

Trans Trans

Transgender Histories Between Germany and the
United States, 1882-1966



Project Exposé

Trans Trans

Transgender Histories Between Germany and the United States, 1882-1966



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Trans Trans

Nickle Galleries
University of Calgary



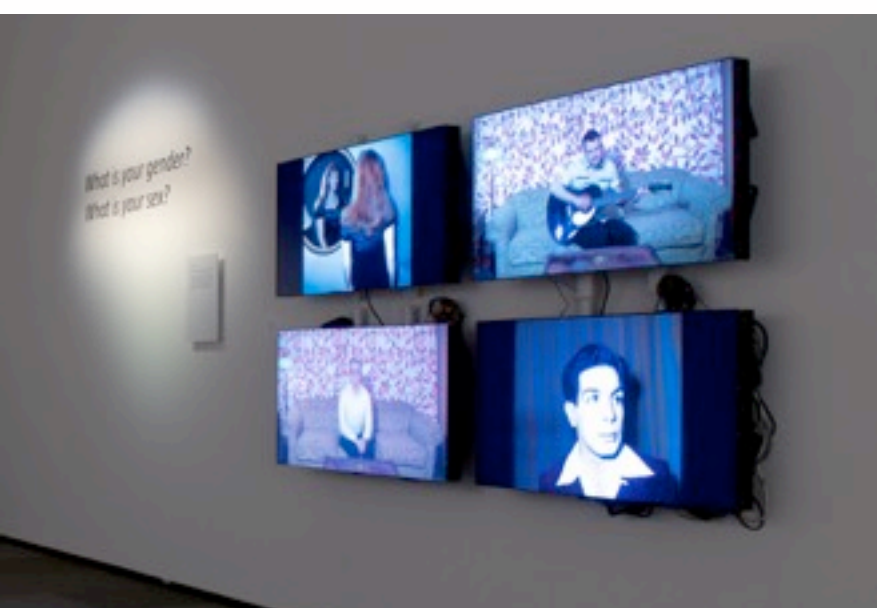
Exhibition curated by Rainer Herrn, Michael Thomas Taylor, and Annette F. Timm

In co-operation with the Magnus-Hirschfeld-Gesellschaft in Berlin; the Institute for History and Ethics in Medicine of the Charité Clinic, Berlin; and the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction in Bloomington, Indiana.

Trans Trans was originally shown at the Nickle Galleries at the University of Calgary, in co-operation with Michele Hardy, Curator, from May 27th – June 10, 2016.

Trans Trans

Nickle Galleries
University of Calgary
Project Description

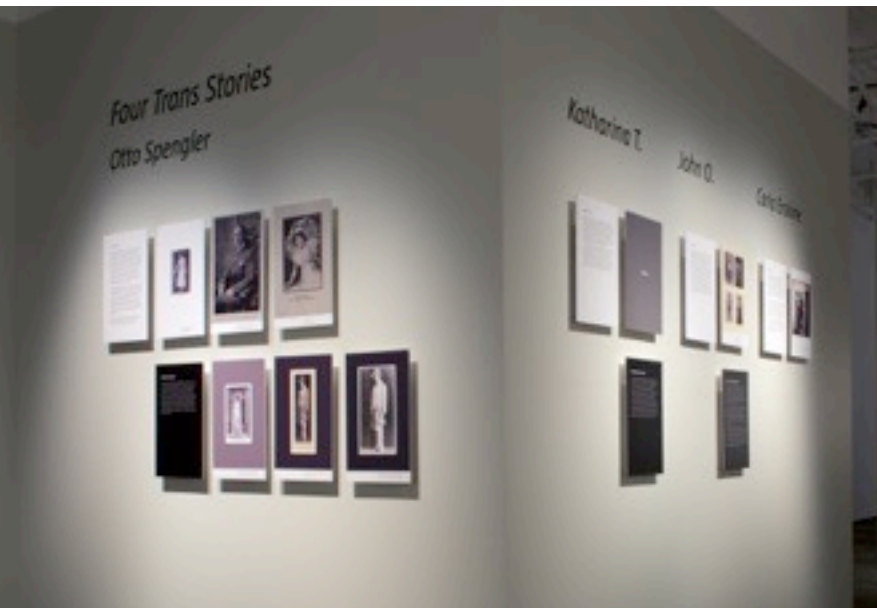


Trans Trans explores a network of individuals in Germany and the United States from the turn of the twentieth century into the 1950s who profoundly shaped transgender histories and identities. Turning medical-scientific history on its head, the exhibition documents the driving role that trans individuals played in the development of medical concepts and treatments and in the fostering of supportive communities for those seeking affirmation of their gender identities. The exhibition reconstructs personal connections that unfolded across the Atlantic, and it follows the ways in which photographs and other images were made by trans individuals and sent to magazines or doctors for publication, creating communities and making visible their identities in public and private.

