

Lgbtq+ Representation In Art

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Body

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LGBT+ art is based on queer performance. It openly portrays queer, promotes the fight for equal rights, and/or is created by LGBTQ+ artists. LGBTQ+ art explores issues and conflicts of queer identity and social injustice, often provoking and encouraging activism and sparking debate.

Art and LGBTQ+ Art History

Queer art is by no means new. The ancient Greeks and subsequent Romans quite normally persecuted and praised homosexual relationships and were happy to depict them in their visual arts. It's difficult to pinpoint the first piece of queer art.

Like the Greeks, the Romans considered homosexuality normal and natural and even encouraged it among young men as a rite of passage. Many Roman emperors were bisexual.

You'd be surprised to find that pulp fiction magazines were among the first to display homosexual relationships on their mass-produced paperbacks in the 1950s and 1960s.

On the more academic side of the art, queer-encoded images were displayed through monochromatic imagery.

Photography entered the realm of art, especially at the time when the first pride took place. Several images provoked action and called on the LGBTQ+ community to fight. For example, Donna Gottschalk, one of the top queer photographers, is captured on camera by Diana Davis at Pride. The sign she is holding indicates the fear and admiration of the LGBTQ+ community in the 1970s.

With the rise of the HIV/AIDS epidemic that has hit the LGBTQ+ community hard, the so-called lavender panic has gained momentum. It was misconstrued that homosexuals were solely responsible for spreading the virus. The Silence = Death project was launched to raise awareness of the inevitable dangers of closing homophobic eyes to a disturbing issue.

Lgbtq+ Representation In Art

Keith Haring, one of the staunchest fighters at the forefront of the movement, created the pop art piece Ignorance = Fear/Silence = Death in 1989 to draw attention to this issue.

Famous LGBTQ+ Art

Queer art was always political and might continue to be for the foreseeable future.

The drawing of Two Men Kissing by Keith Vaughan illustrates the simplicity of passion. The quick, sketchy pencil movements allude to the sense of time fleeting in the face of the AIDS epidemic.

Robert Mapplethorpe's photograph of Lisa Lyons is of great significance for the non-binary community. The photograph shows the first woman bodybuilder dressed as a mobster from the 1920s, indicating an act of defiance in the face of gender stereotypes and heteronormativity.

Keith Haring: Bill T. Jones Body Painting by Keith Haring (1983). Keith Haring is one of those people whose name you should remember. The man was a staunch activist for LGBTQ+ rights and a revolutionary in art.

LGBTQ+ art is never one-dimensional. They are deep and thought-provoking, designed to inspire and surprise. But they also exist to raise awareness and criticise. These masterpieces are meant to bring people, the LGBTQ+ community and allies together, and unite them under one language we all understand: art.

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LGBTQ project funding in two states stripped by U.S. House Republicans from spending bill

Newstex Blogs

Pennsylvania Capital-Star

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Body

July 19th, 2023 (Pennsylvania Capital-Star — Delivered by Newstex)

WASHINGTON — In a tense meeting marked by Democratic charges of hatred and bigotry, Republicans on the U.S. House Appropriations Committee voted Tuesday to strip funding for three LGBTQ community projects, just weeks after they included the money in the annual transportation and housing spending bill.

At one point, Rep. Andy Harris, a Maryland Republican on the panel, compared funding an LGBTQ center in Philadelphia to a hypothetical Ku Klux Klan project, in part because, he said, the LGBTQ center organized a protest against conservative mothers.

'I know we have First Amendment rights, but let me tell you something ladies and gentlemen, if the Ku Klux Klan applied for one, we'd hear an uproar from the other side,' Harris said. 'That's a First Amendment right, so I guess some First Amendment rights aren't okay and some are.'

The earmarks, totaling more than \$3.6 million, were slated to go to two projects in Pennsylvania and one in Massachusetts after GOP appropriators earlier approved the earmarked spending at the request of three House Democrats. The party-line vote Tuesday on the amendment to remove the funding, which included other provisions as well, was 32-26.

Democrats on the House Appropriations Committee strongly rebuked their colleagues for the decision.

Wisconsin Democratic Rep. Mark Pocan said removing funding for the three projects was below the dignity of the committee and a slap in the face to all LGBTQ Americans as well as their families and allies.

'The fact that you would take away members' earmarks simply because they refer to the LGBTQI+ community is insane, is bigoted,' Pocan said.

Pocan recalled personal experiences in an attempt to get his GOP colleagues to leave the project funding intact. He said when he first ran for office, he would be sent news articles in the mail about his campaign with hateful language scribbled on photos of his face.

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'Or the time when I wasn't out yet, left a gay bar and two people followed me and beat me with a baseball bat until I was bloody and unconscious' and called him hateful names, he said.

