

## IDENTITY IN ART - ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Reed, Christopher. *Art and Homosexuality: A History of Ideas*. Oxford University Press, 2011.

*Art and Homosexuality: A history of Ideas* is an instrumental guide and look into artists and many different pieces from the modern era. It is rare and difficult to find easily available sources with so many queer and/or LGBTQIA2S+ identifying artists in one place, and a source which discusses the lifestyles, relationships, and art practices of many of them. Not only were artists discussed, but also members of the avant garde movement, and as this community truly does sometimes operate as an interwoven community, there are social circles which may not have been discussed in great detail elsewhere.

Whereas companies do not speak for the LGBTQIA2S+ individuals' impact on society, marketing, commercialism, and advancements in technique or technology, a book such as this uncovers those details and the true impacts such artists had with more honesty and an inner lens. Systems were more oppressive, conservative and limited in most if not all previous time periods, and thus, assumptions have been made which can't speak for the community overall. Often, topics of sexuality, romantic relationships of artists, and gender identity would not have been discussed publicly or as comfortably as they sometimes can be today, and so we can gain more insight from a more contemporary book on the artists' lives, practices, and their muses.

Christopher Reed highlights the modern issues of these artists' time in discussing the freedom and secrecy with which artists were able to, or forced to, live their lives and have relationships. Lessons such as this are still very important to consider today as queer people continue to learn to navigate their lives and identities in a world that was not built for them.

Lord, Catherine, and Richard Meyer. *Art & Queer Culture*. Phaidon, 2019.

### *Art & Queer Culture*

- Expansive or sometimes basic information on artists, their muses, the context in which photos and paintings were created.
- The historical context in terms of recent events, information relevant to the artists' lives and autobiographical events and how they tie into current political and societal landscapes
- Often the context of the artist or photographer in terms of if they were considered queer, homosexual or were simply an onlooker who inserted themselves into that environment
- A clearer separation between rumors of the time/our time, and the actuality of autobiographical details in artists and their muses
- A generous amount of artists and inclusion of the various other artists and muses that they worked with
- Discussion of the artists' relevance to their society, their community impact, the criticisms they may have received and why their work was either impactful or private.

- Honesty about restrictive laws against homosexual and queer people, the language used and time frame in which they existed, the context of derogatory and non-derogatory terminology used for queer and homosexual people of the time, and how different places of the world and their contemporary views of gender and gender constructs interacted with the artists' work.
- Additional details about the artists or their work which contributed to a larger understanding of that person and their identity as an individual, not simply an artist or to ignorantly depict all homosexual or queer artists as being above others - the perspective the writers approach from is fair, honest and informative as much as possible.