



INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

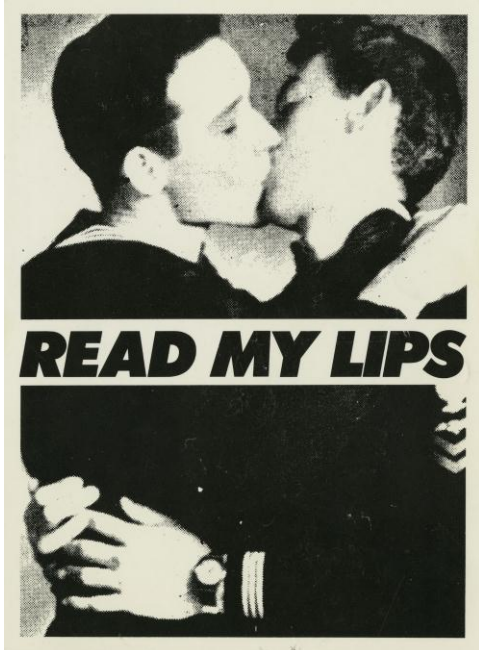
NEWS RELEASE



UNLEASHING THE ARCHIVE A WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT ON DECEMBER 1, 2011

"...an unused archive is not an archive. An archive is only an archive when it is entered, or more precisely, when things come out."

– Mark Wigley, "Unleashing the Archive," *Future Anterior*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (Winter 2005).



(Top and bottom) "Silencio=Muerte. Verso: 30 gays arrested each night in Buenos Aires. Shame!" ACT UP/NY. "Read My Lips (Boys) Postcard," Gran Fury. Courtesy of the New York Public Library, Manuscripts and Archives Division.

PHILADELPHIA, PA

The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) at the University of Pennsylvania observes the 22nd Day With(out) Art, taking place on World AIDS Day, December 1, 2011, with *Unleashing the Archive*. A two-part project, *Unleashing the Archive* reactivates archival documents as a way of addressing the history of AIDS cultural activism and direct action in the context of the present crisis.

Because of the growing rate of HIV infection each year in Philadelphia alone, (approximately 30,000 people are infected, a rate more than 50% higher than residents of New York City and five times the national average), ICA is using this nation-wide event as an opportunity to increase awareness among at-risk communities and the general public in Philadelphia. To further this effort, we are partnering with Philadelphia FIGHT's AIDS Library.

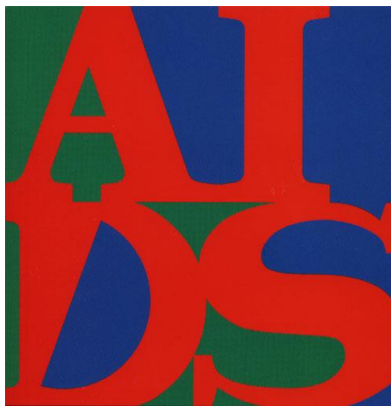
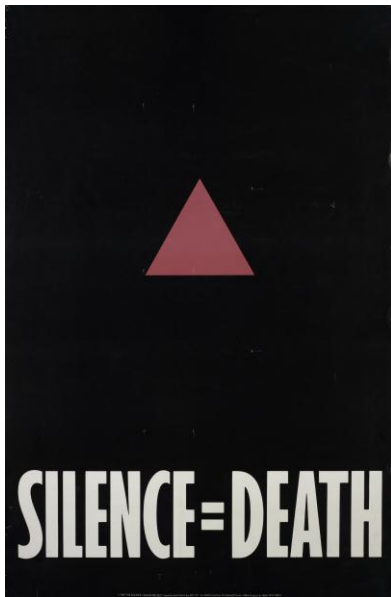
For the first part of the project ICA will be one of many institutions screening *Untitled*, a film by Jim Hodges, Encke King, and Carlos Marques da Cruz. Screenings of *Untitled* will be held from 11am-5pm, every hour on the hour on December 1 as part of Day With(out) Art, a national day of action and mourning in response to the AIDS crisis launched by Visual AIDS in 1989. Screenings in ICA's Tuttleman Auditorium, are free and open to the public.

