

for *DAY WITH(OUT) ART 2015*
VISUAL AIDS presents:

RADIANT PRESENCE



Founded in 1988, Visual AIDS is the only contemporary arts organization fully committed to raising AIDS awareness and creating dialogue around HIV issues today, by producing and presenting visual art projects, exhibitions, public forums and publications — while assisting artists living with HIV/AIDS. We are committed to preserving and honoring the work of artists with HIV/AIDS and the artistic contributions of the AIDS movement.

Visual
AIDS

www.visualaids.org



CREDITS

Artists featured in the slideshow include:

Stephen Andrews, AZT, Jurgen Baldiga, Bizzy Barefoot, Barton Lidicé Beneš, Luis Carle, Walt Cessna, Tseng Kwong Chi, Lucretia Crichlow, Darkroom Danny, Chloe Dzubilo, Brent Nicholson Earle, Rotimi Fani-Kayode, Benjamin Fredrickson, Tim Greathouse, Max Greenberg, Carlos Gutierrez-Solana, Veritee Reed Hall, John Hanning, W. Benjamin Incerti, Derek Jackson, Shan Kelley, Kia Labelija, Nancer LeMoins, David McDiarmid, Joyce McDonald, Kissa Millar, Mark Morrisroe, Jon Nalley, Ray Navarro, Luna Luis Ortiz, Richard Renaldi, Hunter Reynolds, Juan Rivera, Eric Rhein, Jeffrey Scott, Steed Taylor, Hector Toscano, L. Robert Westeen, Jorge Veras, Bruce Volpone, Albert Winn, Martin Wong, David Wojnarowicz, and Lina Yaroslavska

Artists featured in additional web galleries include:

Alex Aleixo, Ali, Rob Anderson, Kelvin Atmadibrata, Crawford Barton, Jaiden Benz, Bern Boyle, Vincent Chevalier, Paul Chisholm, Vincent Cianni, Ray Cook, Bruce Cratsley, Joe De Hoyos, Jimmy De Sana, John Douglas, John Dugdale, Steven Dwayne Bryk, Darrel Ellis, Robert Flack, Martin Freeman, Robert Getso, Félix González-Torres, Hervé Guibert, Sunil Gupta, Hannecke Gustavo, Keith Haring, Michael Harwood, horea, Peter Hujar, Leslie Kaliades, John Kelly, Tseng Kwong Chi, John Lathram III, Robert Mapplethorpe, Andrew McPhail, Greg Mitchell, Steve Muench, Kyle Nylund, Rob Ordonez, Jo Ori, Ian Richards, Peter Robinson Jr, Javier Rocabado, Rafael Sánchez, Rene Santos, Tracy Silverberg, Jack Smith, Javier Soriano, Alex Sparrowhawk, Andrew Spencer, stVincent, Wyatt Tan, Kurt Weston, Daniel Williams, Dirk H. Wilms, Andrew Zealley

Videography: Azmi Mert Erdem

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Esther McGowan, Associate Director
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Cover: Juan Rivera, *Untitled (Keith Haring)*, c. 1985

Back: Shan Kelley, *With Curators Like These, Who Needs A Cure*, 2015

Images in this discussion guide courtesy the artists and:

The Estate of Chloe Dzubilo
The Estate of David McDiarmid
The Estate of Juan Rivera
The Estate of Mark Morrisroe (Ringier Collection) at Fotomuseum Winterthur

RADIANT PRESENCE RESOURCE GUIDE



For the 26th annual *Day With(out) Art*, Visual AIDS collaborated with nine influential artists, activists and curators—Ian Alteveer, Bill Arning, Kimberly Drew, Allen Frame, Mark S. King, Rae Lewis-Thornton, Jack Mackenroth, Maria Mejia, and Chris Vargas—to present **RADIANT PRESENCE**.

RADIANT PRESENCE is a digital slideshow of text and images from the Visual AIDS Artist+ Registry, the largest database of works by artists with HIV/AIDS. **RADIANT PRESENCE** celebrates the work of artists living with HIV/AIDS and those who are no longer with us. The artwork is interspersed with current statistics and information about HIV/AIDS today.

