



Smithsonian Institution

Archives of American Art

Witnesses: against our vanishing

Extracted on Apr-19-2024 11:56:08

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[[top image - photograph of bedroom]]

SHELLBURNE THURBER
Born 1949
Lives in Boston, MA

Motel Room 1987
Ektacolor print 20 x 24 inches

A bedroom speaks of intimacy-- the intimacy of dreams, of secrets kept under wraps during the day and allowed to surface at night, of sex. These particular bedrooms, in their emptiness and desolate anonymity, also speak of loss - spaces once occupied, now stripped of any vestige of the humanity that briefly resided in them. AIDS has left empty spaces in many lives including my own. Hopefully these images help to convey some sense of the implacable finality associated with this loss.

[[bottom image - painting of woman]]

KEN TISA
Born 1945
Lives in New York City

Why Not Now 1986
acrylic on cotton 28 x 30 inches
Courtesy: Alexander Wood Gallery

The death of loved ones is painful and transformational. The void in one's life after is unbearable. My paintings are about the search for the spirit and the evolution the soul goes through as it passes from the physical to the metaphysical.

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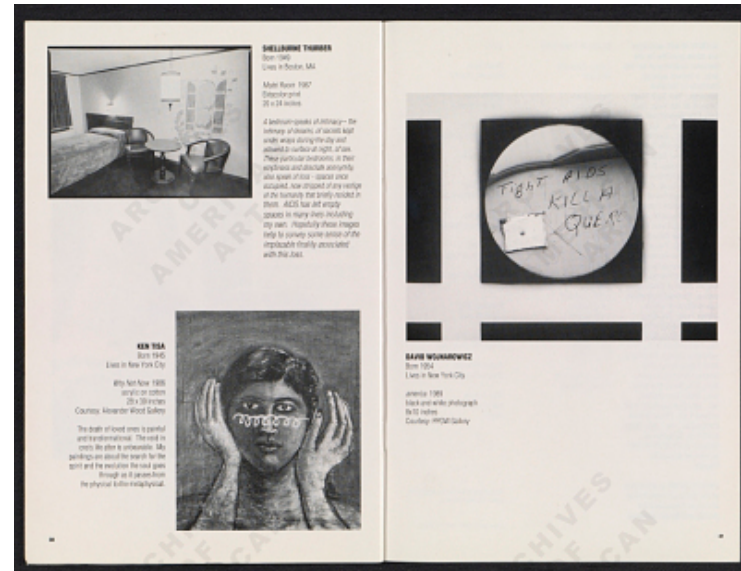
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[[image - photograph of slogan saying "Fight AIDS Kill a Quere"]]

DAVID WOJNAROWICZ
Born 1954
Lives in New York City

america 1989
black and white photograph 8 x 10 inches
Courtesy: PPOW Gallery

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