

"Never Surrender"

New Art Exhibit from Thomas Brasch Documents Homophobic Acts of Violence

October 26, 2023 (Toronto, ON) — Toronto visual artist Thomas Brasch today announced **Never Surrender**, a new art exhibit featuring a collection of six abstract photography pieces that pay homage to the victims and survivors of homophobic acts of violence. This exhibition serves as a tribute to resilience, remembrance, and the progress made in the face of adversity. **From November 4 to December 6, 2023, Never Surrender will be on display at The Window, located at 558 Church Street, Toronto.**

Never Surrender is a free showcase available for viewing 24 hours a day, featuring photographic fine art pieces from images captured in Toronto, Montreal, Orlando, Oslo, and Santiago Chile: cities where acts of violence against the LGBTQ2+ community have left indelible marks. These cities, united by their experiences, collectively demonstrate the strength of unity and love prevailing over hate. In each case, a source image from these cities is transformed into a multi-layered kaleidoscopic abstraction whose complex geometry is a composite of photographic details.

ABOUT THE WORK

The pieces in Never Surrender tell a story of pain, resilience, and hope. The exhibit presents the abstract essence of site-specific locations, allowing viewers to connect with the experiences of those who have faced adversity and celebrate the strength of the human spirit. Intentionally, no triggering graphic imagery is used to engage the viewer. In many of these incidents, tragic as they were, the LGBTQ+ community has emerged stronger, with increased awareness and the implementation of new regulations and laws promoting inclusivity, protection, and human rights.

At the heart of the exhibit, Brasch sheds a spotlight on an incident that occurred in Toronto. In 1985, the fatal gay-bashing of Kenneth Zeller, a teacher within the Toronto Board of Education, shook the LGBTQ2+ community. Olivia Chow, a trustee at the time and now the Mayor of Toronto, proceeded to enact anti-discrimination policies within the Board. Additionally, she championed the inclusion of anti-homophobia education in the school curriculum. Recent events have shown a concerning pushback, at the national level, on trans rights and attempts to undermine the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity curriculum in schools. The Never Surrender exhibition encourages visitors to ensure that the lessons of history are not forgotten and to stand up against intolerance and discrimination.

ARTIST TALK

The free Never Surrender artist talk, with a special presenter from the **arQuives** (Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archives) will also take place at The 519 Community Centre on 519 Church Street at a later date. Visit <https://thomasbrasch.com/never-surrender> for updates.

"I hope you'll join me in honoring the memory of those affected by homophobic acts of violence and celebrating the strength and resilience of the LGBTQ2+ community," says Brasch. "Never Surrender is a testament to the progress we've made and a call to action to continue the fight for a more inclusive and accepting world."

SILK SCARVES

The Never Surrender art exhibit also features a companion line of six commemorative silk scarves, each one based on a corresponding print. Scarves are available for purchase at <https://thomasbraschshops.com>. In November, a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the scarves will be donated to **arQuives**.

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For more information about the Never Surrender exhibit, please visit thomasbrasch.com or contact Thomas Brasch at art@thomasbrasch.com.

Thomas Brasch Photography is committed to supporting and promoting diversity, equality, and human rights through the power of art and expression. We invite you to join us in commemorating the past, celebrating the present, and working towards a safer and more inclusive future for all.

[Media Gallery link](#)