This resource guide expands on conversations raised in **RADIANT PRESENCE** about HIV criminalization and stigma, access to treatment, the shifting demographics of people living with HIV and the disproportionate effect of the epidemic on communities of color and transwomen.

Visual AIDS utilizes art to fight AIDS by provoking dialogue, supporting HIV+ artists, and preserving a legacy because AIDS is not over.



Steed Taylor, *Me & Sudie*, 1997

39 million people have died of AIDS related causes.

36 million people are living with HIV today worldwide.

At this point in the AIDS epidemic, over thirty years after the first reported cases, there are nearly as many people living with HIV as have died of AIDS-related causes. In this context, it is more important than ever to remember that AIDS isn't over.

In the United States, HIV treatment can cost up to \$36,000 a year.

Only 41% of people living with HIV have access to treatment.

Antiretroviral treatments have proven to be effective at suppressing the spread of HIV within a body, possibly rendering the virus undetectable in people living with HIV and reducing the likelihood of transmission.

Despite the success of antiretrovirals, socioeconomic and racial disparities create obstacles to accessing treatment.

What other factors might influence how people access antiretroviral therapy? What are the challenges of staying in medical care in the face of financial and emotional burdens?



David McDiarmid, *So many pills so little time sweetie*, 1994

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Long Term Survivors

- Let's Kick ASS—AIDS Survivor Syndrome: <http://letskickass.org/>
- The Silent Struggle of HIV Treatment Adherence, by Mathew Rodriguez on <http://www.thebody.com/>
- The POZ 100: Celebrating Long-Term Survivors on <http://www.poz.com/>

Women Living With HIV

- Positive Women's Network: <https://pwnusa.wordpress.com/>
- The International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW) <http://www.icwglobal.org/>

Trans People Living with HIV

- Why Transgender Women Have the Country's Highest HIV Rates, by Sunnive Brydum on <http://www.hivplusmag.com/>
- DUETS: Che Gossett & Alice O'Malley in Conversation on Chloe Dzubilo available at <https://www.visualaids.org/store/>

HIV Criminalization

- Sero Project - Fighting Stigma and Injustice <http://seroproject.com/>
- The Center for HIV Law and Policy <http://www.hivlawandpolicy.org/>
- Criminalization 101, by Sean Strub on <http://www.poz.com/>

Further Reading:

Visual AIDS Blog: <http://www.visualaids.org/blog/>

The Body: <http://www.thebody.com/>

Plus Magazine: <http://www.hivplusmag.com/>

Art & Understanding Magazine: <http://www.aumag.com/>

Positively Aware Magazine: <http://www.positivelyaware.com/>

Statistics from:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/>

<http://www.amfar.org/>

More information about PrEP and PEP:

<http://www.avert.org/>

<http://pep411.com/>

Find HIV testing in your area:

<https://locator.aids.gov/>

DAY WITH(OUT) ART

Visual AIDS launched **Day With(out) Art** on December 1, 1989 as the national day of action and mourning in response to the AIDS crisis. In 1997 Visual AIDS added the parenthesis to (out) to highlight proactive art programming around the world.



RADIANT PRESENCE is inspired by the 25th anniversary of *Electric Blanket*, an epic slide show about AIDS created by photographers Nan Goldin, Allen Frame and Frank Franca for Visual AIDS second Day With(out) Art. *Electric Blanket* interspersed the work of over 200 photographers with slide texts that included demographics, data, and slogans about AIDS worldwide. The slide show, initially projected on the façade of Cooper Union on December 1, 1990, was later projected on public walls and buildings internationally.

Treatment as Prevention:

Antiretroviral medications have been approved in a preventative context for people who are HIV negative. PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) is a daily regimen that is taken before exposure to HIV to reduce the chance of infection. PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis) is an antiviral medication taken within 72 hours after exposure to HIV that can prevent an infection.

Half of the people living with HIV today are age 50 or older.

By 2020, that number will approach 70%.