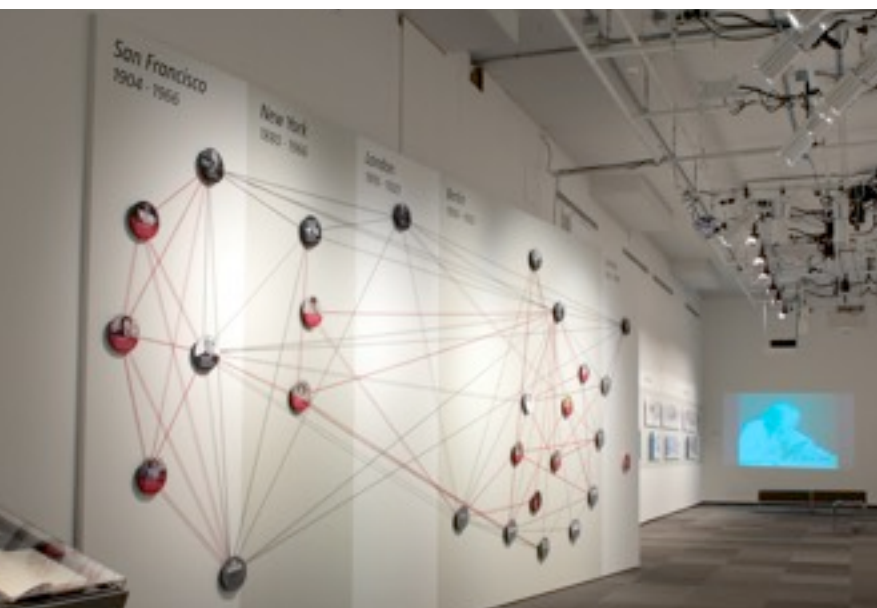
The show exhibits extremely rare images from the world's first popular magazine to focus on trans identity, *Das 3. Geschlecht* (The Third Sex), which was published in Berlin from 1930-1932, and it tracks connections between this earlier German history and the work of Dr. Harry Benjamin, whose 1966 book *The Transsexual Phenomenon* drew from his years of training in Germany and work with trans patients to make a plea for acceptance and supportive medical treatment to an American audience. In Calgary, the exhibition also included a video interview project with local individuals taking up questions posed by this history about gender identity today.

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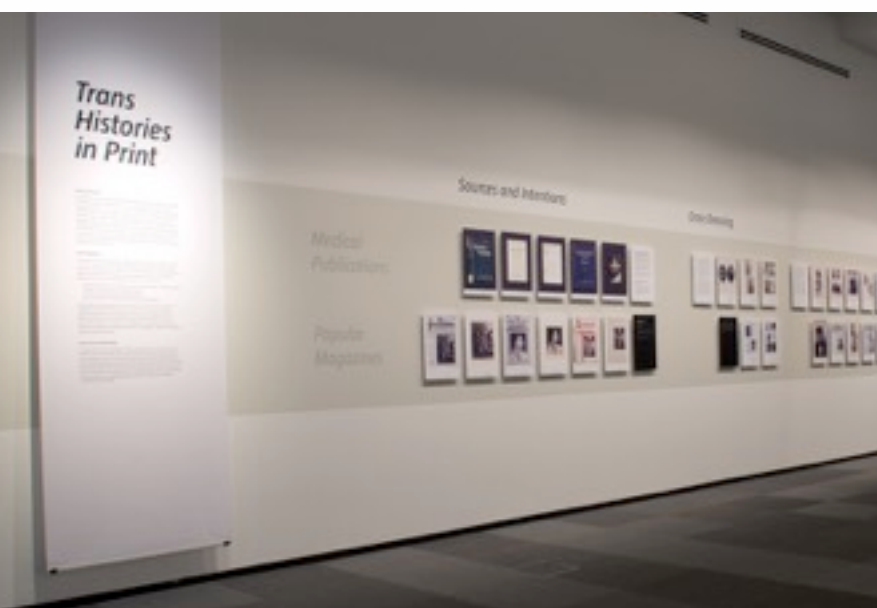
Nickle Galleries
University of Calgary
A tour of the exhibition



Four Trans Stories introduces four trans individuals – two trans men and trans women – and traces the histories of the images they sent to both medical and popular publications.



The Network outlines the trans-Atlantic connections between the trans individuals on which the exhibition focuses: medical doctors and sexologists, and publications in five cities, San Francisco, New York, London, Berlin, and Vienna.



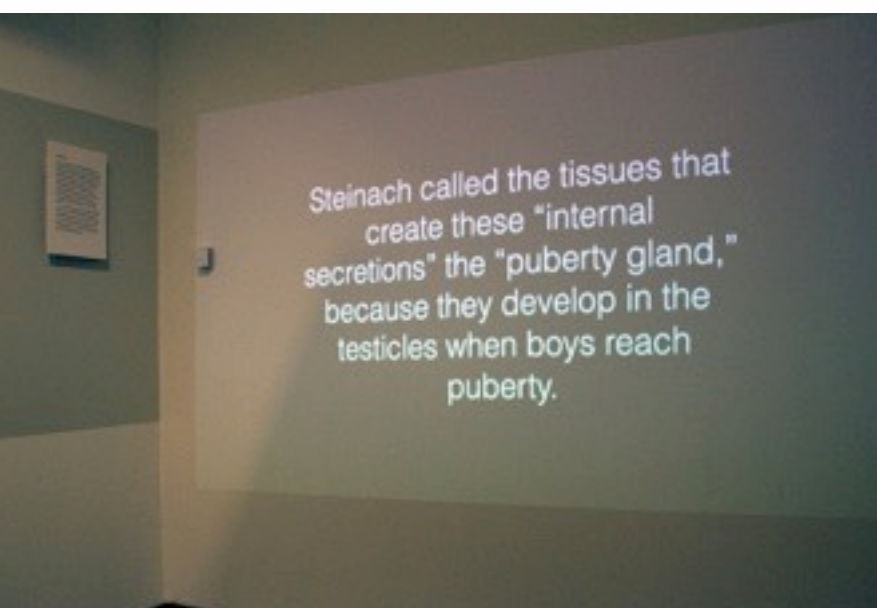
Trans Histories in Print follows the migration of photographs and other images – most of which were created by trans individuals – in medical and popular publications in Germany and the United States. Grouped thematically, the images document the interplay between the self-presentation of trans individuals and the editors, scientists, and doctors who made these images public.



