

In the Days of AIDS. Art works, Narratives, Interweavings

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« In the Days of AIDS »: the title refers to a time that is still with us. Despite significant medical progress, the epidemic has still not been overcome. We have seen over the past forty years fear, bereavement, courage, mutual support, hope, all interwoven and sustained by creative art forms whose power has been an inspiration for our time. A multidisciplinary exhibition, « In the Days of AIDS » presents four decades of creation in which the visual arts, literature, music, cinema and dance have joined up with scientific research, popular culture and decisive action by the associations.

From the early 1980s, the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and its terminal stage, AIDS, exploded uncontrollably in the United-States, France and soon in the rest of the world. This health crisis also revealed itself as a crisis in conceptions, which has continued to the present day to produce new forms of creation. The virus has decimated a generation of creators, male and female, writers, choreographers, film makers and visual artists while, explicitly or implicitly, the disease has stealthily invaded art. Today we can still see committed and even militant utterances developing among artists, while the struggle continues for greater tolerance, visibility and minority rights, including through the intermediary of works of art.

Designed as a chrono-thematic journey seeking to plunge the visitor into a maelstrom of sensations and questionings, the exhibition is divided into sections. This division emphasizes the energies brought into play – and the interweavings between them – in order to counter something that, to quote Elisabeth Lebovici, is not just an illness but a scandal. The works arranged in the exhibition space are accompanied by INA audiovisual montages that bring together objects and archives linked to the history of AIDS. The scenography, immersive or fostering intimacy, offers a visit in which sensations play a major part and reflects the diversity of the fields of creation occupied by this project, relying on the life drive that vitalizes creation.

The exhibition is also accompanied by a « Full-time Information Service » offering visitors who so desire exchanges with representatives of the health and solidarity sector, prevention specialists and voluntary workers from various associations. This service, available within the museum itself, thus exemplifies its role as a community institution.