

The Art of Pandemics

Dahn Hiuni, MFA, PhD

Illness is part of the human experience.



Edvard Munch, *The Sick Child*, 1907



Edvard Munch, *By the Death Bed*, 1896



Louis-Léopold Boilly , *A Man Vaccinating a Young Child Held by Its Mother, with Other Members of the Household Looking On*, c. 1807



Josh Holt, *Fight Like a Girl*, 2021



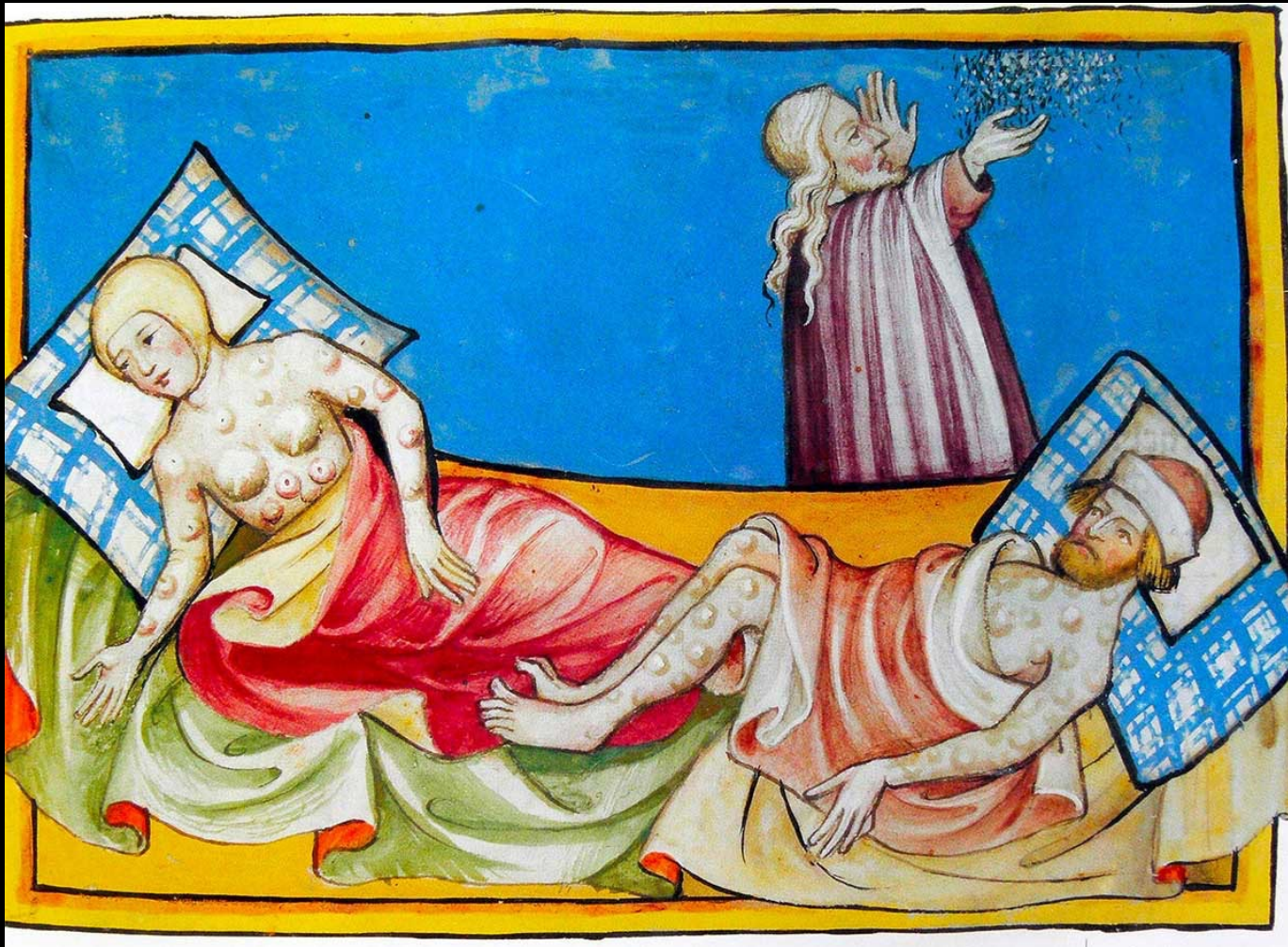
Frida Kahlo, *Henry Ford Hospital*, 1932

Infectious diseases are different...



