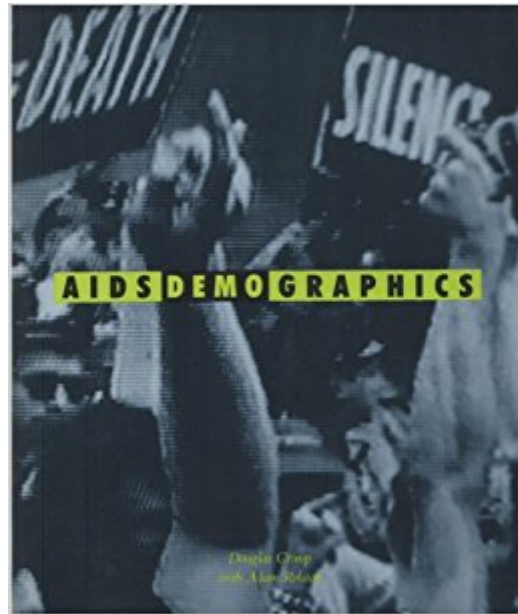




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# AIDS Demo Graphics



## Synopsis

photo/essay document of ACT UP

## Book Information

Paperback: 141 pages

Publisher: Bay Pr (June 1990)

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #214,421 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > AIDS](#) #110 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Demography](#) #3085 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Political Science](#)

## Customer Reviews

In what the authors call a "do-it-yourself manual, showing how to make propaganda work in the fight against AIDS," they depict a history of demonstrations, sit-ins and similar steps taken by ACT UP and other groups. The volume is illustrated with photos of the protests as well as graphics used in conjunction with them, such as a poster featuring a penis and the words: "Sexism Rears Its Unprotected Head/Men: Use Condoms or Beat It" (according to Bay Press, Arcata Graphics, the book's original printer, reneged on its contract with Bay, citing "sensitive" material). One typical entry, recounting ACT UP's civil disobedience at FDA headquarters, is accompanied by a placard saying, "Time isn't the only thing the FDA is killing." Another describes the group Gran Fury's "same-sex kiss-in," publicized with two posters: one a WW II photo of kissing sailors, the other showing a lesbian couple from a 1920s stage play. Slogans and images outnumber substantiated arguments about appropriate approaches to take regarding AIDS, and this book will best suit those already convinced of the efficacy of public and publicity-conscious protest as opposed to other forms of action. The authors are ACT UP activists; Crimp is a freelance art critic and Rolston is an architect. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

These books demonstrate how two different activist groups use an expanded concept of art to effect

social change. Fifth in the Dia Art Foundation's "Discussions in Contemporary Culture" series, Democracy began as a series of events by the artists' collaborative Group Material during 1987-89. It deals with the relationship of democracy to controversial issues of education, cultural activism, elections, feminism, and AIDS. (A forthcoming companion volume will address housing, homelessness, and urban planning.) Rather than reach a conclusion, this documentation of a series of "Town Meetings" establishes a provocative dialog among such diverse contributors as Erma Bombeck, William Olander, and Noam Chomsky. The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP), a "diverse, nonpartisan group united in anger and committed to direct action to end the AIDS crisis" with autonomous chapters in cities throughout the world, employs civil disobedience to pressure for Federal Drug Administration (FDA) drug approvals, to criticize inactive politicians, and to educate the public. The design of their best-known graphic, "Silence=Death" beneath an inverted pink triangle, made the powerful analogy between AIDS and Nazi crimes, but actually preceded the group's founding in New York in 1987. AIDS Demo Graphics documents how graphics by controversial artists including Jenny Holzer, Barbara Kruger, and the AIDS activist artist collective Gran Fury have been used by the New York chapter of ACT UP to encourage other groups to appropriate them and develop their own propaganda campaign in the war against AIDS. The interdisciplinary approach of both these books makes them important additions for all art, political science, and social science collections.- James E. Van Buskirk, Acad . of Art Coll. Lib., San FranciscoCopyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I was lucky enough in 1992 to find myself in Mr. Crimp's Sarah Lawrence seminar on Queer identity and cultural criticism. That turn of events changed everything for me. What got my ass in the seat was this book. As a document of the rage and action of the late 80's and early 90's and Act-Up's phenomenal -- stop you in your tracks graphics -- it explained my anger at the sad par of sex and death that we were literally engulfed by. From Gran Fury to the Guerrilla Girls Mr. Crimp literally wrote the book on how they seared their message in your head in a matter of seconds -- as friends were checked into St. Vincent's and never checked out. The debt of gratitude I have -- not only to the front line soldiers who fought with a rage befitting an army who lost half of their brothers and comrades while the White House kept silent -- but to the artists, publisher and author for preserving a war history before the war was over so we might never forget the nightmare. Haunting, enraging, silently mournful and loudly grieving in the midst of unimaginable anguish and heartbreak -- this is a must have for any LGBT-HIV interested person - and every scholar of the period when Act-Up stood up for the voiceless and shunned -- with a keen understanding of the power of image and word.

An activist classic, happy to have a copy after losing my original a few years ago. Great condition and great price.

Great documentation of an important period of visual culture and explanations of how design and advertising techniques were used in early AID activism.

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