

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, April 2011
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Hunter Reynolds, *Survival AIDS*
May 1 - June 5, 2011
Opening reception, Sunday, May 1, 7-9pm

From May 1 - June 5, 2011, PARTICIPANT INC presents *Survival AIDS*, a major solo exhibition by Hunter Reynolds. Reynolds is a New York artist and activist who has been living with HIV/AIDS since 1984. *Survival AIDS* spans two decades of Reynolds' work, incorporating key elements of his ongoing practice—the *Blood Spot* series, *Mummification* performances, and *Photo Weavings*. Reflecting a present state of the HIV/AIDS crisis, Reynolds reconfigures historical material, performance remnants, and a vast collection of newspaper clippings related to HIV/AIDS in a new site-specific installation.

In 1987, Reynolds became a member of ACT UP and in 1989 co-founded Art Positive, an affinity group to fight homophobia and censorship in the arts. In the early '90s, Reynolds staged a series of performances in which he extracted his own blood and dropped it onto paper, later scanning it to create perfectly shaped spots of blood, reclaimed in his artwork ever since. Between 1989 and 1993, Reynolds clipped every HIV/AIDS and LGBT-related article he found in the *New York Times* as part of a series of art works called *Dialogue Tables* and *Activist Media Installations*—created at Hallwalls, The New Museum, and Simon Watson Gallery. The articles were presented on tables, projected onto walls, or read as part of performances. For the past 17 years, they have been kept in boxes. As part of a process of revisiting older bodies of work in preparation for his new installation, the boxes were opened to find several hundred collected articles. Reynolds methodically scanned, arranged, and altered these headlines and stories to produce a monumental series of his signature *Photo Weavings* for *Survival AIDS*. Twenty 60 x 48 inch pieces, each composed of 120 individual photographs, sewn together to resemble quilts or tapestries, frame the exhibition.

Throughout the installation, remnants from ten years of Reynolds' *Mummification* performances appear—'skins' made from layers of plastic and brightly colored tape, cut away and reconfigured as prevailing reminders of the many re-embodiments of the artist over time. Together with the *Photo Weavings*, representing large-scale collages of newspaper articles, at times overlaid with images from the *Blood Spot* series, *Survival AIDS* maps our collective memory while bringing together facets of the artist's identity as a person living with advanced HIV and an activist who has relentlessly chronicled the AIDS pandemic.

Hunter Reynolds is a Brooklyn-based visual artist and AIDS activist. For over twenty years, he has been using photography, performance, and installation to express his experience as an HIV+ gay man. His work addresses issues of gender identity; political, social, and sexual histories; mourning, loss, survival, hope, and healing. He has performed extensively, both nationally and internationally, as his alter ego, Patina du Prey. His project, *Memorial Dress*, involved posing on a rotating platform for several hours a day while wearing a dress printed with over 25,000 names of people who have died of HIV/AIDS.

hunterwreynolds.com

Video trailer by George Lyter: youtube.com/watch?v=4J1A029n80c&feature=youtu.be

PARTICIPANT INC



Saturday, May 7

Survival AIDS/Hunter Reynolds: Performance & Panel

Panel discussion, 7pm

Additional gallery hours, 9:00pm-midnight

Admission free and open to the public

Visual AIDS, in collaboration with Participant Inc, presents a panel discussion and mummification performance by Hunter Reynolds, on the occasion of *Survival AIDS* and the Festival of Ideas for the New City. **Virginia Solomon, David Deitcher, Nathan Lee, and Anthony Viti** will discuss ways in which HIV/AIDS reconfigures queer identity and contemporary visual and performance art from their respective vantage points as art historian, curator, artist, and activist.

Also on Saturday, May 7

aILuPiNiT

the new york city environmental magazine presents:

Volume 5, *Hunter Reynolds Survival AIDS*

contributions by Dan Fishback, Rupert Goldsworthy, Gary Indiana, Joe Westmorland

Concurrent exhibition by Hunter Reynolds:

Photoweavings: A Retrospective 1993-2011

Presented by Dan Ionescu and Pamela Gettinger Tucker

Dan Ionescu Architects, 253 Fifth Ave., Sixth Floor, NYC 10016

VISUAL AIDS utilizes art to fight AIDS by provoking dialogue, supporting HIV+ artists, and preserving a legacy, because AIDS is not over. VISUAL AIDS is the only contemporary arts organization fully committed to HIV prevention and AIDS awareness through producing and presenting visual art projects, while assisting artists living with HIV/AIDS. We are committed to preserving and honoring the work of artists with HIV/AIDS and the artistic contributions of the AIDS movement. We embrace diversity and difference in our staff, leadership, artists, and audiences. www.visualAIDS.org

The Festival of Ideas for the New City, May 4-8, 2011, is a major new collaborative initiative in New York involving scores of Downtown organizations working together to harness the power of the creative community to imagine the future city and explore ideas that will shape it. The Festival will include a three-day slate of symposia; an innovative StreetFest along the Bowery; and over eighty independent projects and public events. For more information, visit festivalofideasnyc.com.



PARTICIPANT INC's exhibitions are made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, celebrating 50 years of building strong, creative communities in New York State's 62 counties.

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PARTICIPANT INC is located at 253 East Houston Street, between Norfolk and Suffolk Streets on the LES. Subway: F/V to Second Avenue, Allen Street exit or JMZ to Essex/Delancey. Participantinc.org