11th Century illuminated manuscript image, based on the narration of Christ Healing the Lepers in the Gospel of Luke

The Bubonic Plague (Black Death) 1346-1351



Miniature from the Toggenburg Bible (Switzerland) of 1411





Lazaretto - isolation in space

Quarantena - isolation in time



Pierart dou Tielt illustrating the Tractatus quartus bu Gilles li Muisit (Tournai, c. 1353). The people of Tournai bury victims of the Black Death



Michael Wolgemut, *Danse Macabre*, 1493



Francesco Traini or Buonamico Buffalmacco, Triumph of Death, 1330s

Epidemics often bring out the worst in people and
reveal the truth about society's ills



In this history book written in the 1340s by the French chronicler and poet Gilles li Muisis, residents of a town stricken by the plague burn Jews, who were blamed for causing the disease.

Dr. Amy Converse



Anyone arriving at the Immigration Station on New York's Ellis Island who appeared to have a communicable disease was immediately segregated. c. 1930

1981

THE NEW YORK TIMES,
FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1981

A20

L

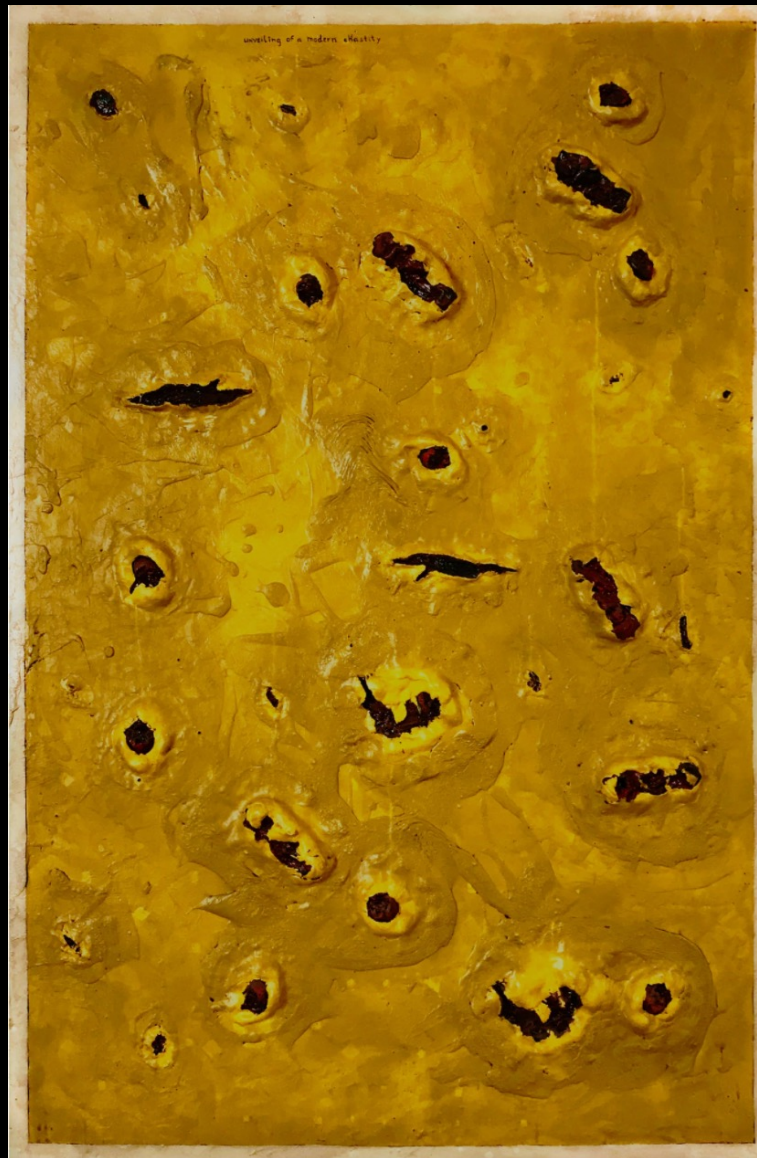
RARE CANCER SEEN IN 41 HOMOSEXUALS

Outbreak Occurs Among Men
in New York and California
—8 Died Inside 2 Years

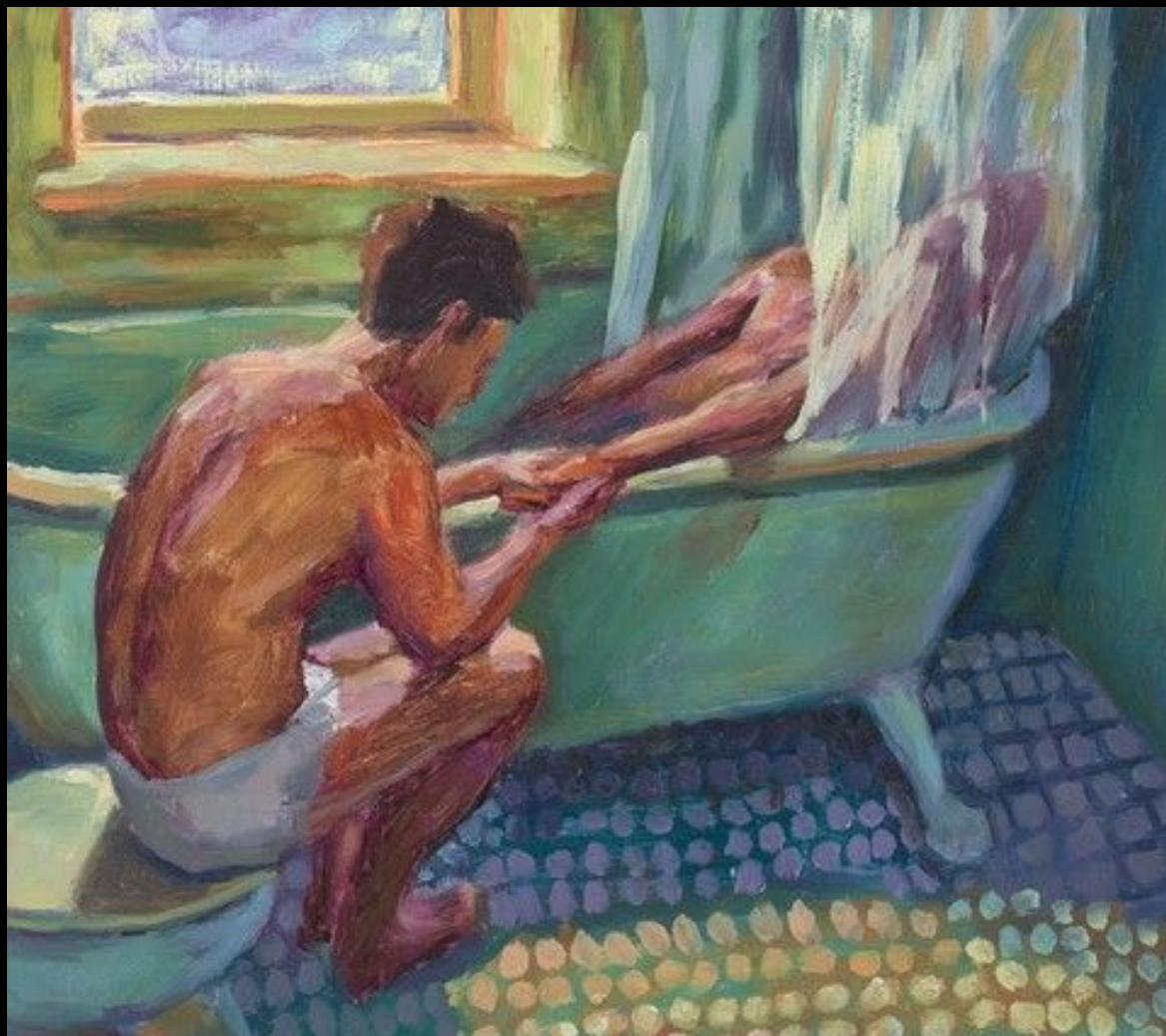
By **LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN**

Doctors in New York and California have diagnosed among homosexual men 41 cases of a rare and often rapidly fatal form of cancer. Eight of the victims died less than 24 months after the diagnosis was made.

