

ANARXIU S-I-D-A

Under the general name of *AIDS Anarchiv*, the Equipo re collective (Aimar Arriola, Linda Valdés and Nancy Garín) has developed a platform for research and production based on the cultural, social and political dimension of the ongoing HIV/AIDS crisis in Spain and Chile, as well as on selected case studies from other Latin American contexts. The project addresses HIV/AIDS not only as a medical epidemic, but as a change of visual, affective and economic paradigm running parallel to the consolidation of neoliberal policies and the globalisation process.

This exhibition gives continuity to the project by taking into account the local context – the city of Barcelona – as its spatial axis and the 1990s as its temporal axis. In the exhibition, this framework will be presented through a double gesture. The first is the tracing of two storylines: the ways of doing in/the public sphere and the pharmacologisation of life, including materials relating to the city of Barcelona in dialogue with other materials relating to the Basque Country, Galicia, Valencia, Chile, Mexico and Guatemala. From the intersection of these two lines the second gesture arises, comprising three case studies: the work of the cultural activist group Act Up-Barcelona; the making of artist Keith Haring's mural *Together We Can Stop AIDS*; and the encounter between heroin and AIDS.

WAYS OF DOING IN/THE PUBLIC SPHERE

In the 1990s, the AIDS crisis and the activism connected to it provoked a debate about the meaning of 'public', leading to a myriad of interpretations. It was at that time that the 'public sphere' began to be affected by globalisation and the emergence of a new political and socio-economic paradigm: neoliberalism. The privatisation of the public space and

the city not only as a space for consumption, but as a consumable product, lies at the origin of this change.

In Barcelona the tensions of that era are driven by the 1992 Olympic Games, when the urban and social fabric of the city undergoes a process of modernisation that will pave the way for the so-called Barcelona model. In the rest of Spain, the nineties represent the end of the period of democratic transition and the introduction of a 'normalising' framework as a result of the country joining the European Economic Community (EEC). This is a decade of major events and investment in infrastructures; of the 'homologisation' of the country with the rest of the world.

In this context, the urgent need to react in the face of AIDS is behind the fight for visibility and the creation of common spaces for care against a background of concealment and stigmatisation. By bringing together materials from *AIDS Anarchiv* and MACBA Study Centre, this first storyline describes a non-homogenous spectrum of meanings and representations of the public sphere after the AIDS crisis.

THE PHARMACOLOGISATION OF LIFE

While the concept of 'medicalisation' introduced by Michel Foucault and Ivan Illich may be defined as the conquest by modern medicine of those bodies and expressions identified as pathological, the 'pharmacologisation' of life could describe the alliance between medical knowledge and global transnational capital. Under the umbrella of the AIDS crisis, this is a process that resulted in the enrichment of pharmaceutical companies thanks to AZT. While there is no doubt that antiretroviral medications helped improve life under HIV, plenty of voices alerted us against the pharmaceutical industry's openly lucrative aims.

From this perspective, the year 1996 may be seen as pivotal: the moment when the use of combined drugs, otherwise known as Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART), marked a turning point in the so-called AIDS pandemic. As HIV/AIDS ceases to be a matter of life or death, this constitutes a point of inflection in the spaces of struggle.

A selection of documents from MACBA Study Centre and *AIDS Anarchiv* hints at a cross-section between pharmacology, museum, representation and the activism of social movements around these questions. This storyline will open up a space for study and debate over the political management of health and the body.

CASE STUDIES

ACT UP-BARCELONA¹
TOGETHER WE CAN STOP AIDS
BY KEITH HARING²
HEROIN³

The first case tells the story of Act Up-Barcelona through public and unpublished documents, together with the interlocution of members of the group, avoiding binary reductions such as north-south, global-local, self-other.

Marking the 30th anniversary of Keith Haring's mural in Barcelona, the second case study reviews the intersections taking place between the politics of urban transformation, cultural politics and the politics of the night, in relation to the AIDS crisis.

The final case study examines the emergence of HIV in Barcelona, which through heroin use found a deadly route of contamination leading to a complex and diffuse network of stigmatisation, neglect, control, invisibilisation and death.

¹ 15 November 2018 – 14 January 2019

² 15 January – 4 March 2019

³ 5 March – 18 April 2019

COMPLEMENTARY TREATMENTS

STUDY GROUP ON PHARMACOLOGISATION AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE

The exhibition will be accompanied by a study group whose central focus will follow the two storylines of the project: the pharmacologisation of life and the debate about the so-called public sphere, in the present context.

From 7 November 2018 to 8 May 2019

ACTIVITIES

17 November

Let's talk about... AIDS Guided visit to the exhibition

By Equipo re (Aimar Arriola, Nancy Garín and Linda Valdés), curators of the exhibition.

Saturday 17 November, at 6 pm. Exhibition galleries. Free admission with prior registration.

28 November

30 ANYS +

Screening / Documentary première

On the morning of 27 February 1989, Keith Haring created the mural *Together We Can Stop AIDS* at Plaça Salvador Seguí in the Raval. Directed by Lulu Martorell and Roger la Puente, in collaboration with César Melero. Activity to mark World AIDS Day.

Wednesday 28 November, at 7 pm. Meier Auditorium. Free admission.

The activities taking place in 2019 may be consulted at macba.cat.

▼ While for the first twenty years the priorities of the HIV/AIDS crisis were prevention and survival, this project is aware that living with HIV depends on who you are and where you live. In Barcelona in 2018, being HIV-positive does not necessarily imply transmission or dying. Yet reality can be quite different in other places. In Chile, for instance, HIV has been declared 'a national emergency' due to a new outbreak of transmissions added to the lack of up-to-date therapies. While this HIV crisis continues, answers will have to be found.

Exhibition organised and produced by MACBA Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona. Curators: Equipo re (Aimar Arriola, Nancy Garín and Linda Valdés). Exhibition design: Roger Adam.

AIDS Archive is part of *Our Many Europes*, a programme by the European museum confederation "L'Internationale" and co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union. The members of "L'Internationale" (Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen; Moderna galerija (MG+msum), Ljubljana; Van Abbemuseum, The Netherlands; MACBA Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona; Muzeum Sztuki Nowoczesnej w Warszawie; SALT Research and Programs Istanbul and Ankara; and Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid) and its partners National College of Art and Design (NCAD), Dublin and Valand Academy (Gothenburg University) are presenting more than 40 public activities (conferences, exhibitions, workshops) from now and until May 2022.

l'internationale
MOHNSUM



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union