Trans Circles of Knowledge tells the story of a private network of trans individuals centered around one of Harry Benjamin's patients, Carla Erskine (pseudonym). Juxtaposing these private histories to medical-scientific discourses and categories, it also extends an invitation for visitors to reflect on the personal and political significance of these histories today. This included a locally-produced video-interview project – "Carla's Couch" – that could be shown as created or re-staged elsewhere.

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University of Calgary
The Steinach Film



The Steinach Film

Eugen Steinach (1861-1944) was one of the most famous German physiologists in the 1920s. In the Weimar Republic, everyone knew what it meant to have yourself “steinached” – a rejuvenation procedure meant to increase libido by either pinching off or severing the vas deferens of men or implanting foreign testes under the abdominal wall. Steinach, who worked first in Prague and later in Vienna, believed that he had found the means to therapeutically manipulate aging and gender. He experimented on animals, transplanting testes into juvenile female rats and ovaries into juvenile male rats. He believed that he had found the causes of homosexuality and gender deviance – that there would be cells in the testes of homosexual men producing female hormones, and cells in the ovaries of women producing male hormones. His aim was to cure homosexuality and other abnormal variations of sexuality and gender through tissue implants from normal heterosexual men and women.

In 1922, the German film studio Ufa produced a film, *Steinach's Research*, as part of its new mission to distribute “educational films based exclusively on scientific knowledge.” This first version was aimed exclusively at an expert audience, but a popular version was produced against Steinach's will and was released in 1923. The film was screened to enthusiastic audiences across German-speaking Europe and was spoken of elsewhere. It motivated many individuals to seek hormonal and surgical procedures.

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Exhibition Events in Calgary



Dance Performance

Big Head/Small Neck by kloetzel&co.

Conceived in dialogue with *Trans Trans*, *Big Head/Small Neck* engages several stories and images of trans individuals who were depicted in the exhibition.

Using both installation and traditional performance modes, *Big Head/Small Neck* examines the medicalization and modification of trans/gendered bodies through wit, satire, and precision. With a script by Melanie Kloetzel (University of Calgary) and Scottish playwright/performer Rose Ruane and set to the familiar strains of Tchaikovsky, *Big Head/Small Neck* skewers societal expectations of behavior in relation to gender and sexuality.



Curators' Round Table

Curators' round table with Aaron Devor, Chair in Transgender Studies at the University of Victoria, Canada.