The cause of the outbreak is unknown,



Izhar Patkin, *Unveiling of a Modern Chastity*, 1981

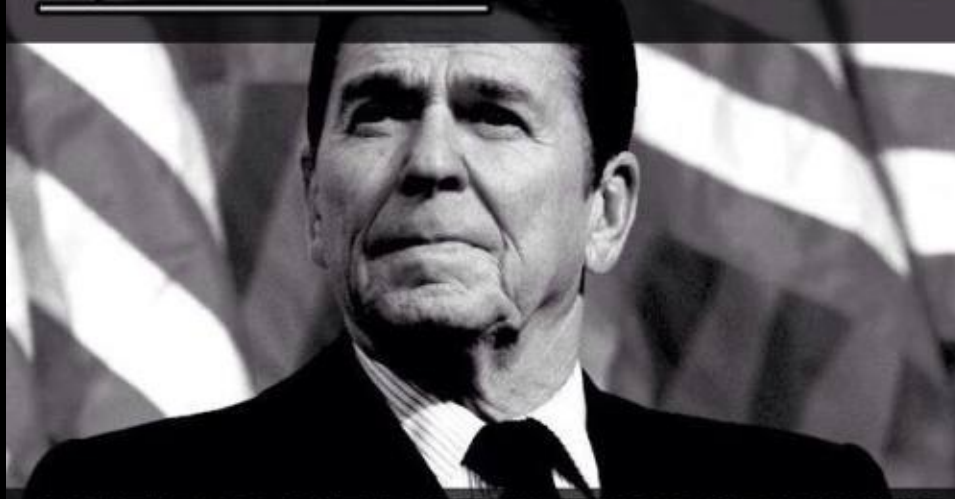


Hugh Steers, *Bath Curtain*, 1992



ACT UP campaigners at the Seize Control of the FDA protest outside the Food and Drug Administration headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, 11 October 1988. Photograph: Catherine McGann/Getty Images

**PRES. REAGAN IGNORED AIDS UNTIL
20,849 AMERICANS HAD ALREADY DIED**



Reagan Administration's Chilling Response to the AIDS Crisis

homophobia

ACT UP/Gran Fury,
Silence=Death, 1987

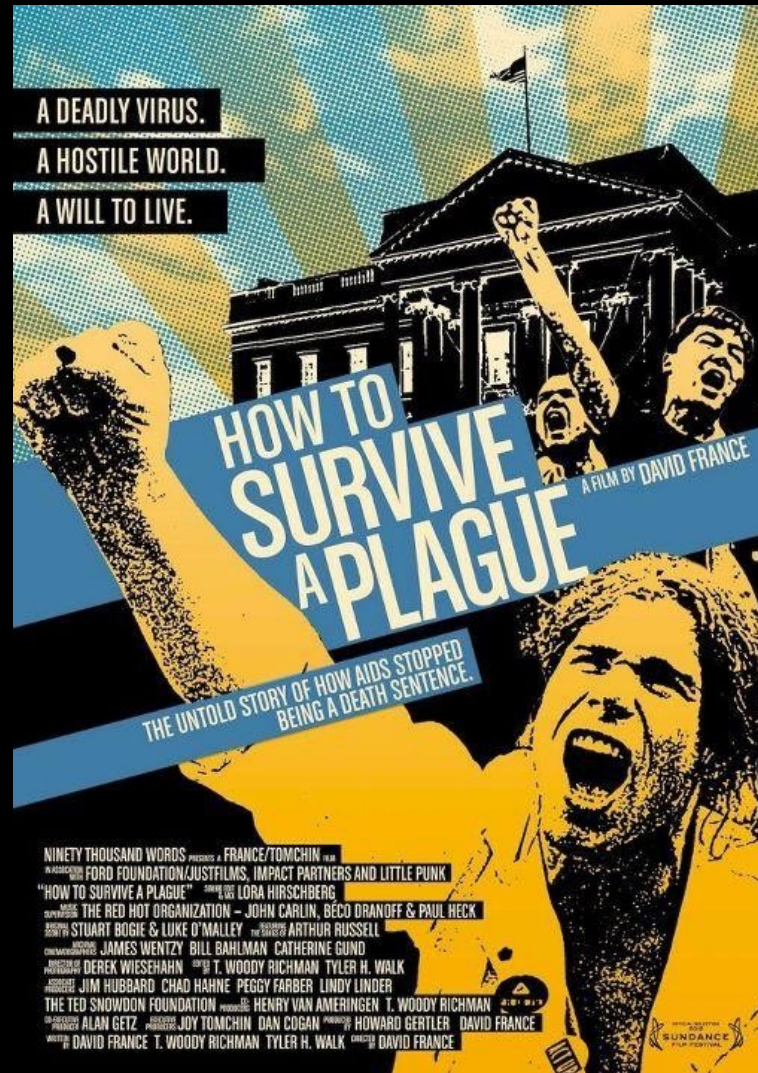
Artists resorted to clear graphics in a full-on activist AIDS art movement. The pink triangle symbol, which the Nazis made gay prisoners wear in the concentration camps, was ‘taken back,’ turned upside down to resemble a powerful pyramid.