Untitled is a 60-minute non-linear montage of archival and pop footage recalling the passionate activism sparked by the early years of the AIDS crisis. In 2010, artist Jim Hodges was invited to give a lecture on the billboard project of Félix González-Torres at San Antonio's Artpace. He teamed up with filmmakers Carlos Marques da Cruz and Encke King to create *Untitled*. Neither a portrait or a documentary about González-Torres, the film is an attempt to create an understanding of the influences and contexts within which González-Torres was working. In Hodges's words, "In this way, the framing of the artist can become a way to project any number of people, endlessly." *Untitled* can therefore be considered to be as much about González-Torres and the AIDS crisis as it can be seen as grappling with the continuum of global dehumanization.

Inspired by the filmmakers' use of archival footage to address current issues, for the second part of the project, ICA focuses on iconic images from the early days of the AIDS crisis. These graphics are drawn from the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP), a national and international non-partisan advocacy group formed in 1987;

CONTACT

Jill Katz
Director of Marketing &
Communications
Institute of Contemporary Art
University of Pennsylvania
+1 215 573.9975
publicity@icaphila.org



(Top and bottom) "Silence = Death," ACT UP/ NY. "AIDS," Gran Fury and General Idea. Courtesy of the New York Public Library, Manuscripts and Archive Division.

GENERAL INFORMATION

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
118 SOUTH 36TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-3289
T: 215.898.5911/7108
WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG
BLOG: WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG/MIRANDA

HOURS

Wednesday 11am-8pm
Thursday + Friday 11am-6pm
Saturday + Sunday 11am-5pm

Admission is FREE every day.

Free admission to the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania for the public is sponsored by the Amanda (C95) and Glenn (W87/WG88) Fuhrman Fund.

Gran Fury, an artists' collective that served as ACT UP/NY's unofficial "propaganda ministry"; and Philadelphia-based organizations like GALAEI (Gay and Lesbian Latino AIDS Education Initiative) and ASIAC (AIDS Services in Asian Communities).

In 1996 ACT UP/NY and Gran Fury donated their collection to the New York Public Library with explicit specifications that it remain in the public domain. *Unleashing the Archive* enacts this intended use by disseminating selected works throughout Philadelphia's media, reinserting them into the city fabric. Jointly organized by the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia FIGHT's AIDS Library, and with the support of signatories from the Philadelphia community (the Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Family Planning Council, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Action AIDS, and others), we are asking print and online media in the greater Philadelphia area to reproduce one of these iconic images on December 1. This cultural activism campaign will significantly raise public awareness of HIV and AIDS in this, the pandemic's 30th year.

About the Institute of Contemporary Art

The Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania believes in the power of art and artists to inform and inspire. The ICA is free for all to engage and connect with the art of our time.

About Philadelphia FIGHT/AIDS Library

Philadelphia FIGHT is a comprehensive AIDS service organization providing state of the art, culturally competent HIV primary care, consumer education, advocacy, social services, and outreach to people living with HIV and those who are at high risk, and access to the most advanced clinical research. Our goal and hope is to end the AIDS epidemic within the lifetime of those currently living with HIV. Philadelphia FIGHT's AIDS Library is the only lending library devoted to HIV in the United States and is now celebrating its 25th year.

About Day With(out) Art

Day With(out) Art was started by Visual AIDS in 1989. Since then, museums, galleries, school, universities, and cultural and grassroots organizations have observed December 1, also known as World AIDS Day, with programs, exhibitions, and discussions about HIV/AIDS.

Viewers can visit the *Untitled* website built for Day With(out) Art 2011 by Creative Time at www.creativetime.org/daywithoutart to watch a trailer, view the list of participating venues, access a resource guide, respond to the film, and engage in dialogue about the work necessary to end AIDS.

About Visual AIDS

Visual AIDS utilizes art to fight AIDS by provoking dialogue, supporting HIV+ artists, and preserving a legacy, because AIDS is not over. Visual AIDS is the only contemporary arts organization fully committed to HIV prevention and AIDS awareness through producing and presenting visual art projects, 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. www.visualaids.org.

Unleashing the Archive is organized by ICA 2011-2012 Whitney-Lauder Curatorial Fellow Jennifer Burris.

ICA wishes to thank: the New York Public Library, Manuscripts and Archives Division; Philadelphia FIGHT/AIDS Library; Thomas Devaney; Thadeus Dowad; Ellie Levitt; Thomas Lannon; Peter Lien; GALAEI Project; San Francisco AIDS Foundation; ASIAC; and Mark Seaman.