Title
In the Reign of Kings

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Thesis – In the Reign of Kings  
Track – Photojournalism

Abstract –

Thanks to shows such as RuPaul’s Drag Race, drag queens have begun making appearances in public mainstream media much more frequently. From TV and movie characters to social media prevalence, these queer performers are mainstream entertainers in many ways. Their drag king counterparts on the other hand, still remain predominantly unseen within the media and public eye.

Just as drag queens are male-bodied performers who dress and perform on stage as their female counterparts, drag kings are female-bodied performers who dress and perform in the many styles of masculine personas. With a wide variety of kings, from macho hip-hop artists to “sparkly kings”, each performer expresses their persona differently through physical body alteration, posture, and expression.

This project follows several Bay Area based drag kings both on and off stage, while they transform from one gender to another and everything in between. According to Alex U. Inn, a prominent figure in the Bay Area drag king community, performance as a king is a way of “exploring your sense of self, as you see it.”

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