



“Welcome to the Exhibition”
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“Celebrating Fabulous/Activist Bay Area Lesbians with Disabilities: A 40 Year Retrospective”
An exhibition hosted by the James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center at the San Francisco Public Library,
September 18 - November 21, 2010

History is written by the victors, someone said. It is also written by the survivors. But what about people who were never meant to survive or even exist in some cases, like lesbians, like people with disabilities? Who writes our history? We do it ourselves. We write our stories and illustrate them. We tell them to each other, to our children, to the rest of the world, to you. Here are some stories of how disabled lesbians living in the San Francisco Bay Area organized to change the world.

Have you ever wondered how busses were made to kneel so that wheelchair riders could get on board and get where they wanted to go? Or what about curb cuts? Ever try crossing the street in a wheelchair without one? Do you think the Paralympics just happened or that dance companies are only for the able bodied? Did Oprah invent size acceptance? Disabled lesbians were leaders in such movements for change.

Join me now, as we look through the exhibition, mounted at the San Francisco Public Library in the fall of 2010: The Year of Honoring Lesbians with Disabilities. Fabled Asp, the groundbreaking organization documenting the lives and actions of lesbians of the Bay Area with disabilities, created this exhibition to begin to show how very central disabled dykes have been in the arts, in politics, in the civil rights movements and the fight for social justice.

Whether you are wandering through this electronic catalog or went to the exhibition in person, you are welcome. You are welcome to enter and explore what you find here, to meet old friends, make surprising discoveries, enjoy the beauty of the images, be inspired to carry on the work with passion, creativity and joy.

And also, in response to your thanks, we say: You’re welcome. We did it for ourselves and we did it for you.