

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
November 1990

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PARTICIPATES IN A DAY WITHOUT ART

For the second year, The Museum of Modern Art is observing **A Day without Art**, a national day of mourning and call for action in response to the AIDS crisis. On November 30, 1990, after the galleries close to the public at 6:00 p.m., the Museum is conducting a memorial service on all three levels of its Garden Hall. Beginning on December 1, other related events organized by the Museum include a film and video program, a presentation of the AIDS Timeline, the introduction of an informational interactive video program about AIDS, and a poster display.

The Friday evening memorial service is introduced by Richard E. Oldenburg, director of The Museum of Modern Art, and includes a talk, *AIDS: Images That Tell The Truth*, by Thomas W. Sokolowski, director of the Grey Art Gallery and Study Center, New York University; and a performance by The New York City Gay Men's Chorus, directed by Gary Miller and including vocal works by Barry Mann, Stephen Sondheim, and Randall Thompson. A listing of the related events is attached.

A Day without Art was designed to honor and recognize friends and colleagues in the art community who have died or are living with AIDS and to seek greater support and understanding from the general public. An estimated 3,000 Museums, alternative spaces, performance groups, and university and commercial galleries nationwide are participating. The program is sponsored by Visual AIDS, an organization of arts professionals

devoted to facilitating and promoting AIDS-related exhibitions and events. Visual AIDS received the 1990 New York State Governor's Art Award.

Philip Yenawine, director of the Museum's Department of Education and member of the A Day without Art steering committee, stated, "Given that art expresses the concerns and feelings of its makers and given its frequent engagement with social issues, it was perhaps inevitable that art would reflect the experience of this menacing, contagious virus, and it does. Visual AIDS was formed in order to help keep track of this phenomenon and find venues to amplify the voice of this art. We wanted the art to provide unique insights into the experience of AIDS and to move such art into arenas which might effect change."

A Day without Art is held in conjunction with World AIDS Day, organized by the World Health Organization.

* * *

No. 121

For further information about events at The Museum of Modern Art, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.

For further information about **A Day without Art**, contact Philip Yenawine, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9780; or Patrick J. O'Connell, Visual AIDS, 212/513-0303.

Schedule of related events for Day without Art

Film Program

December 1 and 2, 2:30 and 5:00 p.m.
Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2

Parting Glances (1986) is the late Bill Sherwood's trenchant feature about gay life in New York during the 1980s. *Red, Hot and Blue* (1990), a feature-length music video, combines AIDS information and performances by recording artists who reinterpret the work of Cole Porter from a contemporary perspective.

Video Against AIDS

December 1 - 23, shown continuously
Edward John Noble Education Center

This six-hour program is a selection of works about AIDS and its impact on the everyday lives of men and women. The videos explore such topics as discrimination, mourning, education, and activism. The program has been compiled by the Video Data Bank, Chicago and New York.

Laser Interactive Video

December 1
Edward John Noble Education Center

A new laser interactive video program, produced by ABC Interactive News, addresses such issues as the history of AIDS, attitudes toward the disease and People With AIDS, and practical information on AIDS prevention.

Group Material's AIDS Timeline

December 1 - 23
Edward John Noble Education Center

A timeline, with sections appearing in the December issues of eleven arts periodicals, is comprised of images, statistics, and information about AIDS. It was compiled by Group Material, a New York City artist collective known for its installations of art objects and objects of material culture that have a charged topical reference. The project is a collaboration of The Museum of Modern Art's Library, Visual AIDS, and *Afterimage*, *Art & Auction*, *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *Art New England*, *Arts*, *Contemporanea*, *High Performance*, *October*, *Parkett*, and *Shift*.

Vitrine Posters

November 30 and December 1

Day without Art posters are prominently displayed in the vitrines located on the building's facade, temporarily covering the Museum's daily poster displays of exhibitions currently on view.