Though HIV treatments have become more effective, long-term survivors of HIV face their own host of challenges. Medication is often expensive and takes a toll on one's body. Stigma and trauma can lead to depression, survivor guilt, and a lack of future orientation. As the AIDS epidemic endures with a focus on prevention, it is important to recognize the needs and realities of long-term survivors.

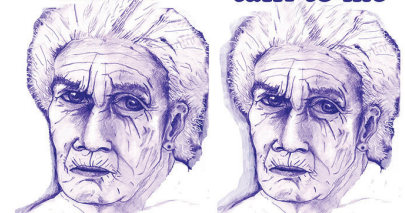
Has HIV moved into the realm of chronic illness? How might long-term care pose a new set of challenges for our healthcare system and for people living with HIV?

I'VE SEEN AND DONE THINGS YOU CAN'T IMAGINE.



ask me

talk to me



hear me

know me

IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF THEY WERE NEVER HEARD

Nancer LeMoins, *I've Seen and Done*, 2014



Darkroom Danny, *Human #1*, 2015

In 2010, 50% of youth under the age of 24 with HIV didn't know that they were positive.

Early detection and treatment of HIV is important to stay healthy. Shame, stigma and a perception of low risk can prevent people from getting tested.

What other factors might influence how frequently people get tested for HIV? What testing resources exist in your community?

Women of color are 20 times more likely to contract HIV than white women in the United States.

There is a noted lack of integration between HIV care and sexual and reproductive health care. Women and transgender people have specific medical care and support service needs. Transmission risks have historically been perceived as lower for women, leading to late HIV testing and increased AIDS diagnoses.



Joyce McDonald, *The Removing*, 1998

How is race, class and gender related to healthcare? Why might HIV disproportionately affect women of color?

WEB GALLERIES

Jack Mackenroth: Epidemic of Creativity

"HIV changed the way we thought about our bodies and how we chose to express ourselves. It redefined our sense of beauty and reestablished a need to be heard. Blood, medicine, sex, nudity, love, pain, beauty, fear, freedom and discrimination. All common sources of inspiration and expression."

Maria Mejia: Journey

"We must know our past to understand our future and what we are living now. HIV is just a human condition and we are not less than anyone!"

Chris Vargas: Intertext

"In my selection of artists' images, text is the dominant motif: in iconic protest banners and billboards, in documents of textual interventions in public and private spaces, as texts written on the body, and in collages of declarative newspaper headlines. Together, these works document, amend, contribute to, and often interrupt the evolving cultural rhetoric of HIV/AIDS."



Mark Morrisroe, *Untitled [John S. and Jonathan]*, 1985



Veritee Reed Hall, *Poz Women & Proud*, 2014



Vincent Gianni, *ACT UP March*, 1992

WEB GALLERIES

Allen Frame: Shaping the Self

"In so many different ways, these artists invite us to witness, to interpret, to share in desire and pain, to feel, to care, to learn, to follow.

Using the self as model, figure, vehicle, strategy, and subject, these artists sample many ways of reaching us."



Derek Jackson, *Love tear us apart*, 2010

Mark S. King: Choosing Joy

"Our lives are defined not by what happens to us, but by how we respond. There is joy in being fully alive despite the crushing blows of stigma. We choose joy and reject prejudice."



Steven Dwayne Bryk, *Transformation*, 2012

Rae Lewis-Thornton

"These images represent, faith, hope, love, perseverance and support, all of the components necessary to live a whole and healthy life with HIV. This expression of self love resonates throughout the spirit of the image and challenges stigma and shame through unapologetic body images."