Trans Trans

Concept and Specifications
for Exhibition to Travel

Trans Trans

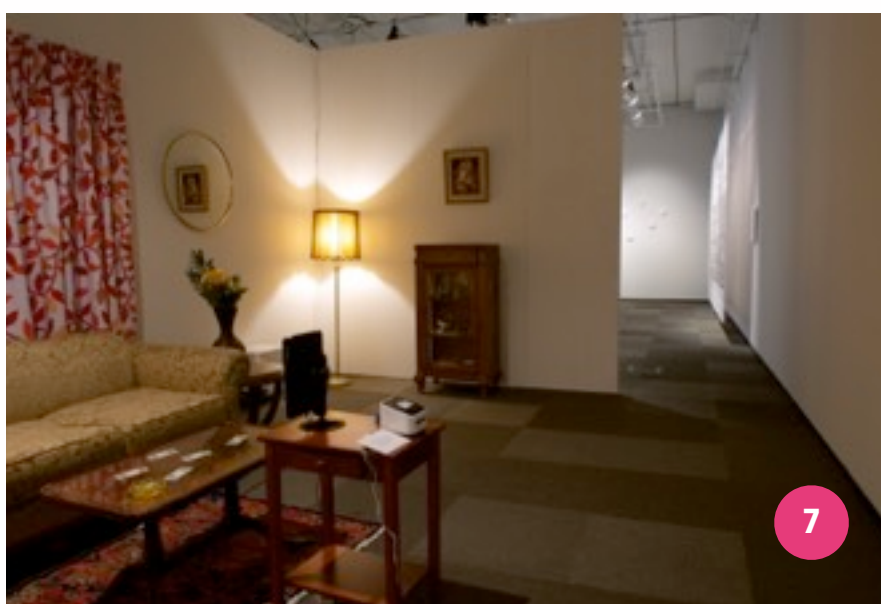
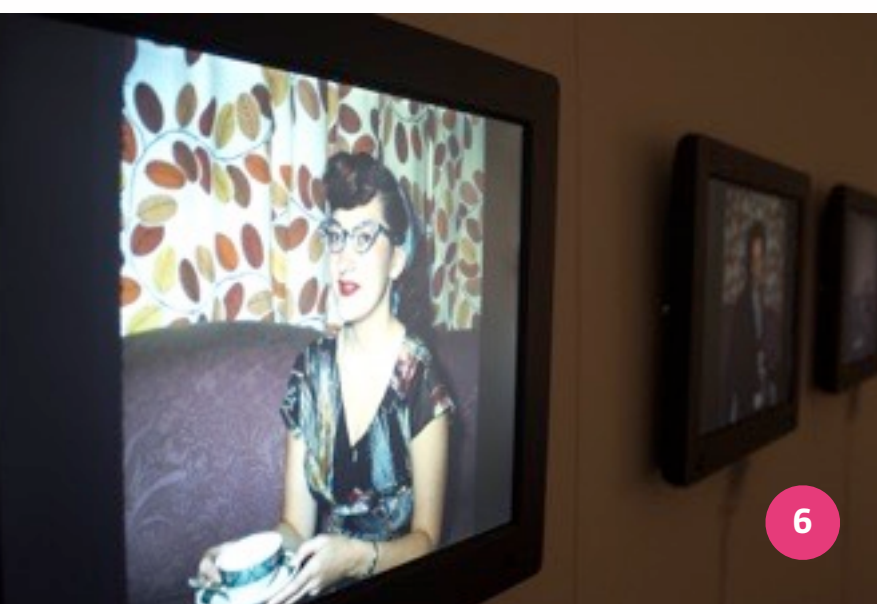
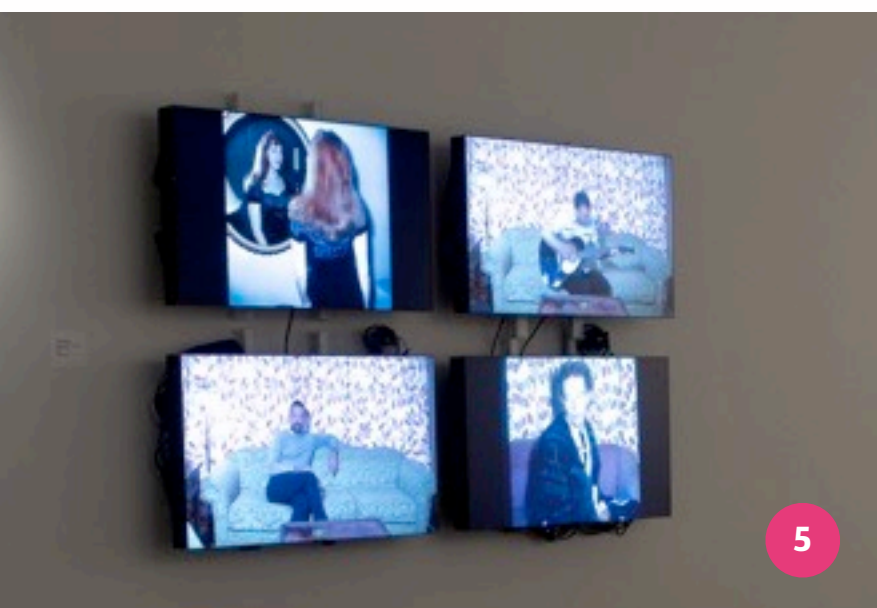
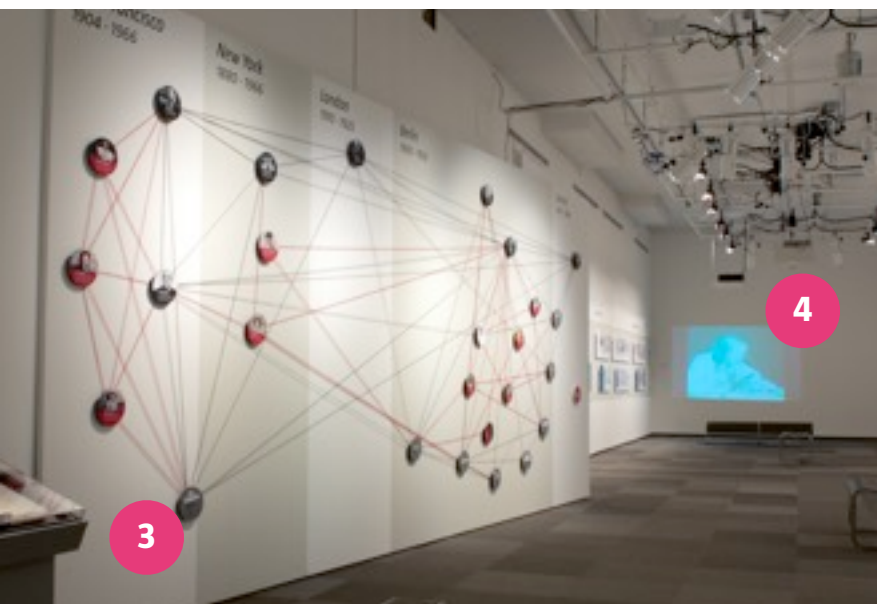
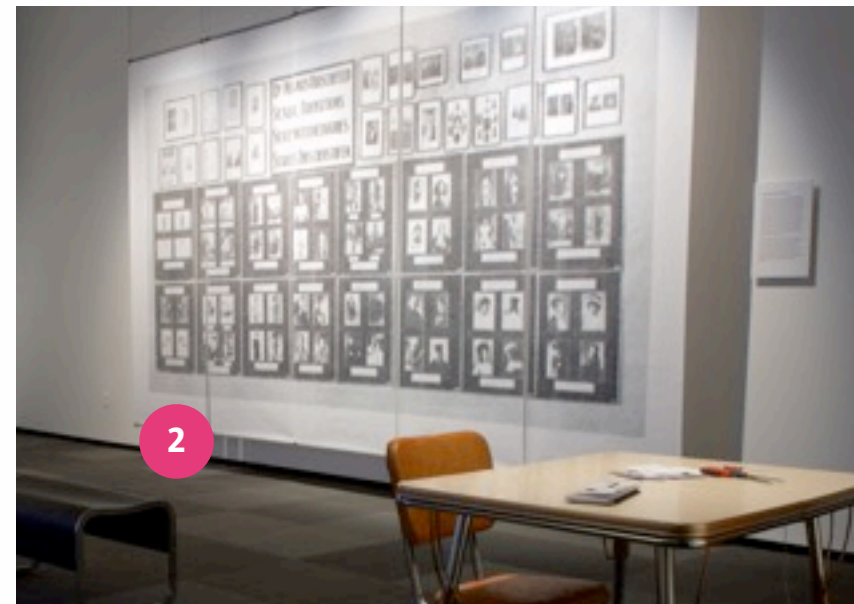
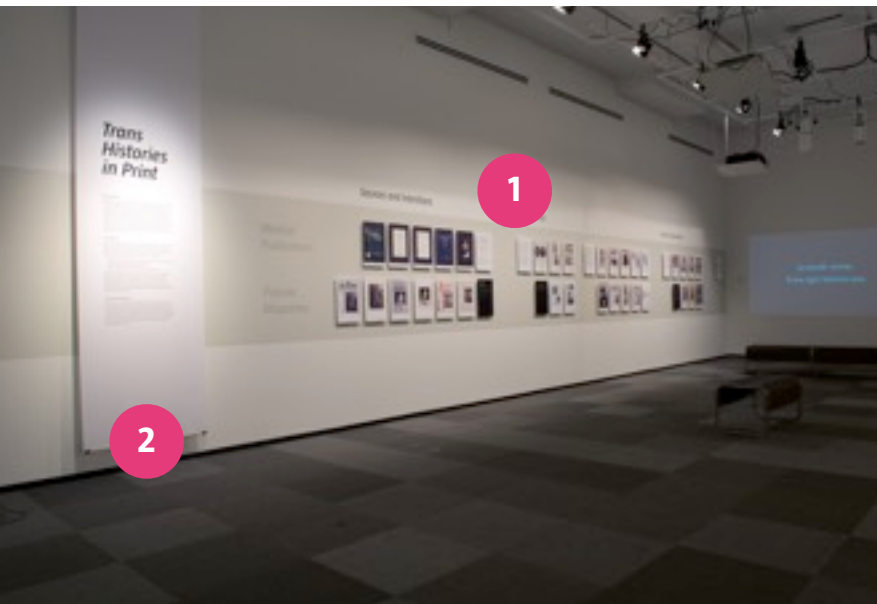
*Transgender Histories Between
Germany and the United States,
1882-1966*