Pocan argued that his Republican colleagues were in a way endorsing anti-LGBTQ behavior by revoking funding for the projects.

'This is what you guys do by introducing amendments like this,' Pocan said.

The committee debate came after House Republicans on Friday pushed through a defense policy bill that would disallow military health care professionals from performing transition-related health care for transgender service members, among other conservative social policy positions.

'A cruel message'

Florida Democratic Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz called on the panel's Republicans to remember times throughout America's history when attempts to provide funding for Jewish Community Centers would have been barred due to antisemitism.

'Close your eyes and imagine if this were the 1930s or 1940s or even later in the United States of America and think about substituting the acronym LGBTQ+ and inserting JCC,' Wasserman Schultz said. 'Because there were plenty of years when Jewish Community Centers, it would not have been okay to fund them. Why? Because people didn't like Jews.'

Republicans removing funding for the three LGBTQ projects, she said, was 'clearly and directly a bigoted decision because the Republican Party doesn't like gay people.'

'This kind of decision not only sends a cruel message to millions of LGBTQ+ American that their needs are not worth funding, but it also sends a clear but ugly signal to the entire world that America's House is now governed by hatred and bigotry,' Wasserman Schultz said. 'We should not stain this committee's work with such a message.'

House Appropriations ranking member Rosa DeLauro, a Connecticut Democrat, called the removal of the three LGBTQ projects a 'disgrace.'

'Is there no limit on how low you will go to break the faith and trust (on) which this committee is supposed to operate — all to placate the whims of some, who I might add, in looking historically, do not ever vote for appropriations bills,' DeLauro said.

'You are negotiating with terrorists,' she said, referring to especially conservative Republicans.

Maryland's Harris objected to DeLauro's comments as well as those of other Democrats at several points during the debate.

Three LGBTQ projects

The government funding bill for the departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development included three community projects, or earmarks, that would have funded the LGBTQ proposals.

The William Way LGBT Center in Philadelphia was slated to get \$1.8 million for its William Way Renovation and Expansion Project after Pennsylvania Democratic Rep. Brendan Boyle requested and secured the funding in the original GOP spending bill.

Boyle wrote in his funding request that the center 'meets the health, human service, social and community needs of some of the most vulnerable populations in the City of Philadelphia, with over 25% of the surrounding area's residents in a low-mod income census tract.'

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The LGBT Center of Greater Reading was slated to get \$970,000 for the Transitional Housing Program in Berks County after Pennsylvania Democratic Rep. Chrissy Houlahan was able to get funding in the bill.

'The funding would be used to support the costs needed to provide transitional housing and a myriad of services and resources to individuals in need of stable housing,' Houlahan wrote in the funding request. 'The project will enable the Center to work with clients on life skills, financial literacy, resume-building, job skills and other necessary areas while helping them achieve permanent housing.'

And \$850,000 would have gone toward affordable senior housing at LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc. in Massachusetts. The funding was requested by Democratic Rep. Ayanna Pressley.

'This project will support the construction costs of converting a former Boston Public School building into 74 units of high-quality, service-enriched affordable housing for seniors in Boston,' Pressley wrote in the request for funding.

Washington Democratic Rep. Derek Kilmer read a statement from Boyle to the committee. Boyle could not address the panel himself because he is not a member.

Boyle wrote to Republican appropriators that the William Way community center has been a 'beacon of hope and support' for the LGBTQ community by providing vital services.

'The William Way Center clearly qualifies for community project funding based on the merits,' Boyle wrote. 'The only reason why it is now being targeted to lose these dollars is because of disgusting and ugly bigotry. I condemn those House Republicans for voting to strip away funding for the William Way Center. It is disturbing that House Republicans have chosen this dark path. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is wrong.'

GOP arguments

Maryland's Harris spoke out against funding for all three projects, arguing taxpayer dollars should not go to the organizations.

'There probably is bias that exists, but the answer to discrimination is not more discrimination,' Harris said, noting that a requirement to live in the Massachusetts LGBTQ housing center is that people have to be LGBTQ or an ally.

'So if you happen to disagree, you don't get these publicly funded dollars,' he said.

Illinois Democratic Rep. Mike Quigley, the ranking member on the Transportation-HUD spending subcommittee, later offered an amendment to add the three projects back into the underlying bill.

The committee rejected that amendment on a 27-30 vote with Republicans voting against adding the three projects back into the bill.

[Link to the original story.](#)

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Churches March Against Homosexuality Bill this Weekend

The Botswana Gazette

July 21, 2023 Friday

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Body

Organisers say they have been granted Police permit

Churches claim that voting against their advice will be voting against God

GAZETTE REPORTER

This upcoming weekend will witness another anti-LGBTQ+ demonstration as various churches unite to protest against the proposed Homosexuality Bill, which seeks to introduce amendments pertaining to homosexuality in the wake of a recent landmark ruling by the Court of Appeal in favor of the LGBTQ+ community.

