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Sister Spit National Tour to Close at Icehouse Arts Complex

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Long Beach, California- The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach will host the nationally touring queer spoken word showcase Sister Spit on Saturday, March 16 at the acclaimed Icehouse Arts Complex. Having shifted the tour's focus towards highlighting LGBTQ artists of color in 2018, Sister Spit will again feature a diverse lineup of seven artists.

“Sister Spit’s annual stop is hands down one of the most creative, innovative, and acclaimed LGBTQ arts events in Long Beach,” says The Center’s executive director Porter Gilberg. “We are honored to host such a dynamic and talented group of artists again for the eighth year.”

Founded in the 1990s, Sister Spit brings powerful, provocative, and vital queer writers to cities across the country to perform before live audiences. The tour hosts a revolving roster of established and emerging LGBTQ authors, poets, and mixed media artists. Produced by the Bay Area non-profit organization RADAR Productions, Sister Spit features artists offering works that speak to contemporary issues of race, size, class, gender, and sexuality.

This year’s lineup will feature Columbian writer and historian Juliana Delgado Laopera (winner of the 2018 Lambda Literary Award for *Aunt Lute*), queer Mexican writer and Lambda Literary Poetry and Playwriting Fellow Baruch Porras Hernandez (Founder of the *¿Donde Esta Mi Gente?* Latinx Literary Series), Tejano designer and writer Austin Hernandez, illustrator and librarian Katie Fricas (*Comics for Choice*, *The Guardian*, *The New Yorker*), artist and writer from Trinidad and Tobago Katherine Agard (*Yes Femmes*, *Anmly*, *The Black Warrior Review*), Cuban artist and writer Cristy C. Road (*Indestructible*, *Bad Habits*, *Spit and Passion*), and curator, alchemist, and author Imani Sims (*[A]live Heart*).

Most recently Icehouse Arts Complex hosted the wildly successful *Tooth and Nail* all female muralist competition and exhibition on the fifth floor of the renowned arts venue. In addition to the performance, Icehouse Arts Complex, a former seafood packing and shipping facility, will have its gallery spaces open to view a diverse array of mixed media artwork. One dozen local organizations will also be tabling at the event to connect with attendees and share information on available resources and engagement with the community.

“Hosting Sister Spit at Icehouse Arts Complex is an absolute dream,” says Gilberg. “Attendees will be fully immersed in the incredible murals and sculptures that make up one of the most unique venues in the city.”

Sister Spit will take place Saturday March 16, 2019 at 7:00pm at Art Exchange (625 W. Anaheim Street Long Beach, CA 90813). The event is free and open to everyone. A cash bar will be available. For more information visit www.centerlb.org or visit the official Facebook event at <https://www.facebook.com/events/358198404735627/>.