

A.G. Geiger Presents: Bookseller's Holiday: Day With(out) Art / World AIDS Day Edition

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Michael Delgado

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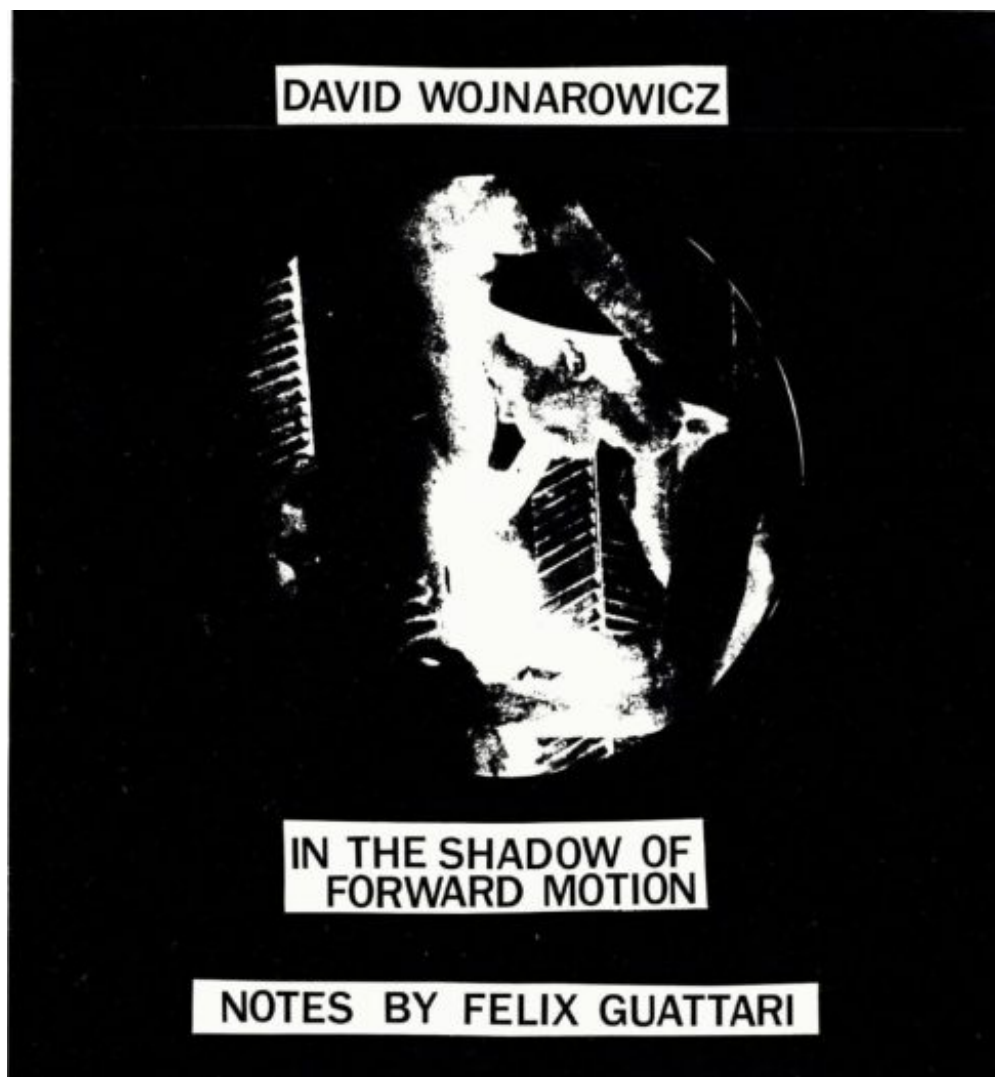
ITSOFOMO (In the Shadow of Forward Motion) is a multimedia performance that David Wojnarowicz created, together with Ben Neill, in 1989. Integrating music, text, and video in a multi-dimensional format, the work embodies the act of acceleration and its sensory manifestations. The performance premiered at The Kitchen in New York City in December 1989.

Since 1997, in solidarity with World AIDS Day, over 800 art institutions from MOCA to the New Museum have been programming specific exhibitions, films, and varied projects to increase awareness of the ongoing AIDS pandemic and to recognize the toll the AIDS epidemic has had on so many of our most talented artists. Initially in 1988 the cultural institutions symbolically shuttered themselves for the day under the banner “Day Without Art” but since 1997 they have found it more powerful to showcase art on the day while appropriately changing the heading to “Day With(out) Art.”

World AIDS Day falls on December 1 each year and is a reminder that worldwide, a shocking 40 million people have died of AIDS since 1981. Currently an estimated 37 million are living with HIV, making the ongoing health crisis sadly tower over our current bout with another deadly virus. Despite recent improvements in treatment, the AIDS epidemic still claims an estimated two million lives each year, of which tragically more than 250,000 are children.

One of the many important voices lost to AIDS was that of the influential artist and writer David Wojnarowicz. Perhaps best known for his memoir *Close to the Knives: A Memoir of Disintegration*, Wojnarowicz attained national prominence for his visceral stance against censorship and untiring advocacy for AIDS awareness.

A favorite writer of mine, Peter Schjeldahl, wrote in the *New Yorker* about Wojnarowicz's 2018 survey at the Whitney Museum like this: "There should be a word other than 'artist' for Wojnarowicz, whose sensational retrospective is subtitled *History Keeps Me Awake at Night*. 'Phenomenon' works. So might 'sphinx,' for a young man who managed his fierce emotions with striking sangfroid."



In the Shadow of Forward Motion was originally published as a photocopied zine as a sort of catalogue to his exhibition at PPOW Gallery in 1989. Wojnarowicz only ran off 50 copies and in part because of that rare supply, the zine has gained legendary status for its portrayal of 1980's New York subculture. But now, from publisher Primary Information you get his journals, political critique and collage in a fever dream mash-up of ants, locomotives, money, tornadoes and dinosaurs all mixed with his, "notes toward a frame of reference." The book blends his writing and visual art in a unique combination examining systemic mechanisms of oppression.