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TRANSFORMER & VISUAL AIDS PRESENT *ReMIXED MESSAGES* FEATURING TEXT-BASED ART EXPLORING HIV/AIDS



J. Morrison, *aids: MADE IN U.S.A. (detail)*, 2010-12, screenprint, courtesy of the artist

July 24 – August 4, 2012

Fathom Gallery, 1333 14TH ST, NW, WDC 20005

OPENING RECEPTION: Tuesday, July 24, 7-9 pm

Featuring Curator's Talk at 6:30pm

Sponsored by Accordia Global Health Foundation

CLOSING RECEPTION: Thursday, August 2, 6-8pm

Featuring remarks by artist Tim Tate at 6:30pm

Sponsored by the Logan Circle Community Association

Transformer and NY based Visual AIDS proudly present *ReMixed Messages*, an exhibition of over thirty text-based works reflecting reactions to and connections through HIV/AIDS across generations, curated by John Chaich and hosted by Fathom Gallery.

Diverse in media and multi-generational in scope, *ReMixed Messages* pairs work by internationally acclaimed artists—including **Robert Blanchon, John Giorno, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Yoko Ono, Jack Pierson, Kay Rosen, David Wojnarowicz** and **Rob Wynne**—with a new generation of respected artists working with text, including DC-based artists **Linda Hesh, Maggie Michael, and Tim Tate**.

Exhibition includes works by: **Robert Blanchon, Paul Chisholm, Cammi Climaco, Amanda Curreri, Craig Damrauer, Joe De Hoyos, Chloe Dzublio, John Giorno, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Nolan Hendrickson, Linda Hesh, Lisa Iglesias, James Jaxxa, Frank H. Jump, Jayson Keeling, Larry Krone, Sam McKinniss, Maggie Michael, Ivan Monforte, J. Morrison, Nightsweats & T-cells, Yoko Ono, Jack Pierson, Hunter Reynolds, Kay Rosen, Tim Tate, Charlie Welch, David Wojnarowicz, and Rob Wynne.**

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Artist Jack Pierson says, "By being included in *ReMixed Messages*, I hope my work can provoke new thought about how we care and what we fear about HIV today." Pierson's *Desire/Despair*, a photograph of a found-letter sculpture recalls the emotional intersection where our feelings about HIV often reside.

First presented at La MaMa La Galleria, New York City in 2011, this DC exhibition co-produced by Transformer and Visual AIDS and presented at Fathom Gallery is remixed for the International AIDS Conference 2012 this July: an occasion that sharpens the bite of featured artist J. Morrison's *aids: made in the usa* silkscreened American flags. "As the oldest organization in the country dedicated to raising AIDS awareness through art and supporting artists living with HIV, Visual AIDS hopes *ReMixed Messages* will reengage discussions about how HIV has reframed personal and political worldviews," says Amy Sadao, Executive Director of Visual AIDS.

The dichotomy of personal and political, mediated and interpreted, is reflected through the scale and mediums throughout the show. Referencing the slow jam of the same name, *Always and Forever* by Lisa Iglesias is a hand-cut chain link necklace made of found cardboard that hangs over 8 feet wide and tall, while Yoko Ono's 4x6 inch Plexiglass piece simply and powerfully states "Touch Me." A photostat by Felix Gonzalez-Torres, framed under highly reflective glass, rearranges the chronology of events in the gay rights movement and forces viewers to see themselves in this collective history.

Just two years after his censorship at the National Gallery in DC, an oversized reprint of David Wojnarowicz's seminal 1990 *Untitled (One Day This Kid...)* amplifies the dislocation and fury that lives in the work both then and now. The eight feet wide canvas will be displayed in Fathom's street-level windows. "Transformer helped lead the art community's response to the Wojnarowicz censorship, and we are proud to help boldly display his work in DC through *ReMixed Messages*," notes Victoria Reis, Transformer's Co-Founder, Executive and Artistic Director.

Along with Wojnarowicz, *ReMixed Messages* features several Visual AIDS artist members including Robert Blanchon, Paul Chisholm, Joe De Hoyos, Chloe Dzubilo, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Frank H. Jump, Hunter Reynolds, and acclaimed DC-area artist **Tim Tate**. Tate's video piece, *On the Threshold of Liberty*, and layered glass reliquary, *Two Paths Taken*, both recall the personal and political aspects of living with HIV and rely on their mediums to sensitively and provocatively inform the message. Tate recalls: "*Two Paths Taken* epitomizes the moment of the realization of sero-conversion. Your life suddenly splinters into what you believed your life would be, to what now it will become. Both paths have their pros and cons. Nothing is black and white."

ABOUT THE CURATOR: Beginning his career as an HIV testing counselor and community educator, **John Chaich** has designed a range of multi-arts projects to raise AIDS awareness. He has presented at national conferences on AIDS and the arts and has written on visual responses to HIV/AIDS for *Art & Understanding* magazine as well as contributed the catalogue essay for *Fleshing Out the Grid: David Wojnarowicz and Hunter Reynolds* for P•P•O•W Gallery. www.johnchaich.com

A complimentary, full-color catalog with essays by curator John Chaich and poet Justin Chin will be available at the gallery, and a downloadable version will be available online at www.visualaids.org.

HOURS FOR ReMIXED MESSAGES AT FATHOM GALLERY, 1333 14TH ST, NW, WDC 20005:

Tuesday, July 24 - Friday, July 27: 2-6 pm

Saturday, July 28: 12-6 pm

Tuesday, July 31 - Saturday, August 4: 11-3 pm

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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



Fathom is a DC-based creative agency that delivers strategic interactive, design and branding solutions to industry-leading organizations. For almost 20 years, Fathom Creative has helped our clients overcome business challenges by applying a powerful combination of concept-driven creative, thoughtful user experience and deep technical expertise. Supported by Fathom Creative, Fathom Gallery brings together artists, technologists, and members of the local cultural community. www.fathomgallery.org

t r a n s f o r m e r is a Washington, DC based 501 (c) 3 artist-centered non-profit visual arts organization, providing a consistent, supportive, and professional platform for emerging artists to explore and present experimental artistic concepts, build audiences for their work, and advance their careers. A catalyst and advocate for contemporary artists and emergent expression in the visual arts, Transformer connects and promotes emerging visual artists within regional, national and international contexts through exhibition and programs partnerships with artists, curators, commercial galleries, museums and other cultural institutions.

Transformer's 2012/2013 Exhibition Series and programs are supported by: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The CrossCurrents Foundation, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/ NEA, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts' Access to Artistic Excellence Award, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer – individual donors, members of our Annual Auction Host Committee, and Corporate Sponsors.

Special thanks to Accordia Global Health Foundation and the Logan Circle Community Association for their support of this exhibition.



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