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**ART ABOUT AIDS:  
AN EXHIBITION WITH A  
DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW**

Montreal, October 29, 1992. The Musée d'art contemporain presents *From Media to Metaphor: Art about AIDS* from October 29 to January 3, 1993. This exhibition proposes the evolution of the representations of AIDS by 32 artists and artistic groups, assembling 60 works produced between 1985 and 1990 in the United States. About 60 paintings - mixed-media works, photographs, drawings, architectural models, sculpture, paintings, prints, projections, and videotape programs - are the main elements in the exhibition. An anthology of video works by 22 artists entitled, *Video Against AIDS*, produced by *Video Data Bank*, is also included. The Musée d'art contemporain will be the only location for this exhibition in Canada. *From Media to Metaphor: Art about AIDS* was conceived and launched by the *Independent Curators Incorporated of New York*.

Since Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome nomenclature was first named in 1982, the depiction of AIDS in the artistic domain has taken on different forms. The first productions that appear towards the middle of the 80's favored the documentary format. They attempted at that time to combat the negative portrayal of people with AIDS conveyed by electronic mass media and photo-journalism. More recently, artists have responded by taking a more militant tone and have even composed the AIDS requiem.

Many artists represented in this exhibition have a bipartisan experience, as they are either persons with AIDS or have friends stricken by AIDS. Certain artists see themselves as both artists and activists, encouraging a political and scientific action through their art. Meanwhile, other artists see the crisis in a less engaged perspective.

The untitled works of Jane ROSETT, photo-journalist and militant, is part of the series *Belle Glade, Florida*. Rosett was trapped in a rural area where the level of HIV positive cases is the largest in the United States and where both poverty and AIDS are transferred from one generation to the next due to lack of educational resources and social services.

GENERAL IDEA, a three-member Canadian co-operative has produced works about AIDS since 1987. The photographs presented in this exhibition constitute the documentation of their work produced for public spaces - photographs on bus shelters and billboards - and are found in different areas around the world.

The Comité SIDA Aide Montréal (CSAM), a support and intervention organization, will have representatives at the Musée throughout the exhibition to provide information to visitors on different aspects of AIDS and the services CSAM provides.

*From Media to Metaphor: Art about AIDS* is a travelling exhibition organized and circulated by the Independent Curators Incorporated, New York, a non-profit organization specializing in contemporary art. The guest curators are Robert Atkins and Thomas W. Sokolowski. The exhibition and catalogue are funded by the National Endowment For the Arts and the ICI Exhibition Patrons Circle.

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**ARTISTS PARTICIPATING IN THE EXHIBITION *FROM MEDIA TO METAPHOR:***

**ART ABOUT AIDS:**

(Art)n

Ross BLECKNER

Kathe BURHARDT

Nancy BURSON

Steven EVANS

GENERAL IDEA

Felix GONZALES-TORRES

GRAN FURY

Keith HARING

Adrian KELLARD

Peter KUNZ-OPFERSEI

Rudy LEMCKE

Robert MAPPLETHORPE

PAUL MARCUS

Duane MICHALS

Donald MOFFETT

Frank MOORE

Ellen B. NEIPRIS

Diane NEUMAIER

Nicholas NIXON

Gypsy RAY

Rod RHODES

Jane ROSETT

John SAPP

Dui SEID

Jo SHANE

Rosalind SOLOMON

Masami TERAOKA

Max (Torque)=Doug [(Bruno) Hammett]

Kathy VARGAS

Brian WEIL

David WOJNAROWICZ

Thomas WOODRUFF

**QUÉBEC PARTICIPANTS**

Anne GOLDEN

Mark LESLIE

Esther VALIQUETTE