

More Life: Silence=Death

Opening June 24, 2021
525 West 19th Street, New York

Appointment bookings available
on davidzwirner.com



Silence=Death Project, *Silence=Death*, 1987. Courtesy of the artists.

David Zwirner is pleased to present an exhibition centered on the now iconic Silence=Death poster as well as agitprop created by other artist-activist collectives in the late 1980s in response to the HIV/AIDS crisis. Three original posters—some of the most influential examples of political art in United States history—will be contextualized with a range of ephemera that charts the birth of AIDS activism, drawn largely from the collection of Avram Finkelstein, a founding member of Silence=Death and the subsequent collective Gran Fury.

Formed in 1986 as a consciousness-raising group, the Silence=Death collective was inspired to create a poster to be wheat-pasted around New York City as a political statement. Forgoing photographic documentation of the unfolding crisis in favor of a bold design that featured a pink triangle floating on a black background with the words “Silence=Death” emblazoned below, this image became a powerful symbol of solidarity, pride, and political dissent.

The exhibition will also include photographs by t. l. litt, Donna Binder, and Lola Flash, who were pivotal in capturing images of the movement, as well as a neon sign of the Silence=Death motif, which hung in the window of the New Museum, then located at 583 Broadway, as part of curator William Olander’s landmark 1987 exhibition *Let the Record Show...*

Finkelstein notes: *Some of the material in this exhibition has never been exhibited before, which seems fitting given the comprehensive set of exhibitions and programming planned by David Zwirner. I believe we’re uniquely poised to reexamine the many counternarratives that fall into the shadows of our cultural storytelling surrounding HIV/AIDS, particularly during this moment in our shared social history, when those of us who survived one pandemic are able to consider the meanings of our current one, in dialogue with an intergenerational cohort of artists, archivists, activists, and historians.*

A limited-edition Silence=Death print is available for the first time through [Platform](#), with proceeds benefiting [Visual AIDS](#).

Silence=Death is a part of *More Life*, a focused series of curated solo exhibitions presented on the fortieth anniversary of the ongoing HIV/AIDS crisis. For more information, please visit davidzwirner.com.

For all press inquiries, contact
Julia Lukacher +1 212 727 2070 jlukacher@davidzwirner.com
Erin Pinover +1 212 727 2070 epinover@davidzwirner.com