Wall Street Die-In, late 80s.

Gay activists, many putting their art careers on hold, resorted to performance art/street theater strategies to call attention to the disease and the need for drug research.



A DEADLY VIRUS.
A HOSTILE WORLD.
A WILL TO LIVE.

HOW TO SURVIVE A PLAGUE

A FILM BY DAVID FRANCE

THE UNTOLD STORY OF HOW AIDS STOPPED
BEING A DEATH SENTENCE.

NINETY THOUSAND WORDS PRESENTS A FRANCE/TOMCHIN FILM
PRODUCED BY FORD FOUNDATION/JUSTFILMS, IMPACT PARTNERS AND LITTLE PUNK
"HOW TO SURVIVE A PLAGUE" SCREENPLAY BY LORA HIRSCHBERG
BASED UPON THE RED HOT ORGANIZATION - JOHN CARLIN, BÉCO DRANOFF & PAUL HECK
STORY BY STUART BOGIE & LUKE O'MALLEY DIRECTED BY ARTHUR RUSSELL
CASTING DIRECTOR JAMES WIENTZY BILL BAHLMAN CATHERINE GUND
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DEREK WIESCHAHN EDITOR T. WOODY RICHMAN TYLER H. WALK
PRODUCTION DESIGNER JIM HUBBARD EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CHAD HAHNE PEGGY FARBER LINDY LINDER
PRODUCED BY THE TED SNOWDON FOUNDATION PRODUCED BY HENRY VAN AMERINGEN T. WOODY RICHMAN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ALAN GETZ PRODUCED BY JOY TOMCHIN PRODUCED BY DAN COGAN PRODUCED BY HOWARD GERTLER DAVID FRANCE
WRITTEN BY DAVID FRANCE T. WOODY RICHMAN TYLER H. WALK DIRECTED BY DAVID FRANCE



<https://surviveaplague.com/trailer>



ACT UP 'zap,' Paris, 1993

'Zaps' were staged for the media, such as this appearance of a huge condom on a Paris street obelisk, encouraging safe sex.



Gran Fury, Kissing Doesn't Kill: Greed and Indifference Do, 1989

“Corporate greed, government inaction and public indifference make AIDS a political crisis.”



David Wojnarowicz, *Face in dirt*, 1990



David Wojnarowicz featured
in a poster image for
Rosa von Praunheim's 1989
film *Silence=Death*.

photographed by Andreas
Sterzing

Wojnarowicz resorts to
performance art as a powerful
protest against government
inaction, pharmaceutical
companies' corruption and
majority indifference.



