

The New York Times

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2013

'Not Over'

'25 Years of Visual AIDS'

*La MaMa Galleria
6 East First Street,
East Village
Through June 30*

On the quarter-century anniversary of its founding, Visual AIDS has organized a constellation of exhibitions, events and performances, the centerpiece being "Not Over: 25 Years of Visual AIDS" at La MaMa Galleria. The show has two basic messages: That the AIDS plague continues, and that the loss to art has been incalculable. International statistics confirm the first; this show confirms the second.

In the 1980s and '90s the East Village was a pocket of extreme devastation. All of the wonderful artists in a series of portrait photographs by Tim Greathouse — including Jimmy De Sana, Peter Hugar, Greer Lankton, Nicholas Moufarrege and Andreas Senser — died of the disease within a few years of one another, as did Greathouse himself. Some, like Arch Connelly, Frank Moore, Hugh Steers, Brian Weil and Martin Wong — all in the exhibition — have received recent attention; others, like Bern Boyle (1951-92), Chloe Dzubilo (1960-2011) and Barton Lidice Benes (1942-2012), need, and will repay, close study.

All of them made art in response to the realities of their time, art that we are only beginning to document and assess adequately, and that we would very likely not know about if Visual AIDS didn't exist. Comprehensive histories of that art, that fully document the psychic atmosphere and collective environment surrounding it, need to be written, right now. And the art continues to be made, as the show attests, in new work by Ted Kerr, L. J. Roberts, Ethan Shoshan, J. Morrison and Rafael Sanchez, and in an information-packed installation, a show in itself, by Jack Waters and Peter Cramer. Although its subject is disaster, the art chosen by the curators, Kris Nuzzi and Sur Rodney (Sur), is alive and well. Go see it. *HOLLAND COTTER*



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

A 2011 L. J. Roberts work in "Not Over: 25 Years of Visual AIDS," at La MaMa Galleria.