



# United by AIDS

An Anthology on Art  
in Response to HIV / AIDS

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Edited by Raphael Gygax

Edited by Heike Munder

Contributions by Douglas Crimp

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Contributions by Elsa Himmer

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Contributions by Elisabeth Lebovici

Contributions by Nurja Ritter

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- An illustrated reader on art activism in response to HIV/AIDS, offering a wide-ranging survey of nearly forty years' grapple with the disease
- Four decades after its first appearance in the Western World, HIV/AIDS remains a major challenge to society around the globe

The appearance of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus and the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in the early 1980s and its subsequent rapid spread around the world has left deep marks in society. The illness itself and its effects on society have also caused manifold responses by artists and activists in many countries. *United by AIDS*, published in conjunction with an extensive group show on the topic of loss, remembrance, activism and art in response to HIV/AIDS at Zurich's Migros Museum of Contemporary Art (Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst), sheds light on the multi-faceted and complex interrelation between art and HIV/AIDS from the 1980s to the present. It examines the blurred boundaries between art production and HIV/AIDS activism and showcases artists who played – and still play – leading roles in this discourse. Alongside images of artworks and brief texts on the represented artists, the book features voices from the past and present. Essays by Douglas Crimp, Alexander García Düttmann, Raphael Gygax, Elsa Himmer, Ted Kerr, Elisabeth Lebovici, and Nurja Ritter broaden the view of the international discourse on HIV/AIDS and society's confrontation with the disease. Published to accompany an exhibition: 'United by AIDS – An Exhibition about Loss, Remembrance, Activism and Art in Response to HIV/AIDS' at the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich from 31 August to 2 November 2019.

**Raphael Gygax** is a Zurich-based art historian, curator and writer, and director of the BA program in art and media at Zurich University of the Arts ZHdK since 2019. He was a curator at Migros Museum of Contemporary Art in Zurich between 2003 and 2019. **Heike Munder** has been director of Migros Museum of Contemporary Art in Zurich since 2001.