Trans Trans is conceived to be as flexible and light as possible for travel. It is composed of sections that can be sized up or down, thematically refocussed, and recombined to fit local gallery spaces and conditions.

We are keen to partner with local artists, scholars, and trans organizations.

Trans Trans

Concept and Specifications for Exhibition to Travel Original Project Specifications



1. 135 foam-core panels, 11"x14" in size, with vinyl cut wall titles.
 2. 9 paper banners, ca. 267 cm x 91.5 cm (these include the Wall of Sexual Transitions)
 3. Network Wall, approximately 7m x 2m.
 4. Projection of excerpts from "The Steinach Film."
 5. Video Installation / Interview Project "Carla's Couch" on four screens.
 6. Electronic projection of original slides from Harry Benjamin's papers.
 7. Carla's Living Room: an installation within the Trans Circles of Knowledge.
- Produced in co-operation with Theatre Calgary.

Trans Trans

Local Engagement



Local Partnerships

We are especially interested in working with local trans organizations, artists, and scholars to tell these early trans histories and explore their significance today.

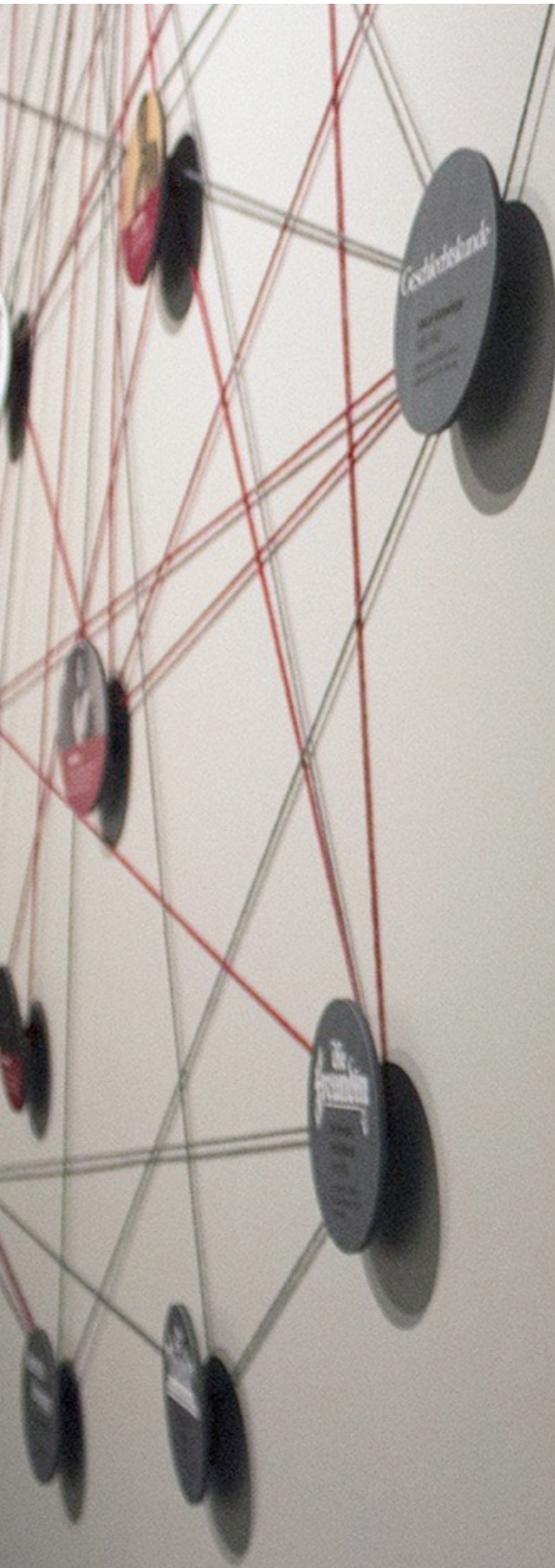
Talks and Workshops

The curators can be available as a team or as one or two of us representing the others depending on the needs and resources of any host gallery. Topics that could be covered in curator talks or workshops include:

