

## Artist Scott Bloom – Queer Love

Originally from Louisiana, Scott Bloom worked in documentary film for 15 years before settling in Salem with his husband Larry and their twin dogs.

As Scott says, “In my piece [featured in the exhibit], I reflected on what “Queer Love” has meant to me over my 45 years as an out gay man. In my youth, being gay was dangerous. It was entirely possible that I could have lost my job, my apartment, or my life just for being who I was. Despite that, I flourished! I found a courageous community that surrounded me and lifted me up. We passed our knowledge and our strength, from one generation to the next. We cleared a path for those who were coming behind us. As a result, Queer folk can take pride in expressing their love in a way that is unprecedented in our history.

The beginning of the piece, “Love Against the Odds,” shows the arson fire at the UPSTAIRS LOUNGE, one of the deadliest hate crimes perpetrated against our community, followed by the Reverend Troy Perry, leading the charge for the recognition of our civil right to marry. I wanted my meditation on “Queer Love” to reflect not only the struggles we have faced, but also the triumphs I have shared with my family of choice. My work attempts to share that LGBTQIA+ people have been living and loving since time began and that it is a pure and sacred love that, with a committed community, will endure in the sunlight and not in the shadows.

### bio

Scott Bloom began his career as a documentarian in 2005 as Director of the award-winning film, "Original Pride: The Satyrs Motorcycle Club," an independently produced, feature-length film. This was followed by the award-winning documentary feature, "Call Me Troy" (2007) and “Out for the Long Run,” in 2010. As a student of gay history, Scott’s films provide a unique look at the early struggles of the LGBTQIA+ community as well as the gains in civil rights and community acceptance that have been the result of decades of activism. Most recently, he wrote and directed the short, narrative feature, “Raceland” (2019), a film that takes a unique look at what love between men is and isn’t in the rural south. This piece is his first artistic endeavor since that time. *Image courtesy of artist. 2023*

