

AIDS Memorial Quilt exhibit and event on The Principle of Non- Discrimination and the Protection of Human Rights of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS in the Americas

Independent Affiliated Event of the International AIDS Conference

In conjunction with the exhibit of the AIDS
Memorial Quilt at OAS Grounds and "L"
installation by artist Esmeralda Kosmatopoulos

Quilt on view: July 21-25, 2012

Event: Monday: July 23, 2012 (8:30pm - 10pm)

AMA | ART MUSEUM of the AMERICAS
201 18th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
Hours: MON - SUN | 10AM - 5PM

AMA | Art Museum of the Americas of the Orga-
nization of American States, in collaboration with
the NAMES Project Foundation, the Inter-American
Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the Inter-
American Commission of Women (CIM) and the
OAS Department of International Affairs (DIA) is proud to exhibit portions of the AIDS Memorial Quilt made
in Latin America, the Caribbean and the US on the OAS gardens facing Constitution Avenue between 17th
and 18th streets.

This exhibit has been part of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival's Creativity and Crisis: Unfolding the AIDS Me-
morial Quilt and will now be associated with an Independent Affiliated Event of the 2012 International AIDS
Conference, taking place Monday, July 23, 2012 from 8:30 to 10:00 pm. The Quilt exhibit and related events
reflect AMA's mission to present art as an instrument for remembering, understanding and educating.

As part of the program, UNAIDS and the IACHR, in collaboration with AMA, CIM and DIA will be hosting
an event to reflect on the situation of the rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS in the Americas, focusing
on Latin America and the Caribbean. This event will include remarks by José Miguel Insulza, OAS Secre-
tary General; Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS; Rose-Marie Belle Antoine, IACHR Commissioner



(TBC); and Patricia Pérez, chair of the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS. The event will conclude with a guided tour of the AIDS Memorial Quilt on OAS Grounds by Julie Rhoad, President of the NAMES Project Foundation. The event is free and open to the general public.

UNAIDS has been at the forefront of the fight against HIV/AIDS throughout the world. The OAS has a strong commitment to promoting and protecting the rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS in the region. CIM has conducted studies on the legal frameworks and rights of women in Central America and the Caribbean, and analyzed the intersections of the HIV pandemic with violence against women in terms of addressing both issues in an integrated manner. The IACHR has adopted precautionary measures requesting OAS Member States to provide treatment and assistance to persons living with HIV/AIDS, and has conducted on site visits and held public hearings related to the rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Alongside the quilt, at AMA's Sculpture Gardens between 17th and 18th Streets, NW, artist Esmeralda Kosmatopoulos will install "L", a work comprised of white large inflatable hands. Red and white ribbons will run through each of the hands, sprawling out onto the grass. "L" seeks to encourage a constructive discourse on discrimination and stigmatization against women infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. It is about Letters and Lines, Life and Love ... "L" links all these values together. "It also represents the French pronoun "elle" which means "she" and the encompassing metaphor of the hands is based on palm readings. The installation opposes fate and promoting the notion of free-will and empowerment. "L" is made possible through the generous support of Hugo Boss, and the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW). These hands are the backdrop of the AIDS Memorial Quilt display.

