



THE ACADEMY

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(High resolution images are available by request)

**WORLD PREMIERE OF *THE LEATHERMEN PROJECT*  
BY PHOTOGRAPHER MIKE RUIZ  
AT THE ACADEMY LGBTQ+ SOCIAL CLUB  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

**SAN FRANCISCO, August 11, 2022** – Acclaimed New York-based photographer **Mike Ruiz's** newest collection, *The Leathermen Project*, will see its world premiere at The Academy, San Francisco's premier LGBTQ+ social club and event space, on Tuesday, September 20, 2022. General admission to the event and reception is \$15 and free for Members of The Academy. The collection will continue on display throughout the fall for viewing by Academy Members and guests, and by appointment only. A portion of the proceeds from each sale of artwork will be donated to **LYRIC**, a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization supporting LGBTQ+ youth.

**About The Collection**

*The Leathermen Project* is an effort to demystify a community that Mike has always been incredibly drawn to, and he hopes that this effort will shine a light on the humanity of leathermen and become a time capsule that will keep the leather community's rich history alive for future generations.

**About Mike Ruiz**

Mike's long list of celebrity clients include Jared Leto, Anne Hathaway, Billy Porter, Neil Patrick Harris, Cardi B, Ruby Rose, Katy Perry, Prince, Kelly Clarkson, Jim Parsons, Regina Hall, Queen Latifah, Beyonce, Betty White, and the list goes on and on. He has also directed several music videos for artists such as Kelly Rowland, Vanessa Williams, Erika Jayne and RuPaul, and made his feature film directorial debut with the uproarious comedy "StarrBooty" starring RuPaul.

Mike has also appeared frequently on America's and Canada's Next Top Model, RuPaul's Drag Race, along with dozens of other television appearances as an expert in his field. Mike was recently named creative director and principal photographer for L'Officiel Fashion Book Australia, L'Officiel Fashion Book Monte Carlo and PhotoBook Magazine.

Mike is most proud of his community service, having supported such organizations as The Ali Forney Center, GMHC, The Trevor Project, Housing Works, It Gets Better Campaign, Live Out Loud, Project Angel Food, and GLAAD. He is also on the honorary board of the "Let There Be Hope" research foundation.

More information about Mike Ruiz can be found at <https://www.mikeruiz.com>

## About The Academy

The Academy is a LGBTQ+ social club open to all, focused on promoting genuine social interactions while offering engaging programming in collaboration with nonprofit organizations, local businesses, and leading community members. The Club is located in San Francisco's Castro District and was founded in 2017 by co-founders Paul Miller and Nate Bourg.

The social club is open to anyone who wishes to apply – all are welcome – and aspires to be diverse in age, race, gender, and social standing, with all members sharing a common interest in engaging in the community and valuing in-person interactions.

In addition to the social club and its associated programming, The Academy also offers a barber salon, a daytime co-working lounge called Academy Daylight, and has space available to rent for private events.

More information about The Academy can be found at <https://academy-sf.com>

### *Calendar editors, please note:*

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## World Premiere of Mike Ruiz's *The Leathermen Project*

Tuesday, September 20 from 7-10pm  
The Academy SF  
2166 Market Street, San Francisco, CA

### **Tickets:**

- **General Admission \$15;** Academy Members FREE (7-10pm)
- **VIP Access \$50;** Includes exclusive early access (6-7pm) to view the collection, a special meet & greet plus talk with artist Mike Ruiz, complimentary bubbles, as well as access to all other areas of The Academy SF, from 6-10pm
- Tickets may be purchased at the following link: <https://www.academy-sf.com/event-details/the-leatherman-project-by-mike-ruiz-world-premiere-photography-exhibit>

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