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“Disappearing Los Angeles” Photographer Reynaldo Rivera to Debut at Scripps College

CLAREMONT, CA (March 8, 2019)—Scripps College is pleased to [host Reynaldo Rivera](#), the Mexicali-born, Los Angeles-based photographer on Thursday, March 12 at 6:00 p.m. in Balch Auditorium of Scripps’ campus. The event will be the very first presentation of Rivera’s revived and digitized body of work, which chronicles the Los Angeles-Latino-gay bar scene of the 1980s and ’90s. This lost world is captured in mostly black and white images that capture the intimacy of L.A.’s underground drag shows.

Rivera will join in conversation with Chris Kraus, Mary Rountt Chair of Creative Writing at Scripps College and author of the book, *Reynaldo Rivera*, featuring Rivera’s photography as well as essays and conversations with the artist (forthcoming spring 2020, Semiotext(e) press) as well as the acclaimed novel *I Love Dick*. Rivera will discuss what it’s like to make art from ‘outsider’ positions, various disappeared cultural scenes of the late-20th century in L.A., and drag performance as opposed to contemporary transgender identity.

"To say I am a fanatic when it comes to the life work and aura [of] . . . Reynaldo Rivera doesn’t fully capture my feelings for him . . . [he’s a], a Pollyanna Brujeria with a hatchet," says Vaginal Davis, performance artist, originator of the homo-core punk movement, and a gender-queer art-music icon.

This debut glimpse into the images of a lost world will be guided by critical and lively conversation about how queer identities—and the city of Los Angeles herself—have shifted over time.

Scripps College was founded in 1926 by Ellen Browning Scripps, a pioneering philanthropist and influential figure in the worlds of education, publishing, and women’s rights. Today, Scripps is a nationally top-ranked liberal arts college and women’s college with approximately 980 students, and is a member of The Claremont Colleges in Southern California. The mission of Scripps College is to educate women to develop their intellects and talents through active participation in a community of scholars, so that as graduates they may contribute to society through public and private lives of leadership, service, integrity, and creativity.