

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No Bios

May 11–June 24, 2023

Opening Reception: May 11, 6-8 PM

EFA Project Space

Curated by **Isis Awad** for **Visual AIDS**

Artists: **Jerome Caja (1958–1995)**

Chloe Dzubilo (1960–2011)

Stevie Cisneros Hanley

Reverend Joyce McDonald

Sofia Moreno

Pamela Sneed

Tabboo!

D’Angelo Lovell Williams



Chloe Dzubilo, *Untitled (Operation Normal)*, ca. 2010, Courtesy of the Estate of Chloe Dzubilo

No Bios showcases artists whose practice is deeply personal and biographical in nature, while resisting the art world’s tendency to reduce marginalized artists to their identity markers. Drawing in part from the Visual AIDS archive and artist registry, curator Isis Awad brings together a group of queer and trans artists of color, some of whom are living and thriving with HIV, alongside artists who have been lost to AIDS-related illnesses. In contrast to the somber, tragic, and alarmist overtones that often accompany representations of HIV and AIDS, *No Bios* presents mischievously playful and beautifully mundane artworks that speak to a determination to live beyond mere survival.

The exhibition features new and historic works by three generations of artists: **Jerome Caja** (1958–1995), **Chloe Dzubilo** (1960–2011), **Stevie Cisneros Hanley**, **Reverend Joyce McDonald**, **Sofia Moreno**, **Pamela Sneed**, **Tabboo!**, and **D’Angelo Lovell Williams**.

“This exhibition has nothing and everything to do with HIV,” says curator Isis Awad. “Some of the artists in the show live with HIV, some of them don’t. Some of them are still with us, and some of them aren’t. This is not an attempt to make sense of anything, or theorize a human’s relationship with a virus. What ties the artists in this show together is an unrelenting desire to make art against all odds; art that does not capitalize on its makers’ marginalized identities.”



No Bios is presented as part of Visual AIDS' annual exhibition program, which centers the organization's expansive and living archive of artwork by HIV-positive artists. Each summer, Visual AIDS invites guest curators to organize thematic exhibitions that bring works represented in the archive into conversation with other contemporary artists.

About the Curator

Isis Awad is a curator, writer, and poet from Cairo, Egypt based in Brooklyn, New York. She is Founding Director of [Executive Care*](#), a nonprofit art organization at the service of trans and queer artists of color from performance and nightlife communities. Isis is also Manager of Events at Point Source Youth, a non profit dedicated to working across movements to end youth homelessness, with a special focus on LGBTQ youth and Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC).

About Visual AIDS

[Visual AIDS](#) is still the only contemporary arts organization fully committed to supporting HIV-positive artists and starting dialogues about the ongoing AIDS crisis through contemporary art projects. Since 1988, the organization has been at the forefront of AIDS culture, creating the iconic Red Ribbon and initiating Day Without Art, which helped establish World AIDS Day as an international event. Through exhibitions, publications, activist broadsheets, and public events, Visual AIDS continues to engage communities across the art world and the HIV movement, supporting the contributions of HIV-positive artists and preserving the legacy of the AIDS activist movement.

Acknowledgments

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EFA Project Space, launched in September 2008 as a program of The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, is a collaborative, cross-disciplinary arts venue founded on the belief that art is directly connected to the individuals who produce it, the communities that arise because of it, and to everyday life. By providing an arena for exploring these connections, we empower artists, curators, and other participants to forge new partnerships and encourage the expansion of ideas. The program is based on Open Calls as well as invitational exhibitions and projects. It is a home for emerging, mid-career, as well as established curators and artists. We focus our attention on community engagement and public programming. www.projectspace-efanyc.org **The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (EFA)** is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Through its three core programs, EFA Studios, EFA Project Space, and EFA Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop, EFA is dedicated to providing artists across all disciplines with space, tools and a cooperative forum for the development of individual practice. EFA is a catalyst for cultural growth, stimulating new interactions between artists, creative communities, and the public. www.efanyc.org EFA Project Space is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and additional funding from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.