The Court of Appeal's ruling, which recognised the rights of homosexuals and granted them legal protection against discrimination, has sparked intense debate across the country and within the Christian movement, which has expressed their displeasure and concern over the perceived erosion of Christian and traditional values.

Organisers of the march have stated that they intend to voice their opposition to what they believe is an undermining of the country's moral fabric. They argue that the proposed Homosexuality Bill, which is currently being debated in parliament, contradicts their religious beliefs and values.

Perpetuating Discrimination

Kgosiitsiele Senne, Chairperson of the campaign group, in an interview with this publication said, "We are marching to defend Christian values. Any legislator who votes against our advice that this Bill should be rejected will be voting against God and his kingdom."

Religious leaders from different denominations have rallied their congregations to join the peaceful protest, which is scheduled for Saturday at 9 AM. "We will be marching from Open Baptist church to Parliament," Senne said.

The march is expected to start at Open Baptist church in Gaborone and proceed through the government enclave before culminating at the steps of the parliament building. Churchgoers, activists, and other members of the public who share the same sentiments, according to Senne, are encouraged to participate.

Meanwhile, LGBTQ+ rights activists have welcomed the proposed amendments, saying that churches opposing the move perpetuate discrimination and prejudice against their community.

Churches March Against Homosexuality Bill this Weekend

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Muslim parents in U.S. angry at Trudeau for dismissing gender curriculum concerns

Toronto Sun

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Web Edition

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Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is not only receiving pushback for his recent comments by Muslim parents in Canada but is also facing criticism south of the border.

Last week, Trudeau was in a Calgary mosque giving a candid response to some Muslim parents about their concerns that schools were teaching students about gender identity and LGBTQ issues.

He said parents are being faced with "misinformation and disinformation" by "the American right-wing" and the "far right" about what is happening in Canadian classrooms.

WATCH: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Dismisses Muslim Parents' Worries on Gender Ideology as Far-Right Misinformation

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- Mocha Beziran (@BeziranMocha) July 13, 2023(
https://twitter.com/BeziranMocha/status/1679317212023373824?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

"Now if you look at the various curriculums, you'll see that there is not what is being said out there about aggressive teaching or conversion of kids to being LGBT. That is something that is being weaponized by people who are not doing it because of their interest in supporting the Muslim community.

"These are people on the far right who have consistently stood against Muslim rights and the Muslim community, but they are weaponizing the issue of LGBT, which is something that, yes, Islam has strong opinions on, the same way that the religious right in Canada, the Christian right, has strong opinions against as well."

Recently, hundreds of Muslim parents protested in Calgary while chanting the slogan, "leave our kids alone," in response to sexual and gender curriculum in schools.

Now, Muslim parents in the U.S. are also angry at Trudeau's response to their concerns.

Muslim parents in U.S. angry at Trudeau for dismissing gender curriculum concerns

"It's shocking that Trudeau would use the same kind of silly arguments that are being used in the United States," Kareem Monib, a parent from Maryland, told Fox News(<https://www.foxnews.com/media/muslim-parents-angry-trudeau-over-dismissing-lgbtq-curriculum-protest-lying-misinformed>). "I'm surprised that they don't have anything else to say other than to accuse parents who are truly concerned and want to pass on their religious teachings to their kids - to say that that's right-wing manipulation."

Monib added Trudeau is either "lying or he's misinformed."

Binnish Mustafa, another Maryland parent to a seven-year-old special needs child, said Trudeau "really needs to go to the public school classroom and sit there and see the discussions that follow certain classroom books that are being discussed."

Both Monib and Mustafa have recently attended rallies in their communities to protest changes to the curriculum that did not allow parents to withdraw their children from learning about sexual and gender identity based on religious beliefs.

The curriculum backlash from the Muslim community has been growing since an audio recording was posted online in June of an Edmonton teacher berating Muslim students(<https://torontosun.com/news/hot-mic-teacher-tells-muslim-students-skipping-lgbtq-events-is-not-canadian>) for skipping Pride events.

"I would say, Mr. Trudeau, how accepting and tolerating are you of views that are different than yours? I mean, you don't seem like the nicest guy when it comes to that," Mustafa said.

LILLEY: It's not hate, parents are concerned about what's being taught in school(<https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/parents-concerned-what-schools-teach-kids-arent-hate-filled>)

GOLDSTEIN: Trudeau says Muslim parents who object to gender identity education misled by 'far right'(<https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/goldstein-trudeau-says-muslim-parents-who-object-to-gender-identity-education-misled-by-far-right>)

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