Queer Photography

Since the advent of photography in the early nineteenth century, LGBTQ people have embraced the technology to document their lives and loved ones, visualize their fantasies and fears, form social and artistic communities, and advance political movements. The SNMA has a wide-ranging collection of at least 300 books of and about photography that variously relate to the queer experience. Mainly from the 1970s to the present, these works consist of photo books, essay collections, academic monographs, and erotica.


A collection of pictures by the influential male physique photographer.

A study of male homoeroticism in the history of photography.

A collection of intimate portraits that challenged conventional understandings of race, interracial relationships, and sexuality.

A photo book of lesbian nudes.

A collection of 50 black-and-white photographs dating from 1925 to 1943.

A monograph of the photographer’s images, with a focus on the nude.

A book about the worker community of the important lesbian-feminist music festival.

A photographic exploration of trans women and drag queens in London.

Lesbian sexual imagery, erotic writing, personal histories, and cultural analysis.

A study of lesbian self-representations in Paris in the interwar period.

A collection of 70 photographs of celebrities.

A book of staged photos utilized in Dunye’s pathbreaking film *The Watermelon Woman*.

A photographic chronicle of the gay liberation in Paris, Cuba, and New York City.
An academic study of Van Vechten’s homoerotic and interracial male nudes.

Male nude photographs as well as a biocritical essay on Tress’ development of a photographic vision.


A photo book that explores gender across cultures, nations, and generations.

A book of Black gay erotic photography.

The first major study of the evolution of gay male erotic image culture.

A survey of the homoerotic photography of von Gloeden.

Erotic gay photographs of models from across Asia and its diasporas.