

Untitled (ACT-UP), 1990

Screenprint, two parts

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; gift of Steven Johnson and Walter Sudol 2002.490a–b

Wojnarowicz made this print in 1990 to benefit ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power). ACT UP was founded in 1987 and Wojnarowicz participated in its meetings and demonstrations, notably the October 11, 1988, action at the headquarters of the Food and Drug Administration in Rockville, Maryland, protesting the agency's slow pace of drug approval. Wojnarowicz painted the back of his jean jacket to read: IF I DIE OF AIDS—FORGET BURIAL—JUST DROP MY BODY ON THE STEPS OF THE F.D.A.

As early as 1988, ACT UP used the rallying cry “the AIDS crisis is not over” to keep HIV and AIDS in the forefront of politics and culture. HIV and AIDS continue to affect individuals and communities throughout the world, disproportionately people of color. On the evening of Friday, July 27, 2018, members of ACT UP New York staged an action in the Whitney's galleries to reassert that AIDS is not history. Members carried placards with articles and information pertaining to the ongoing HIV and AIDS pandemic. To find a selection of those articles as well as exhibition-related videos, interviews, and writings, please visit whitney.org/Perspectives.