Jenny Holzer,
*Expiring for Love is
Beautiful but Stupid*,
1994



Keith Haring, *Ignorance=Fear* Billboard, 1989



Laura Migliorino, *Victim?/Sinner?/Hero?* 1993

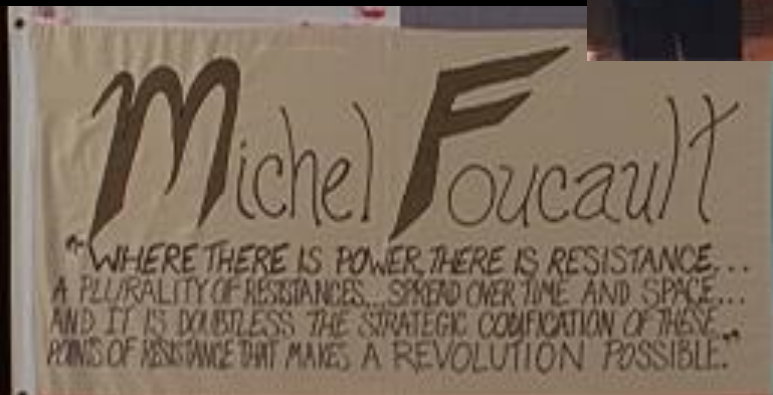
The AIDS Portfolio

www.dahnhiuni.com



photograph by Mark Oleson
© 1992 The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt

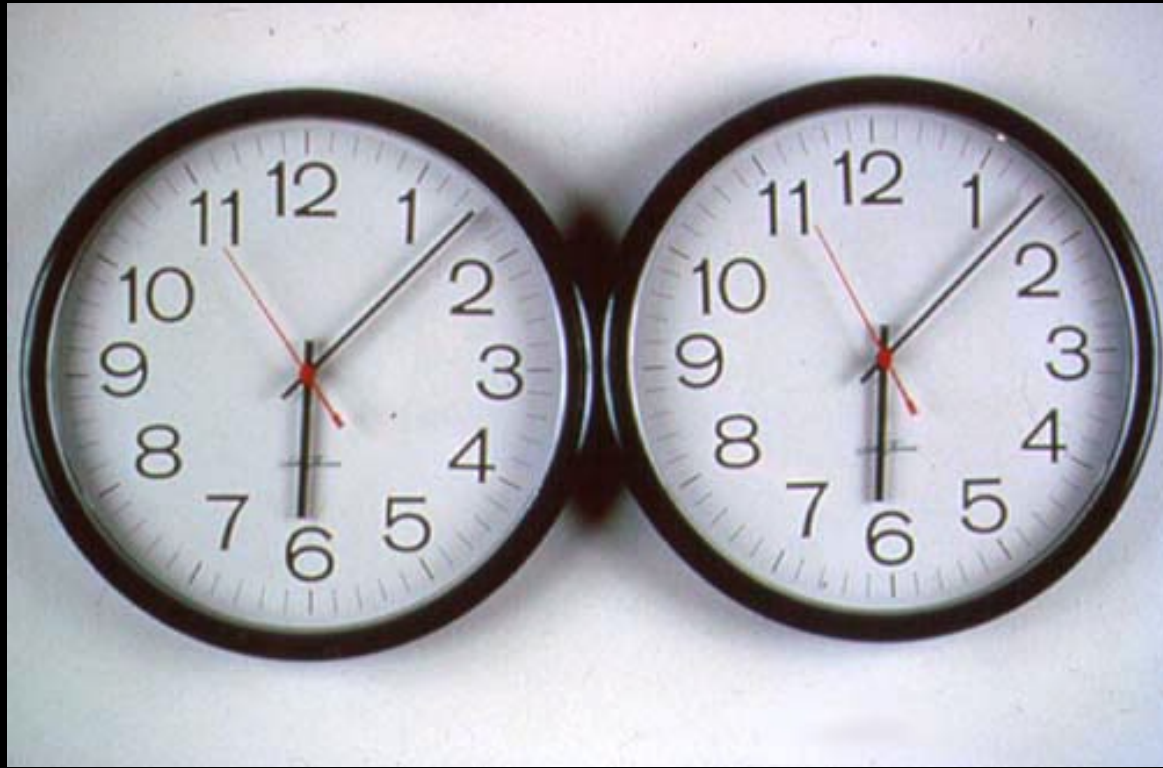
Names Project, (AIDS Quilt), Begun 1987
A different kind of monument. At 54 tons, it is the largest
piece of community folk art in the world.





