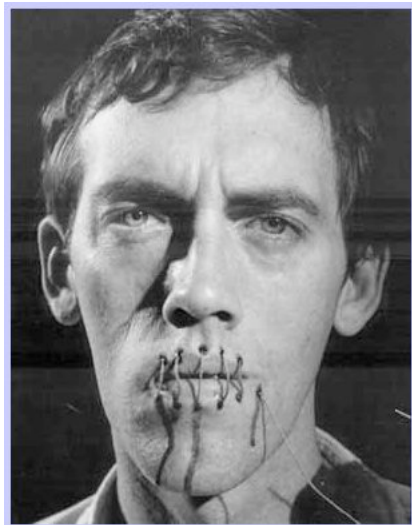


t r a n s f o r m e r

12.02.10

Transformer Provides Immediate Response to Recent Censorship



In early response to the National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian Institution's censoring of David Wojnarowicz's 1987 video work *A Fire in My Belly*, from the current *Hide/Seek* exhibition, Transformer initiated a screening of the work in our storefront project space at 1404 P Street, NW, Washington, DC. The work currently on view is an approximately four minute excerpt of the original thirty-minute work in progress by the artist.

Transformer will soon be showing the entire thirty-minute Wojnarowicz work in progress, with unique permission of his Estate: "I give Transformer permission to show this clearly censored work, I only wish David were alive, he would tear these censors apart." -Tom Rauffenbart, Executor of the Estate of David Wojnarowicz.

"As a response to the censorship by the Smithsonian of Wojnarowicz's work, and in honor of World AIDS Day & Day With(out) Art, the many

alternative art spaces, visual arts organizations, artists, and activists around the world that have paved the path for freedom of expression & the existence of experimental arts venues like Transformer, we feel it is our job to champion all artists' creative expression without constraints, and to continue the important dialogue Wojnarowicz's work generates about aggression, hunger, community, love, loss, as well as religion" states Victoria Reis, co-Founder, Executive & Artistic Director of Transformer.

Artistic Action Planned for Thursday, December 2: A silent protest march from Transformer to the National Portrait Gallery and then on to Congress.

Meet at Transformer at 5:30pm. The artistic action will begin at 6pm with mouths tied.

Participants are invited to download and print [Rimbaud](#) and [Wojanrowicz](#) masks created for the march by artists Geoffrey Aldridge, Grant Duncan, and Ed Rock.

For additional information, please contact Transformer at info@transformergallery.org, or by calling 202-483-1102.

Many thanks to Patrick O'Connell and Visual AIDS for inspiration. Additional thanks to our colleagues at Provisions Library, PPOW Gallery, Tom Rauffenbart, Executor of the Estate of David Wojnarowicz, and the many supporters who have written in to encourage our efforts. And thank you to David Wojnarowicz for his creative vision and tenacity. He and his work continue to inspire new generations of artists.

Image credit: *Untitled*, 1990, by David Wojnarowicz (in collaboration with Phil Zwickler and Rosa von Praunheim), still from the film *Silence = Death*. http://www.thebody.com/visualaids/web_gallery/2004/giovanis/13.html

transformer 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 emerging contemporary artists and emergent expression in the visual arts, Transformer connects and promotes emerging visual artists based locally, nationally, and internationally through exhibitions and programs partnerships with artists, curators, commercial galleries, museums and other cultural institutions.

1404 P Street NW Washington DC 20005 | (202) 483-1102 | www.transformergallery.org

t r a n s f o r m e r

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