



# Palm Springs Art Museum

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact: Amber Amaya  
Palm Springs Art Museum  
aamaya@psmuseum.org

## **PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM HONORS JUDY BACA WITH Q+ ART DISTINGUISHED KEYNOTE AWARD**

Featuring Conversations with Pioneering Artists Judy Baca and Ron Athey

**PALM SPRINGS, CA** (February 25, 2025) – Palm Springs Art Museum presents [Queer Histories of Southern California](#), an afternoon of thought-provoking conversations with groundbreaking artists Judy Baca and Ron Athey on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

The museum is proud to recognize Judy Baca as the recipient of the **2025 Q+ Art Distinguished Keynote Award**, honoring her decades-long commitment to social justice through art. A visionary muralist and activist, Baca has profoundly shaped Southern California's cultural landscape since the early 1970s. Her monumental work, *The Great Wall of Los Angeles*, initiated in 1976 with the participation of more than 400 young people, remains one of the most significant community-driven murals in the world. Notably, it includes one of the earliest public monuments to gay rights in the United States, underscoring Baca's dedication to amplifying historically marginalized voices.

Following the award presentation, guests will have the opportunity to hear directly from Baca as she reflects on her career, artistic philosophy, and the enduring power of public art in fostering representation and social change.

### **Program Schedule**

2:00 p.m. | Conversation: Ron Athey

Renowned performance artist Ron Athey will discuss his decades-long career at the intersections of punk and club cultures, AIDS activism, and contemporary art. Known for his provocative and deeply personal work exploring religious rituals, sexuality, and identity, Athey has been a central figure in the avant-garde art scene for over four decades.

3:00 p.m. | Q+ Art Keynote Award Presentation: Judy Baca

Palm Springs Art Museum proudly presents the 2025 Q+ Art Keynote Award to Judy Baca, recognizing her extraordinary contributions to LGBTQ+ representation in the arts. Baca will share insights into her groundbreaking work, which has transformed the public art landscape and given voice to historically excluded communities.

4:00 p.m. | Meet the Artists

Guests are invited to a special reception with Judy Baca and Ron Athey following their presentations.

[Tickets](#) for this event are priced at \$20 and can be purchased at [psmuseum.org](http://psmuseum.org).

###

### **About Q+ Art**

Q+ Art is Palm Springs Art Museum's initiative centering LGBTQ+ artists and their work. Through exhibitions, talks, and performances, Q+ Art showcases the depth and diversity of LGBTQ+ artistic expression.

### **About Palm Springs Art Museum**

Palm Springs Art Museum is the largest cultural institution in the Coachella Valley, featuring compelling art exhibitions, a vast permanent collection, and the Annenberg Theater within a 150,000-square-foot architecturally significant building in downtown Palm Springs. The museum also operates the Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion, which explores topics in architecture and design. The collection includes two modernist icons: Frey House II and Aluminaire House™.