

February 3, 2005

Dear Friends,

Please accept this set of Art for AIDS BroadSides with our compliments. We hope you will display them in observation of Valentine's Day and National Condom Week (February 14-21) and throughout the year. Visual AIDS is proud to present a new series of AIDS awareness posters by contemporary artists: Neil Farber, Deborah Grant, Derek Jackson, and Chris Johanson. Broadside sets will be distributed to AIDS service organizations and cultural organizations, member artists of the Frank Moore Archive Project, and are available while supplies last from Visual AIDS. PDF versions of the images can be downloaded from the Visual AIDS website at www.visualaids.org. Art for AIDS BroadSides 2005 is made possible in part by funding from The Gesso Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Founded in 1988 by concerned arts professionals, Visual AIDS utilizes contemporary art to effect change in the fight against AIDS and, through the Frank Moore Archive Project, maintains a visual record of the effects of the pandemic on the visual art community while providing career services to artists living with HIV and AIDS. Visual AIDS projects including the (Red) Ribbon Project and Day Without Art were among the first national initiatives to draw attention to AIDS. Past Broadside projects have included work by Glenn Ligon, Barbara Krueger, Copy Berg, Steed Taylor, John Giorno, and Frank Moore.

AIDS is far from over. It is more important than ever to provide frank information about transmission and testing, and to promote safe sex practices. HIV/AIDS is preventable and treatable. To stay healthy you need to get the facts.

What is the difference between HIV and AIDS?

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS, the most advanced stage of HIV disease. A weakened immune system caused by HIV will allow opportunistic infections (OIs) to develop. A healthy immune system would normally fight these infections while an HIV-weakened immune system is susceptible.

How does someone get HIV?

In the US, most people get HIV through unprotected sex, including vaginal, anal and oral sex, and through injection drug use. Certain bodily fluids including blood, pre-cum, semen, and vaginal secretions, spread HIV. An HIV infected woman can pass HIV to her baby through pregnancy or delivery, and also through breast milk. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), contact with saliva, tears, or sweat has never resulted in someone getting HIV. You cannot get HIV through casual contact such as hugging or shaking hands.

What are ways to reduce the risk of getting HIV or another STD?

- There is no cure for HIV/AIDS, but it is preventable. Protect yourself.
- Use a condom for vaginal or anal sex, and barrier methods, such as a condom or dental dam, for oral sex.
- If you are HIV-positive and you are pregnant, see your health care provider to get appropriate treatment. Treatments are available to significantly reduce the risk of passing the infection to your child during pregnancy and delivery.
- Do not share needles for any kind of injection drug use.
- Get Tested! And ask partners to do the same.

Is there a cure or vaccine for HIV/AIDS?

At this time there is no cure or vaccine for HIV. However, there are new treatments available that have been found to be highly effective in keeping people healthy longer and in delaying the onset of AIDS.

Is there a link between HIV and other STDs?

According to the CDC, people with other STDs are more likely to become infected with HIV. Having STDs that can cause open sores, such as herpes, is especially risky. STDs that do not cause open sores also pose a threat.

Hotlines: KnowHIV 866 344-KNOW or CDC 800 342-AIDS
For State Hotlines: National Minority AIDS Council's website at www.nmac.org
For Testing Centers Near You: CDC's www.hivtest.org
For Youth Friendly Testing Centers: Adolescent AIDS Program www.adolescentaids.org