



AIDS Reruns

(Re)Encountering the Past in the Age of Ongoing

Juhasz and Kerr

April 3rd, 1:30pm, McCune Conference Room (HSSB 6020)

Alexandra Juhasz and Theodore Kerr are proposing an encounter at the USBC Media Fields Conference centered on the content and process of two longform published dialogues between Juhasz and Kerr on the media ecology of HIV / AIDS. Their conversation will primarily focus on ways that early responses to HIV/AIDS are currently being (re)encountered through moving image, exhibition, and other media, while also exploring encounters they had with each other to write about HIV/AIDS across generation, and other markers of difference.

Positing that there is an AIDS crisis revisitation within works that is exploring early responses to HIV/AIDS, Juhasz and Kerr explore, evaluate and trouble ways that media and history around the ongoing epidemic is being created, disseminated and activated. They argue work created and shared around HIV/AIDS is part of an ecosystem in which film, exhibitions, visual art, and everyday practices influence each other across time, audience, medium, genre, and urgencies, raising questions such as:

- What can be understood about culture that looks to the past yet does not seem to have an allegiance or understanding of the history being explored and/or the current state of HIV/AIDS?
- How do people across gender, race, class, sero status, generation, and geographic locations engage with both historical and contemporary work about the ongoing crisis?
- What do people know about HIV based on how the past is being represented and received?
- How can encounters with the past improve our life chances?

From different yet connected starting points, Juhasz and Kerr explore these questions and ideas generated from their responses. Not falling into false binaries, the pair open up the discussion for further complexities to emerge. What good is an encounter if it does not lead to a journey?

Alexandra Juhasz has been making and thinking about AIDS activist video since the mid-Eighties. She is the author of AIDS TV: Identity, Community and Alternative Video (Duke, 1995) and many more recent essays about the changing shape of the Encounters: Media Fields Proposal. Juhasz and Kerr, 2015 representation of AIDS including "From the Scenes of Queens: Genre, AIDS and Queer Love," in The Cinema of Todd Haynes; "So Many Alternatives: The Alternative AIDS Video Movement," From ACT UP to the WTO, "Forgetting ACT UP," ACT UP 25 Forum, Quarterly Journal of Speech; "AIDS Video: To Dream and Dance with the Censor," Jump Cut. She was a guest editor for APLA's Corpus V: Women, Gay Men and AIDS (March 2006) and is interviewed in the ACT UP Oral History project online. As a videomaker, she has made a large number of AIDS educational videos including GMHC's Living with AIDS: Women and AIDS (1987), Safer and Sexier: A College Student's Guide to Safer Sex (1991) and, most recently, Video Remains (2005). She is a professor of media studies at Pitzer College.

Canadian born Theodore Kerr is a writer, artist, and organizer living in Brooklyn, New York. He was the programs manager at Visual AIDS, and is board member with QUEEROCRACY. He has written for NY Press, Lambda Literary, Women Studies Quarterly, and other publications. For AIDS ACTION NOW's posterVIRUS campaign, he created "Inflamed: litany for a burning condom" with Chaplin Christopher Jones. With artist Aldrin Valdez, Kerr co-organizes Foundation Sharing, a queer series of readings, performances, zines, and visual art. He is a graduate of the New School for Public Engagement, Riggio: Writing and Democracy Program. Currently Kerr is doing his graduate work at Union Theological Seminary.

Sponsors:

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