release:

Queer Arts Featured Exhibition of Harvey Milk's Photos on the Site of His Castro Camera Shop

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Positives & Negatives: Memories from Castro Camera

On Friday, June 6th, Queer Arts Featured (Queer A.F.) gallery and boutique kicks off Pride month with its newest exhibition: Positives & Negatives - Memories From Castro Camera in the Time of Harvey Milk. This unprecedented collection of photographs, most never exhibited, find their way back to their origins at the former site of Milk's Castro Camera at 575 Castro Street, where they were processed during the radical and transformative 1970s. The show will be exhibited from June 6th, 2025 - July 27th, 2025.

Curated by Queer AF Director Devlin Shand and spanning the work of six photographers and archivists including Harvey Milk, Dan Nicoletta, Yeli Sanchez, Rick Dillenbeck, Gina Hall, and Lily Marnell, this collection of over twenty images captures a time of awakening, defiance, community, and joy. The exhibition includes intimate portraits of friends and lovers, the raucous beginnings of The Castro's infamous communes, and photos shot in and around the electric energy of The Castro neighborhood in the 1970s. The images reflect people who, in living openly, unapologetically, and communally, wrote their stories into the history of San Francisco and paved the way for future generations of Queer people.

These historic images represent the period in the wake of the early Gay Rights Movements and the Sexual Revolution, and before the devastation of the AIDS epidemic, when The Castro became the gay mecca we know today, led by efforts made out of the very storefront where they were processed and now return. The collection is accompanied by written narration from the photographer, subject, or both, as well as contemporary portraits of each as photographed by Shand.

Queer A.F. Curator Devlin Shand emphasizes, "In this moment when members of our community are again under attack, and hateful leaders threaten to unravel decades of growth and change, it has never been more important to celebrate the work and the words of those who came before, and remember that we, too, have the power to shape the future. Celebrate the spirit of Pride with us, and experience a new perspective on the past developed at Castro Camera."

The exhibit will open with a special Donor and Press Preview Party on Wednesday, June 4th from 5:00pm - 7:00pm. Tickets for the Donor Preview Party will be a suggested \$100 donation and will include refreshments and special guests, to be announced. The exhibit will open to the public on Friday, June 6th. In addition to the Positives & Negatives exhibit, the work of more than eighty local artists will be available for sale in the Queer A.F. boutique with items including paintings, sculpture, textiles, jewelry, homewares, and ephemera.

Queer Arts Featured is an artist-led gallery, boutique, and community event space at 575 Castro St., the historic storefront that once housed Harvey Milk's Castro Camera. We work to build on this profound legacy by creating space to celebrate, support, and promote people across the 2SLGBTQIA+ spectrum while minimizing financial barriers through donor and grant support.



Color Slide from Castro Street Fair

1976 by Daniel Nicoletta