

The Museum of Modern Art

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TWO AIDS-RELATED INSTALLATIONS BY GENERAL IDEA ARE ON VIEW FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NEW YORK AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Projects: General Idea
November 28, 1996–January 7, 1997

Two AIDS-related installations by the Toronto art collective General Idea are on view for the first time in New York in the *Projects* gallery at The Museum of Modern Art from November 28, 1996, to January 7, 1997.

The highly charged subject of AZT motivated the two spectacular installations featured in *Projects: General Idea*. AZT (Azydothymidine), licensed by the Food and Drug Administration in 1987, was the first antiviral compound to become available to AIDS patients. While not a cure, AZT had proven fairly successful in helping to retard the replication of the virus, despite high toxicity and terrible side effects. Controversy surrounding its lengthy approval process was compounded by the issue of availability to patients: its expense put it beyond the reach of many who wanted to pursue treatment.

One Day of AZT (1991) displays the daily dose of AZT (then five units) as five human-sized pills on the floor. *One Year of AZT* (1991) comprises three hundred and sixty-five sets of five smaller pills, one for each day of the year, arranged in monthly sequences along the walls. Made of fiberglass, styrene with vinyl, these pieces mimic their pharmaceutical counterparts with their aerodynamic design for smooth descent.

“Inducing a state of disembodied suspension, the numbing regularity and relentless repetition of the daily dose sets up a sad visual mantra that evocatively counts down the passing