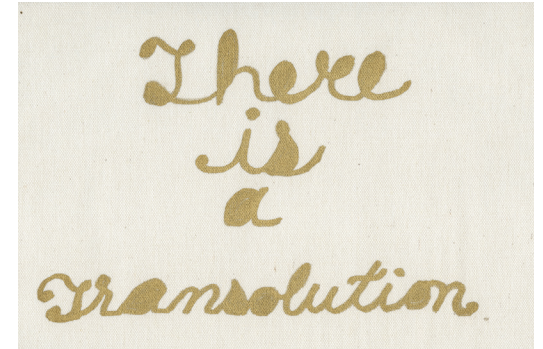


horea, *love-orange*, 2004

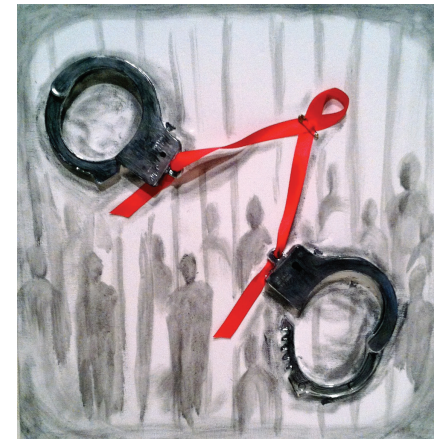
Trans women are among the fastest growing population of HIV-positive people in the United States.

Though there is very little research on the healthcare needs of trans women, service providers understand that trans women tend to have a higher risk of contracting HIV.

Why do you think trans women are disproportionately affected by HIV? Consider how our healthcare system might perpetuate gender-based violence and discrimination against trans people. How might that relate to discrimination and violence experienced in the street or in our legal system?



Chloe Dzubilo, *There Is A Transolution*, n.d.



L. Robert Westeen, *Criminalization Is Not A Cure*, 2013

Thirty-six states in the United States have prosecuted HIV-positive people for consensual sex, biting, or spitting.

Criminalizing HIV isn't about risk or harm, it's about stigma.

Arresting and prosecuting people with HIV for consensual sexual relationships or no-risk conduct, such as spitting, does not take into account the actual risk of HIV transmission or details such as viral load, intent, or mutual responsibility.

In 2015, Michael Johnson, age 23, was sentenced to 30 years in prison for “criminally exposing” others to HIV.

Other examples of recent prosecutions of people living from HIV include*:

- A man with HIV in Texas is serving thirty-five years for spitting at a police officer.
- A man with HIV in Iowa, who had an undetectable viral load, received a twenty-five year sentence after a one-time sexual encounter during which he used a condom; his sentence was suspended, but he had to register as a sex-offender and is not allowed unsupervised contact with his nieces, nephews and other young children.
- A woman with HIV in Georgia received an eight-year sentence for failing to disclose her HIV status, despite the trial testimony of two witnesses that her sexual partner was aware of her HIV positive status.
- A man with HIV in Michigan was charged under the state's anti-terrorism statute with possession of a "biological weapon" after he allegedly bit his neighbor.

These prosecutions have little to do with prevention or with the actual risk of transmission. On the contrary, these laws reinforce a presumption of guilt or wrongdoing for people living with HIV and discourage people from disclosing their HIV status and accessing care.

Who is responsible for HIV? Individuals? Communities? Medical institutions and pharmaceutical companies?

How can we best address the HIV epidemic and work to keep people healthy?

* examples courtesy The Center for HIV Law & Policy

WEB GALLERIES

RADIANT PRESENCE continues online with web galleries curated by nine influential artists, activists and curators. See more at visualaids.org/projects/detail/radiant-presence

Ian Alteveer: Self-Portraits from the Registry

“The self-portraits in this selection speak to the enduring power of the camera to preserve an extraordinary visual record of the myriad lives HIV/AIDS has touched and all too often taken.”



Kissa Millar, *6 pm*, 2014

Bill Arning: Hauntings

“The following selection of images each reminds me of mortality, and the constraints of life, the nonnegotiable finitude of life’s pleasure. AIDS is but one of the many ways in which the sweet limits of mortal lives must be daily acknowledged.”



Robert Flack,
Anatomical Garden,
1990

Kimberly Drew: Sorrow’s Swing

“With respect to the AIDS epidemic, photography has been a vehicle for documenting the past, present and future of the disease. In this selection of images, I’ve chosen works that despite their stillness embody movement and illustrate a folk narrative from the perspective of positive artists.”



W. Benjamin Incerti, *Untitled (The AIDS Crisis Is Not Over)*, 1991