SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO – The Love Armor 10th Anniversary Exhibition & Community Outreach Program will be held from September 28th through October 7th, 2018 at the Center for Contemporary Arts, shining a spotlight on what has occurred in the ten years since its 2008 premiere at CCA. Over the course of the first weekend, three panel discussions and one oral history training session will take place:

- **Advances in Neuroscience and Art Therapy in the Treatment of PTS Since 2008;**
  Saturday September 29, 2:00 - 4:00 pm.

- **Fiber Arts: Commemoration, Commentary, & Community;**
  Saturday September 29, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

- **Library of Congress Veterans History Project: Oral History Training and Interviews**
  Sunday, September 30, 9:00 am - Noon. Pre-registration required. No experience necessary.

- **American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER)**
  Sunday, September 30, 1:30 - 3:30. AVER panelists, representing LGBT military veterans, will present a history of the organization, and discuss battles won and challenges ahead.

[continued...]
A STATEMENT FROM THE LOVE ARMOR PROJECT

Our mission is to rediscover, with fresh eyes, the unique “Love Armor Project” (LAP) 10 years after it was enthusiastically embraced by diverse sections of the NM population. The Center for Contemporary Arts (CCA) will host its return for a week’s long exhibition, while we present four new dynamic and compelling events/panel discussions focused on up to the moment concerns.

The project was conceived in 2007 as a means of showing support & concern for our military men & women in the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan. In response to reading that these brave troops were being killed & mutilated by roadside bombs while traveling in a Humvee that was not armored for their protection, Shirley Klinghoffer conceptualized the idea of creating a strong, protective armor, the “Humvee Cozy”. A statement of purpose and an invitation to participate in this collaborative process was sent to knitters, artists and friends around the country. The challenge was to transform a war icon into a symbol of caring, which would be also seen as symbol of peace and hope.

With over 70 participants, the LAP, not only realized the innovative “Humvee Cozy” which premiered at CCA in 2008, but brought people together, from all walks of life, with a “unified humanist voice.”

The Humvee cozy (15’ x 7’ x 6’), our central image, when completed in September, 2008, premiered covering an actual Humvee M1026 which was delivered by the NM National Guard. During a September 11th Community Ceremony, the cozy was transferred, with reverence and care, to an armature where it floated as a symbol of peace and hope. The community, specifically the attendant members of our military, both male and female, seemed proud and touched to have this object of art and strong symbol of hope, fitted over one of their massive war machines.

For the 10th Anniversary, we will again float the Humvee cozy and present videos documenting the collaborative process in creating the Love Armor. The opening reception includes: a musical performance by Acushla Bastible, “Lifesongs” created with NM veterans; and speakers: Stuart Ashman, CCA Director; Shirley Klinghoffer, Love Armor Project; Phyllis Kennedy, NM Art Coordinator for the NM Art in the Military Healing Initiative; Robert Trevino, a Native American Veteran, who will bring a historical & personal perspective.

For the past two years the love Armor Project has collaborated with the New Mexico Arts and the Military community engagement initiative comprised of veterans, military families, government agencies, artists, and non-profit arts organizations that believe in the healing power of art and creativity.

During this week, we’ll emphasize underserved veteran communities, bringing awareness to their needs. There’ll be a panel discussion by the President and Board members of the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER), an organization representing the LGBTQ community. We’ll celebrate the diverse colors of our military including the rainbow that is the face of our military today.

10 years after our first LAP trauma treatment discussion, a panel of trauma experts will present an update on trauma treatment today, including advances in neuroscience.

There will be an ongoing educational exchange directed towards school children and an essay for all grades, created by the Museum of the American Military Family....
THE PROGRAMS:

● ADVANCES IN NEUROSCIENCE AND ART THERAPY IN THE TREATMENT OF PTS SINCE 2008

Date/Time: Saturday, September 29, 2018 • 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Moderator: Dr. Deborah Good
PhD, ATR-BC, ATCS, LPAT, LPCC is a nationally Board Certified Art Therapist, Art Therapy Credentialed Supervisor and New Mexico Licensed Professional Art Therapist and Clinical Counselor. She has worked in the mental health field for 45 years in outpatient and hospital settings. Dr. Good is a past-president of the American Art Therapy Association, the Art Therapy Credentials Board and New Mexico Art Therapy Association. Currently, she serves as the Immediate Past President of the Albuquerque Museum Foundation and Legislative Consultant to the New Mexico Art Therapy Association.

Panelists: Dr. Bill Shuttleworth, UNM’s Director of the Brain & Behavioral Health Institute and Regent’s Professor in the Dpt. of Neurosciences
Alanna Burke-Sindlinger, MA, ATR, LMHC, President Elect for the New Mexico Art Therapy Association (NMATA)
Dana Simmons, CCHT, LMT, SA, TST, Student Board Member, she holds certificates in many and varied trainings including; Interpersonal Neurobiology; Trauma, Grief, and Renewal; Human Sexuality and Eco-therapy from Southwestern College

● FIBER ARTS: COMMEMORATION, COMMENTARY AND COMMUNITY

Date/Time: Saturday, September 29, 2018 • 5:00 to 7:00 pm

The panel will explore how textile and fiber arts have been used to engage community in special ways to educate, raise awareness and/or make a statement. Topics addressed will include historical context and contemporary examples of textiles used as a medium for social commentary, commemorative projects and efforts on the ground in New Mexico, as well as looking to the future to ask what is next.

