

The New Museum

OF CONTEMPORARY ART

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News

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THE NEW MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART COMMEMORATES DWA WITH A SPECIAL VIDEO PROJECT

The New Museum of Contemporary Art joins galleries and museums worldwide in observing the sixth international **Day Without Art** on December 1, 1994, World AIDS day. Organized by the volunteer group **VISUAL AIDS**, Day Without Art pays tribute to those who have suffered from HIV/AIDS by increasing awareness about the pandemic and promoting action to end the AIDS crisis.

To commemorate Day Without Art, a special video project organized by artists **Bob Flanagan** and **Nancy Burson** will be screened, the lights in the New Museum's galleries will be darkened, and Rita Ackermann's painting in the Window on Broadway will be covered by a black veil. Admission to the Museum is free to the public on December 1st.

Test Pattern, a project designed by Flanagan specifically for Visiting Hours and developed in collaboration with artist/photographer Nancy Burson, will interrupt regular video programming that is part of the Museum's current exhibition. In Test Pattern, seven video loops playing on monitors throughout the galleries present medical images of damaged T-cells infected by HIV. Each image is accompanied by a single-tone soundtrack of a television "test pattern," the electronic signal indicating that regular programming has been interrupted or

terminated. For this one day only, Test Pattern will disrupt regular video viewing in Visiting Hours on the seven monitors of the scaffold Bob Flanagan is Sick and on single monitors in both the Hospital Room and the Video Coffin. In the WorkSpace gallery, Test Pattern will also preempt Courage, a video program organized by David Leslie. The T-cell images are derived from Burson's 1991 poster project Visualize This, sponsored by Creative Time and distributed through the Gay Men's Health Crisis.

On view in the Museum's lobby is **ACT UP/New York's** installation of the neon logo Silence=Death and l.e.d. sign with updated statistical information on AIDS, provided annually by artist/activist collaborative **Gran Fury**. The electronic signs were originally part of Let the Record Show..., an installation in the Museum's Window on Broadway organized by the late **William Olander** in 1987. They will remain in the Museum lobby until the AIDS crisis has ended.

Funding for Day Without Art at The New Museum is provided, in part, by the William Olander Memorial Fund. The fund was established in memory of The New Museum curator William Olander who died of AIDS in 1989. Donations made to the William Olander Memorial Fund are used for the purchase and promotion of works in the fields of photography, video, performance, installations, and cultural activism.

For recorded information about the Museum's current exhibitions, Visiting Hours: An installation by Bob Flanagan in collaboration with Sheree Rose, Who Are We? What Are We? Where Did We Come From? by Rita Ackermann, Courage, a video program organized by David Leslie, and Self-Help Library: Four Decades of Pain Management in North America by Cathy Busby, please call (212) 219-1355.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 583 Broadway between Houston and Prince Streets in SoHo. Hours are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday: Noon to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday: Noon to 8:00 p.m., 6:00-8:00 p.m. free; Monday and Tuesday, closed. Admission is \$4 general; \$3 artists, students, seniors; members and children under 12, free. There will be no charge for admission on December 1, 1994, Day Without Art.