- the biographies of the trans individuals who were instrumental in shaping these histories.
- the forms of networking between trans individuals, doctors, and scientists across the Atlantic, which unfolded through personal contacts and publications.
- the visual rhetorics of trans identities in photographs and other published images from this period.
- the significance of these histories for trans politics and identities today, and for wider histories of gender and sexuality.

Trans Trans

Costs and Technical Requirements for the Exhibition to Travel



Technical Requirements for the Exhibition to Travel

The exhibition has been conceived to be as light and mobile as possible, while also maintaining a smart, professional aesthetic. Most of it is either mounted on foamcore, on paper, or can be projected electronically.

The content has also been conceived with some flexibility in mind. The choice and structure of the images can be scaled down and/or re-configured to fit different gallery conditions.

The installation “Carla’s Living Room” was produced in co-operation with Theatre Calgary. To recreate this space in another venue, we would like to seek out local partners.

We are especially interested in partnering with local trans organizations and individuals, artists, and scholars.

Costs / Requirements for Exhibition to Travel

Installation and exhibition space	
Travel costs for curators	
Monitors or projection for video project / slide reproduction	
Shipping costs	
Printing / publicity (estimate)	CAD 500
Image rights, Kinsey Institute (estimate)	CAD 1250
Installation of Carla’s Living Room (variable to local space)	CAD 300
Rights to show the “Steinach Film” (optional)	CAD 500

Trans Trans

Nickle Galleries
University of Calgary

Credits

Exhibition Production

Annette F. Timm

Curated by

Rainer Herrn, Michael Thomas Taylor, and Annette F. Timm

Exhibition Design for Trans Histories in Print

Andreas Puskeiler

Exhibition Design for Trans Circles of Knowledge

Annette F. Timm

Loans and Images

Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction

Magnus Hirschfeld-Gesellschaft Berlin

Murnau-Stiftung/Bundesfilmarchiv

Rainer Herrn

Theatre Calgary

Set, Film Editing, and Filming Assistance

Amelia Marie Newbert

Veronica Reeves

Amy Herr & Shawn Brackett

Advisory Committee

James Demers

Tonya Callaghan

Mason Jenkins

Amelia Marie Newbert

Anne Drew Potter

Zac Slams

Funding

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences

Faculty of Arts, University of Calgary

Reed College



Trans Trans

Contact



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Annette F. Timm

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University of Calgary
Editor of the Journal of the History of Sexuality
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Andreas Puskeiler