Felix Gonzalez Torres, *Untitled*, 1991





Felix Gonzalez Torres, *Untitled (Perfect Lovers)*, 1991

Ross Bleckner
Loss, No. 1
'Falling Birds' Series
1995-2003



Since the beginning of the epidemic, 79.3 million [55.9–110 million] people have been infected with the HIV virus and **36.3 million [27.2–47.8 million]** people have died of HIV. Globally, 37.7 million [30.2–45.1 million] people were living with HIV at the end of 2020.

World Health Organization

Rank ↕	Epidemics/pandemics ↕	Disease ↕	Death toll ↕	Global population lost ↕	Regional population lost ↕	Date ↕	Location ↕
1	Black Death	Bubonic plague	75–200 million	17–54% ^[Note 1]	30–60% of European population ^[4]	1346–1353	Europe, Asia, and North Africa
2	Spanish flu	Influenza A/H1N1	17–100 million	1–5.4% ^{[5][6]}	–	1918–1920	Worldwide
3	Plague of Justinian	Bubonic plague	15–100 million	7–56% ^[Note 1]	25–60% of European population ^[7]	541–549	Europe and West Asia
4	HIV/AIDS pandemic	HIV/AIDS	36.3 million (as of 2020)	^[Note 2]	–	1981–present	Worldwide
5	Third plague pandemic	Bubonic Plague	12–15 million	^[Note 2]	–	1855-1960	Worldwide
6	Cocoliztli epidemic of 1545–1548	Cocoliztli	5–15 million	1–3% ^[Note 1]	27–80% of Mexican population ^[8]	1545–1548	Mexico
7	Antonine Plague	Smallpox or measles	5–10 million	3–6% ^[3]	25–33% of Roman population ^[9]	165–180 (possibly up to 190)	Roman Empire
8	COVID-19 pandemic	COVID-19	4.6–10.2+ million (as of 11 September	0.06%–0.13% (estimated) ^[2]	–	2019 ^[Note 4] –present	Worldwide

Art of the Covid 19 Pandemic



Pony Wave mural, Venice Beach, California.

[Artists draw life under coronavirus](#)



Drone pictures show bodies being buried on New York's Hart Island where the department of corrections is dealing with more burials overall, amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in New York City, U.S., April 9, 2020. (REUTERS/Lucas Jackson via CNN)



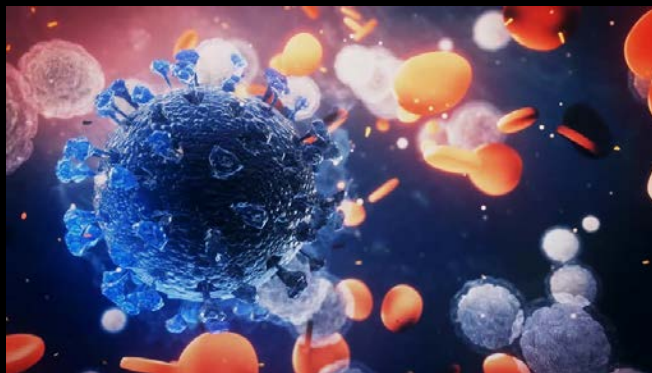


Bozorgmehr Hosseinpour, *The Sacrifice*, 2021

What do almost all the pandemics have in common?



Yersinia pestis



HIV



Coronavirus

INFECTIOUS DISEASES CAUSED BY ZOO NOTIC TRANSFER

Malaria	Mosquitoes
Bubonic Plague	Fleas on rats
Rabies	raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes
Typhus	Rodents
Hepatitis B	Apes
Lyme Disease	Blacklegged tick on deer
HIV	Chimpanzees or green monkeys
West Nile Virus	Mosquitoes feeding on infected crows
H1N1 Influenza	Swine
SARS	Bats
Ebola	Chimpanzees, gorillas, antelopes
Covid	Bat or pangolin



David Attenborough's Warning:
Are Humans Responsible for Pandemics?



Photo:Anil Prabhakar
2020

“In a time when the concept of humanity dies,
animals lead us to the principles of humanity...”

-Anil Prabhakar