Moderator: Lilli Tichinin
Lilli Tichinin is the Program Coordinator for Folk Arts, Art Projects and Accessibility at New Mexico Arts, including management of the Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program. She previously worked as the Outreach Coordinator for First-Year Programs at the University of Oregon, Graduate Assistant for the Kentucky Folklife Program, oral history intern at the National Park Service History Program, and Accessibility Coordinator for the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

Panelists: April Jouse, Española Valley Fiber Arts Center, Director of Programs
Patricia Forshaw, Quilts of Valor
Amy Groleau, Museum of International Folk Art
Jayne Nordstrom, Love Armor Project 2008
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT: ORAL HISTORY TRAINING & INTERVIEWS

Date/Time: Sunday, September 30 • 9:00 am - Noon • Pre-Registration Required, details below

Training conducted by Lilli Tichinin [pictured], Program Coordinator for Folk Arts, Art Projects and Accessibility at New Mexico Arts, including management of the Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program.

The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

As part of the Love Armor Project 10th Anniversary, New Mexico Arts is partnering with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project (VHP) to offer this FREE workshop for volunteers interested in learning how to conduct interviews with veterans for submission to the Veterans History Project. The workshop will cover specifics of the VHP and techniques and best practices for both amateur and experienced oral historians.

*Workshop registration required by September 1, 2018. To register please fill out the form at: https://goo.gl/forms/f8l6GHGCS9pzWOLj2
If you are a veteran who is interested in being interviewed you can fill out a contact form here: https://goo.gl/forms/lAascemQYmOi3IGO2

Contact Lilli Tichinin at (505) 476-0518 or lilli.tichinin@state.nm.us with any questions regarding this program.

AMERICAN VETERANS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS (AVER) PANEL DISCUSSION

Date/Time: Sunday, September 30, 2018 • 1:30 to 3:30 pm

American Veterans for Equal Rights, Bataan Chapter, is the nation’s oldest LGBT veteran advocacy and service organization dating back to the early 1990s. The AVER panel will present information on their organization, its mission and values. The informational slideshow presentation is researched from LGBT veterans’ published works, news reports, DOD memos and policy, and the archives of their own organizational advocacy efforts still photos, and video clips. Changes in military policy and public law since 1990 leading to serving openly in the military today will be discussed. Plus, the interface of military policy and public law, and how that relates to the enjoyment of our full human rights in society regarding marriage equality and other legal protections for all LGBT Americans. There will be a focus on the events of the summer of 2017 surrounding the “Trump Tweet” banning transgender military service, and the ensuing responses from military and government leaders. The personal military and community service stories of a few exceptional local LGBT veterans will be shared, followed by a closing Q&A with the audience. The panel will be moderated by Major Dorothy Seaton [pictured], who served from 1971-1992 in the Army and in the Army National Guard in four states.

Panelists:  
Penn Baker, Navy Veteran, Cedar Crest, NM  
Dorothee Baker, Navy wife, Cedar Crest, NM  
Dorothy Seaton, Army & Army National Guard Veteran, Santa Fe, NM  
Lori Killough, Merchant Marine and Navy Veteran, Albuquerque, NM  
Steve Loomis, Army Veteran, Albuquerque, NM

[continued...]
MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY FAMILY & LEARNING CENTER: ESSAY CONTEST AND HANDS-ON ART PROJECT

Ongoing during the exhibition, September 28 - October 7, 2018

The Museum of the American Military Family is the brainchild of overseas brat, military wife and mom, Circe Olson Woessner. Incorporated as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation, the Museum is the only one of its kind in the United States. It is the only Museum dedicated to celebrating the contributions of America’s military families.

In an effort to encourage conversation about the divide between military and civilian populations MAMF will sponsor a student essay contest. Topics and prompts will be offered for participating students. The essays may be written before visiting the Love Armor 2018 exhibit at CCA or done on location during the exhibit. All essays will be collated into a binder to keep at the Museum of the American Military Family in Tijeras, NM.

Additionally, visitors to the CCA exhibit will be encouraged to select a colored bead representing the branch of service of a family member, e.g. Red - Marines, Dark Blue - Navy, Light Blue - Air Force, etc. Visitors will string the bead on a wire on display at CCA. The completed wire sculpture will be returned to MAMF for permanent display.

The Love Armor 10th Anniversary Exhibition & Community Outreach Program will be held from September 28th through October 7th, 2018 at the Center for Contemporary Arts, 1050 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe, NM.

For more details, please contact Matthew Contos, Director of Public Engagement, at matthew@ccasantafe.org.