Designer

Rainer Herrn

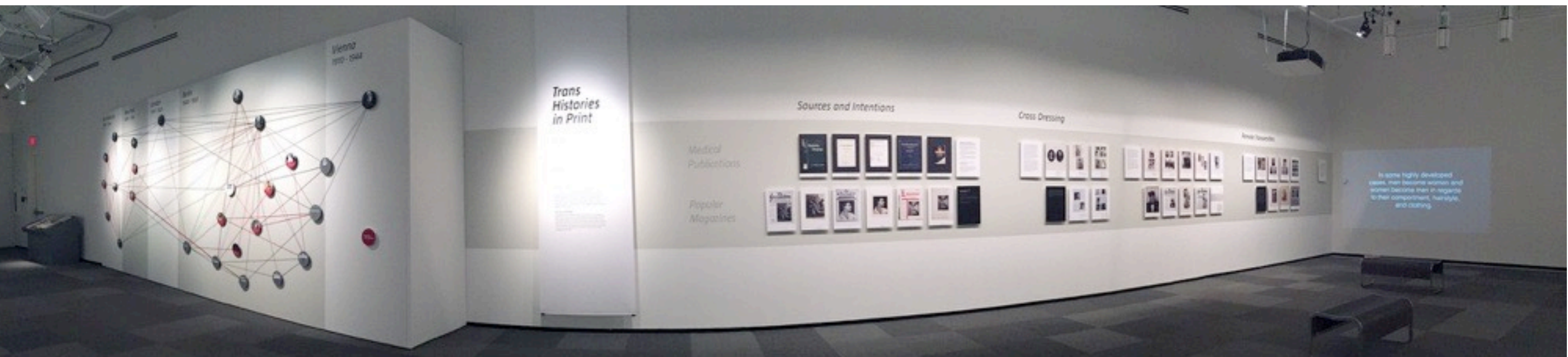
Researcher and lecturer
in the Institute for the History of Medicine of the Charité Clinic, Berlin
Magnus-Hirschfeld-Society, Berlin
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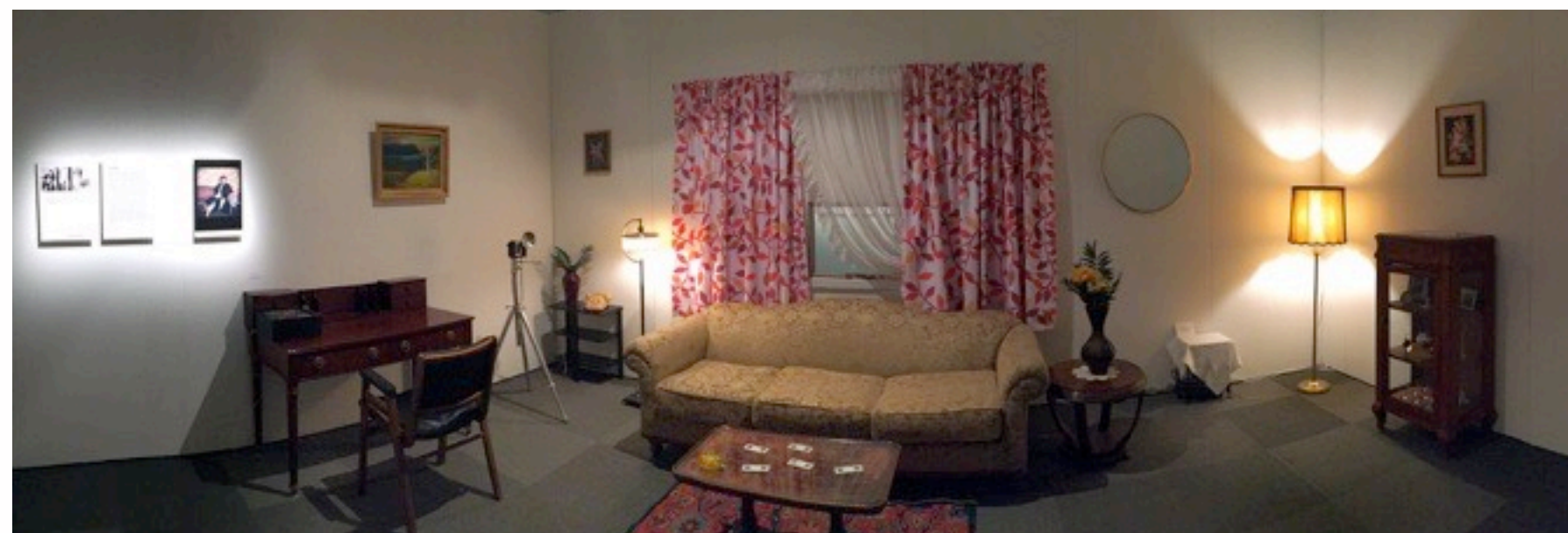
Addendum

Spatial Views

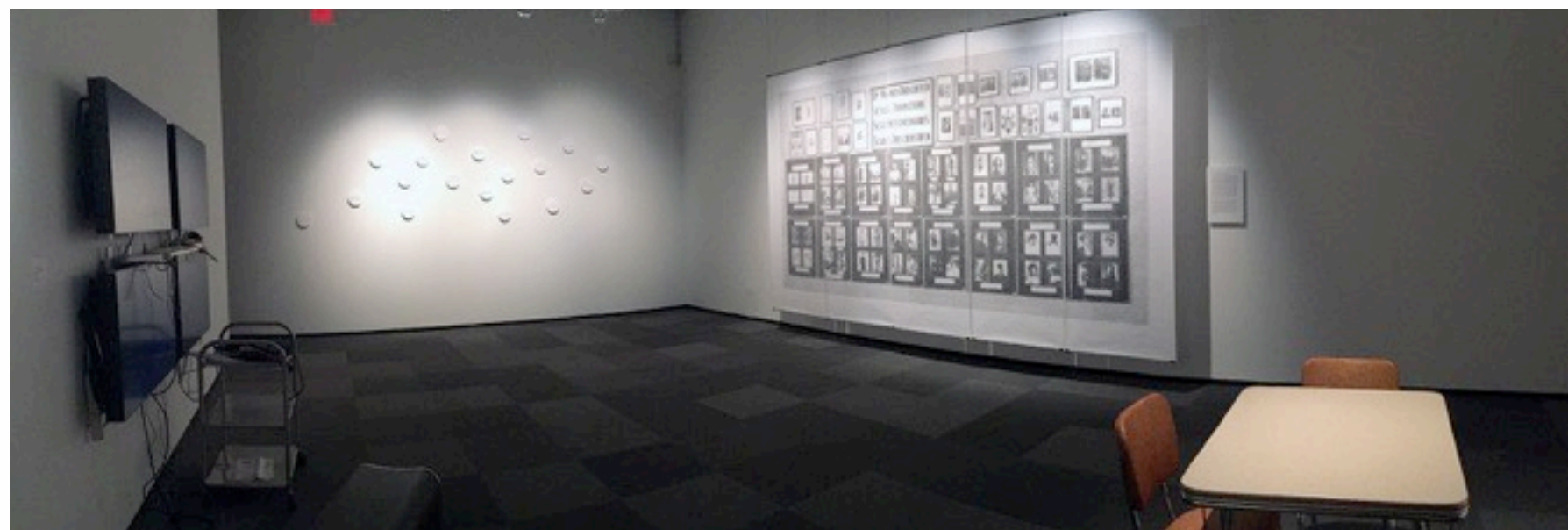
Trans Histories in Print
Projection of excerpts from
"The Steinach Film"
The Network Wall



Trans Circles of Knowledge
Carla's Living Room



Video Installation / Interview Project
"Carla's Couch" on four screens
The Wall of Sexual Transitions



