DA ZI BAOS, 1982. A project by Group Material. Union Square. Nueva York.

PLACES, SITES, LOCATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMUNITIES

[Exhibition projects in the United States
at the decade of the 90´s of XX th. Century.
Art as a social force of participation and transformation.]

A presentation by Jesús Palomino
In collaboration with École de Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, EHESS
Paris, December 2019

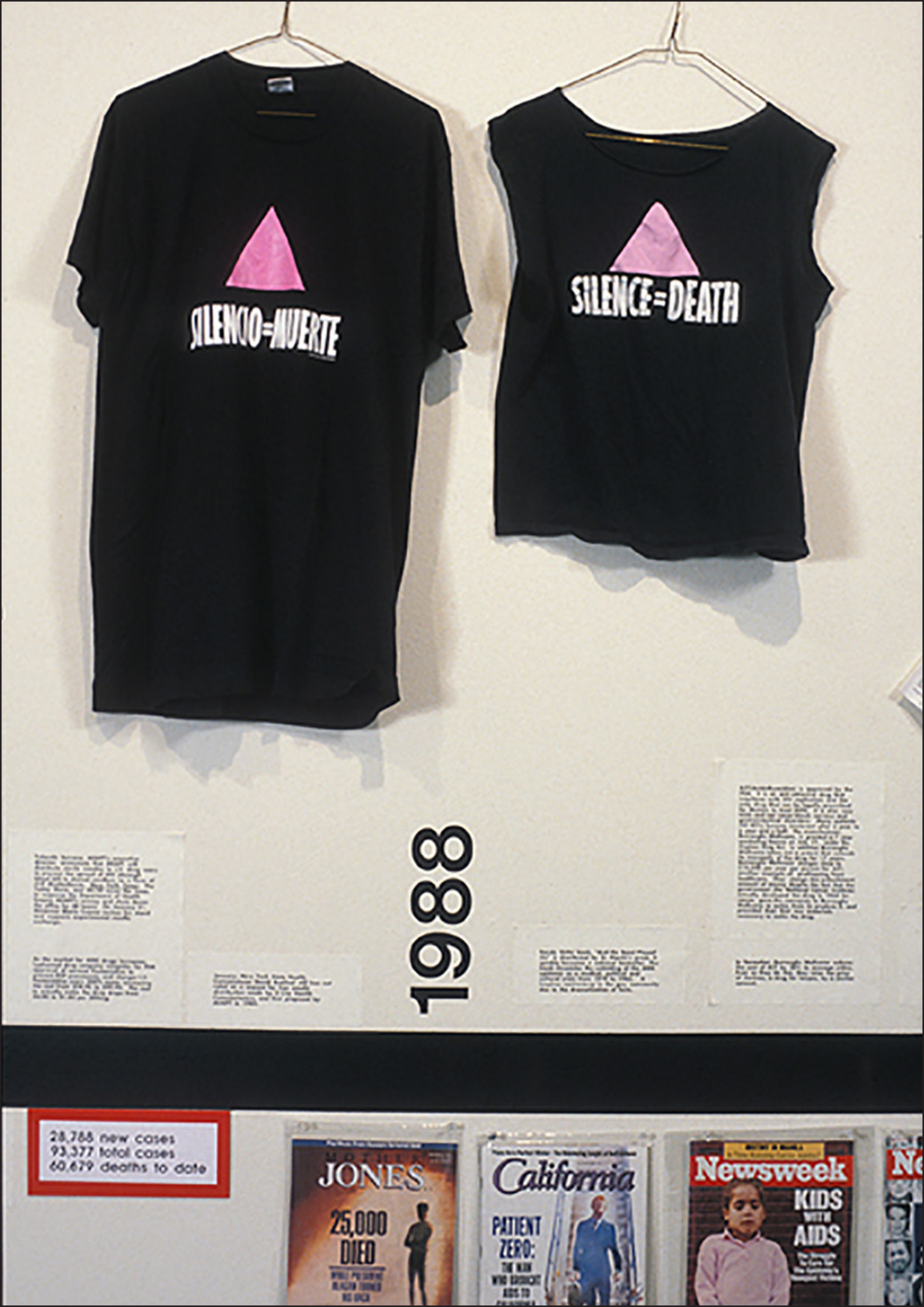
(…) the issue here is the will of resistance, its orientation
towards the future, that could be both catastrophic or constructive.
A will of resistance that could be developed by the means of war and politics,
but as the tragedy in democratic Athens exemplified,
as well through something that was called "art".

On Resistance. A philosophy of Defiance, 2013.
Howard Caygill

ABSTRACT

The ambition of this presentation is to analyze the artistic practices developed in the United States in the decade of the 90s of the 20th century that considered *art as a social force of participation and transformation*. This presentation will attempt to explain the evolution of the concept of *site specific art* illustrating this process with examples provided by artists' use of spaces, places and locations. This gradual historical articulation of the concept of *site-specificy* ended up incorporating citizen communities as aesthetics ingredients through novel social strategies of participation. Based on five cases studies contributed by several American artistic collectives (namely, *Culture in Action, Group Material, General Idea, Gran Fury* and *Guerrilla Girls*), this research will attempt to describe the social and human circumstances that gave rise to those expressions and the novelties of all order (aesthetic, discursive, participatory, production, and visual) that generated.

[Image on the next page: *AISD Timeline,* 1990. A project by Group Material. Berkeley Art Museum, Califorina.]


SILENCIO=MUERTE
SILENCE=DEATH
1988
28,788 new cases
93,377 total cases
60,679 deaths to date
MOTHER JONES
25,000 DIED
California
PATIENT ZERO:
Newsweek
KIDS WITH AIDS

Touch Sanitation, 1979-80. A participatory art project by Mierle Laderman-Ukeles.

A seminar in the format of three open lectures accompanied of visual samples, discursive references and authors:

1 st. CHAPTER:

Places, discourses and material conditions of citizen participation. The collective art of *telling the truth to power* according to the American experience of the specificity of the place.

2 nd. CHAPTER:

Aesthetics of lost causes, resistant narrativity and art of activism. Particiatory art practices and the *future as a cultutral fact*.

3 rd. CHAPTER:

Aesthetics Manoeuvres of Participation and the *Politics of Hope*. Jesús Palomino´s projects (1992-2018).