

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SCREAMING IN THE STREETS: AIDS, ART, ACTIVISM**

August 3 – September 23, 2017

*Curated by Greg Ellis*

"There is a tendency for people affected by this epidemic to police each other or prescribe what the most important gestures would be for dealing with this experience of loss. I resent that. At the same time, I worry that friends will slowly become professional pallbearers, waiting for each death, of their lovers, friends and neighbors, and polishing their funeral speeches; perfecting their rituals of death rather than a relatively simple ritual of life such as **screaming in the streets**."

—David Wojnarowicz

"The growing consciousness is a danger and a disease."

—Nietzsche

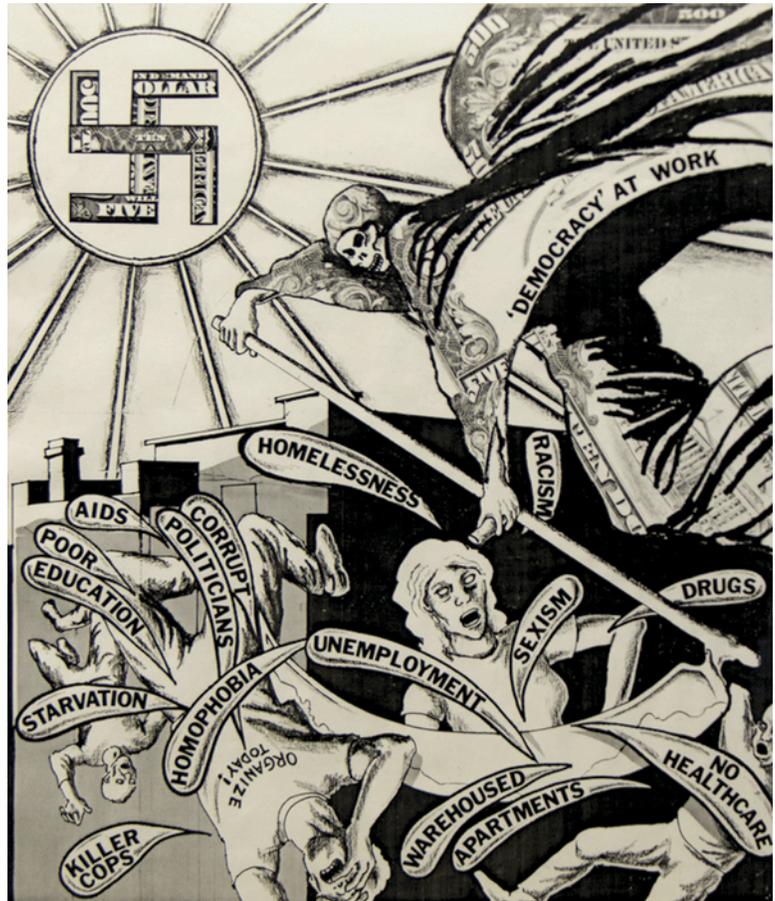
ClampArt and Ward 5B are proud to present "Screaming in the Streets: AIDS, Art, Activism." The exhibition celebrates the launch of Ward 5B, a new archival and curatorial service.

By 1995 at the height of the epidemic in the United States there were an estimated 48,371 annual AIDS-related deaths. The story of the artistic and activist responses to this medical crisis were marked by intergenerational, communal, as well as individual associations. The AIDS epidemic provided a startling glimpse into the strange connections between the most private of our lives and the most public.

Linked in this way within the context of the exhibition are Kenny Burgess, Peter Hugar, Haoui Montaug, Essex Hemphill, David Wojnarowicz, Dorian Corey, Mark Morrisroe, Assotto Saint, Arthur Russell, Gordon Stevenson, Keith Haring, Reinaldo Arenas, Ethyl Eichelberger, Jimmy De Sana, and many, many others.

Additionally, radical spaces such as the Pyramid Club, PS 122, Danceteria, Boy Bar, s.n.a.f.u., Crisco Disco, Gaiety Theatre, The Club Baths, and other venues became contradictory under the lash of AIDS, serving not only as "safe zones" for the queer community, but also grounds where contact among individuals would propel the spread of this deadly new contagion.

Amidst this unique cauldron of creativity, community, and disease sprang a generation of AIDS activists connected by art, while rooted in the historically radical politics and culture of New York City. The



response to the epidemic brought about a clash of ideologies among the actors involved, both philosophical and economic, that is reflected in the artwork and ephemera of the era.

There were many villains and heroes throughout the early years of the epidemic, from the criminal prejudice of the Reagan administration to the epic struggle with the creation of safe sex. "Screaming in the Streets: AIDS, Art, Activism" focuses on the meaning of radical spaces for sexual minorities and reflects upon a generation of lost artists, while illustrating the interconnectedness and collaborative working relationships among them.

Ward 5B is an archival and curatorial service specializing in late 20<sup>th</sup>-century urban ephemera and art, with a focus on punk aesthetic, radical spaces, performance art, drag, experimental theatre, camp, queercore, and guerrilla/street art projects.

A fully-illustrated catalogue designed by Carlos E. Kempff S. will be available for purchase.

For more information and images please contact Brian Paul Clamp, Director, or see [www.clampart.com](http://www.clampart.com).

Image: © David Wojnarowicz, "Democracy," 1990, Black-and-white silkscreen print, 23 x 20 inches.