

THE ROBERT GIARD FOUNDATION

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ACQUIRES 53 PORTRAITS BY ROBERT GIARD

January 31, 2014



Beth Brant 1990 © Estate of Robert Giard

The University of Toronto Art Centre has recently acquired 53 portraits of LGBTQ authors by Robert Giard (1939-2002), part of Giard's larger project, *Particular Voices: Portraits of Gay and Lesbian Writers*, an extensive and visually rich documentation of North American gay and lesbian literary figures. Giard's decades-long project, begun in the 1980s, celebrates queer histories and literature in the wake of the AIDS crisis, and includes such iconic figures as playwright Edward Albee, poet Allen Ginsberg, and young emerging talents like novelist Sapphire and Dorothy Allison. UTAC will incorporate this acquisition from the Giard Estate into its own substantial archive.

Giard's portraits have been described as a "transaction between the photographer and the writer." Often captured in casual surroundings, the portraits are disarming in their unadorned, straight-forward style, with occasional subjects sitting in domestic settings. Between 1985 and his death in

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Allen Ellenzweig: 'Dirty Pictures' in an Age of Political and Moral Hypocrisy
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Finding Berenice Abbott
March 03, 2017

Ka-Man Tse Joins Robert Giard Foundation Board of Directors
February 06, 2017

Exhibitions on view

Ka-Man Tse, Giard 2014-15 fellow, has Exhibit at New York Public Library

Jun 01, 2016 through Sep 07, 2016
New York Public Library, Mulberry Street Branch

Giard photo, *Man on a Motorcycle*, featured in current Leslie-Lohman Museum exhibit

"The 1970s: The Blossoming of a Queer Enlightenment"

Apr 08, 2016 through Jul 03, 2016
Leslie-Lohman Museum

2016 - 2017 ROBERT GIARD FELLOW



Leonard Suryajaya receives the Robert Giard Fellowship grant of \$7,500 for his multimedia project: *Other Mother*.

2002, Giard took nearly 600 black and white portraits of literary figures including such Canadians as Beth Brant, Richard Labonté, Nicole Brossard, Michael Lynch and Daryl Hine.

[Learn More about the Robert Giard Fellowship »](#)

“I believe it’s especially important that the Canadian authors included in Giard’s archive now have a home in Canada and in a university that celebrates Canadian literature. Students and researchers at SDS will have opportunities to see and work with the collection as part of their ongoing commitment to studying and exploring issues of identity, sexuality, and community and how they relate to questions of documentation, representation and aesthetics,” said Scott Rayter, Associate Director, Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies.

“The University of Toronto Art Centre is exceptionally fortunate to be able to share this collection and the legacy it represents with students, faculty and the public, through special research projects, exhibitions, and rotating displays,” adds UTAC Interim Director Barbara Fischer.

The University of Toronto has also recently acquired the nearly complete archive of Allen Ginsberg’s surviving photographs. Together the two archives—Giard and Ginsberg—capture an extraordinary cultural history from the 1940s to the beginning of the 21st century. The entire Giard archive is available at the UTAC Collections Online portal that can be accessed from the University of Toronto Art Centre’s homepage at www.utac.utoronto.ca.

You can also view a tour of the exhibition *Just As You Are: Portraits by Robert Giard* by following the Watch link on the UTAC website www.utac.utoronto.ca/watch.

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CONTACT US



ABOUT ROBERT GIARD



Robert Giard was a portrait, landscape, and figure photographer.

[More about Robert Giard »](#)

[More about “Particular Voices” »](#)

GALLERIES

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