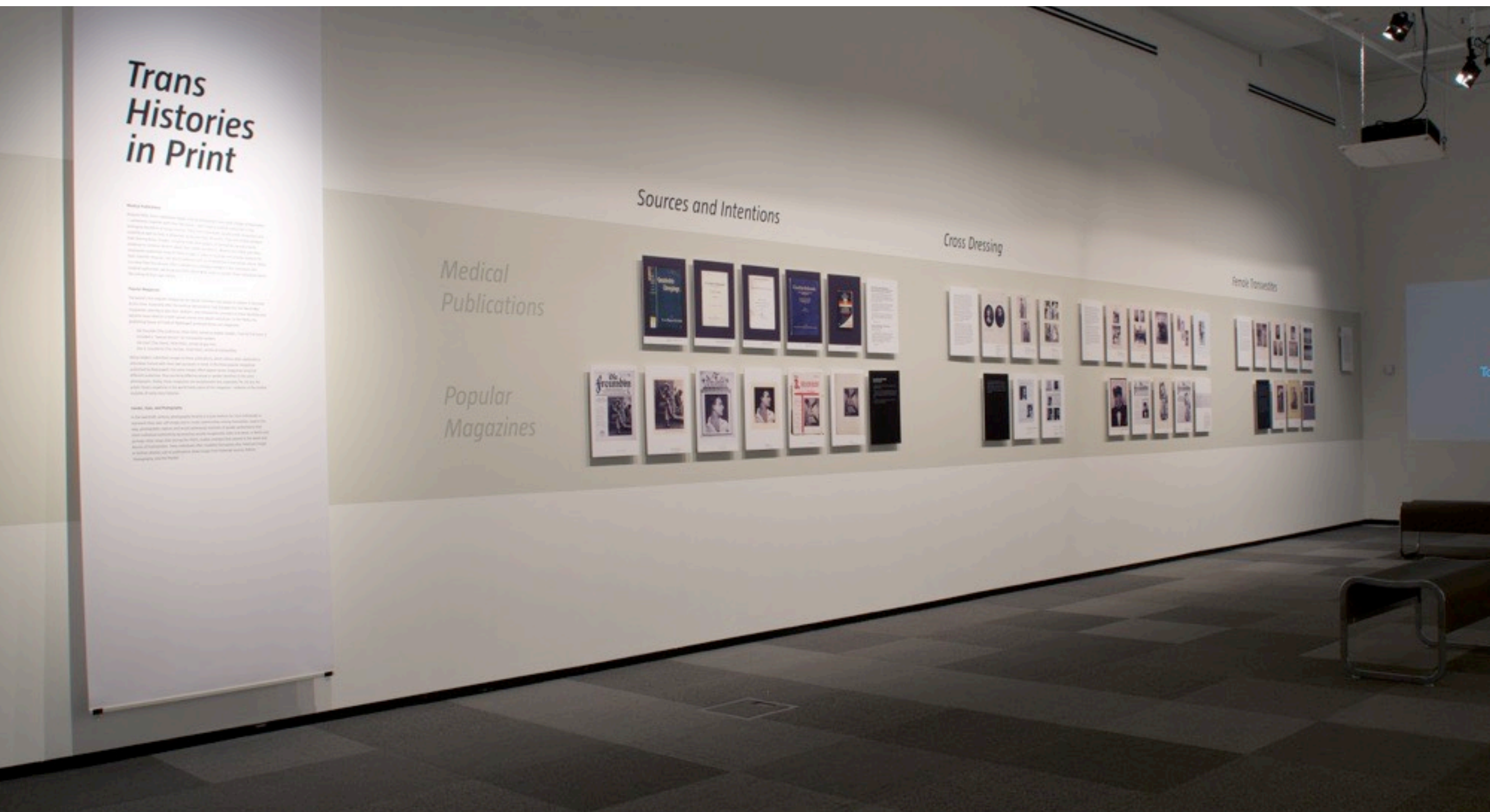
Trans Trans

Addendum

The Network Wall



Trans Trans
Addendum
Trans Histories in Print



Trans Trans

Addendum

Image Plate Examples

Transvestite / Transsexual



Medical
Publications



Popular
Magazines

Trans Trans

Addendum

Carla's Living Room



Trans Trans

Addendum

Video Installation / Interview Project “Carla’s Couch”



Trans Trans

Addendum

The Wall of Sexual Transitions



Trans Trans

Addendum

Poster Series

Trans Trans

Transgender Histories Between
Germany and the United States,
1882-1966

May 27 – June 10, 2016
Exhibition
Nickle Galleries
University of Calgary

Exhibition Production:
Annette F. Timm

Curated by
Rainer Herrs,
Michael Thomas Taylor,
Annette F. Timm

RECEPTION &
DANCE PERFORMANCE:
June 1, 12:30 pm
Big Head/Small Neck
by Melanie Kloetzel/Violeta Ebo,
Repeat Performance 1:30 pm

CURATOR'S ROUND TABLE:
June 2, 1–4 pm
with Keynote by Aaron Dewar,
Chair in Transgender Studies,
University of Victoria



In co-operation with
Melanie Herdy, Curator, Nickle Galleries;
the Magnus Hirschfeld Gesellschaft, Berlin; the Institute for
History and Ethics in Medicine of the Charité Clinic, Berlin;
and the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and
Reproduction in Bloomington, Indiana.

Monday–Friday 10–5pm
Saturday May 28, 11–4pm
Wednesday June 1, 10–6pm
Thursday June 2, 10–6pm
Saturday June 4, 10–4pm

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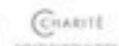
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