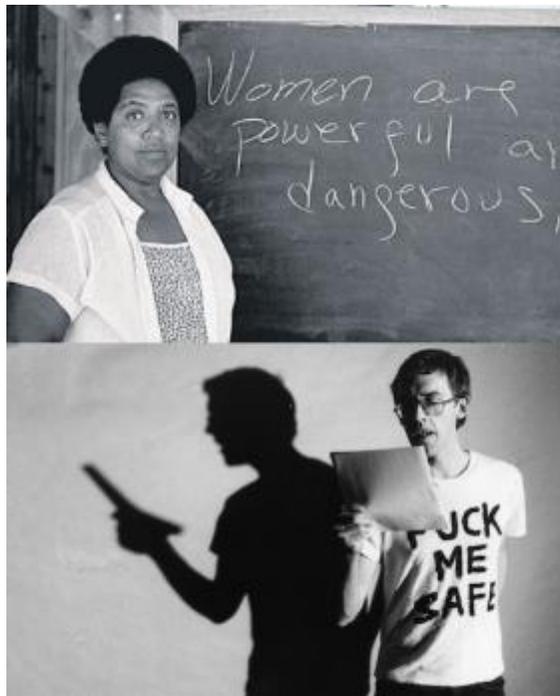




**THE SHELLEY & DONALD RUBIN FOUNDATION  
AND VISUAL AIDS  
ANNOUNCE SERIES OF PROGRAMMING  
AS PART OF *VOICE = SURVIVAL*  
AT THE 8TH FLOOR**

**Featuring Artist Conversations and Performances with  
Pamela Sneed, Ni'Ja Whitson, Kiyon Williams, Kameelah  
Janan Rasheed, LJ Roberts, Robert Sember (Ultra-red),  
Marguerite Van Cook, James Romberger and more**



Top: Audre Lorde (Creative Commons)

Bottom: David Wojnarowicz in a still from Rosa von Praunheim's *Silence = Death*, 1990

**New York, New York, June 19, 2017** - In conjunction with the exhibition **VOICE = SURVIVAL**, the **Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation** is pleased to announce a series of artist conversations and performances led by **Visual AIDS**. All events are free, open to the public and located at **The 8th Floor**, 17 West 17th Street, NYC, where the exhibition is on view through August 11, 2017.

**VOICE = SURVIVAL** examines voice as a medium and a metaphor used by artists and activists confronting oppression amid the ongoing HIV/AIDS epidemic. The title of the show inverts the ACT UP movement's rallying cry of SILENCE=DEATH. The exhibition is comprised of works that mobilize the multivalent concepts of silence and vocality, and the effectiveness of vocal empowerment to fight for individual and communal survival. It explores the entanglement of the voice and its absence with battleground concepts in HIV/AIDS activism such as agency and citizenship, language and representation, and inter/subjectivity and the body.

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Wednesday June 28, 6:30–8:30PM

***YOUR SILENCE WILL NOT PROTECT YOU: ON AUDRE LORDE & DAVID WOJNAROWICZ***

*YOUR SILENCE WILL NOT PROTECT YOU* considers the activist voices and rousing language used by Audre Lorde and David Wojnarowicz, both of whom are featured in the exhibition *VOICE=SURVIVAL*. Respectively, both Lorde and Wojnarowicz's creative practices stand as resounding calls to action, inspiring others to confront injustice. The evening will begin with recorded excerpts of Lorde's essay *The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action* and Wojnarowicz's writing from Rosa Von Praunheim's film *Silence = Death*. Poet **Pamela Sneed** and **Cleopatra Acquaye-Reynolds**, Membership Coordinator for the Audre Lorde Project, will discuss self-described "warrior poet" Lorde's politics of care and self-determination for queer communities of color, while archivist **Marvin Taylor** and gallerist **Annelis Beadnell** will reflect on the outspoken perspective of Wojnarowicz's incendiary writing and artwork, followed by a conversation moderated by Visual AIDS Programs Director **Alex Fialho**.

[RSVP Here](#)

Tuesday July 11, 6:30–8:30PM

***MARLON RIGGS & "No Regret": DISCLOSURE, PERFORMATIVITY & LEGACY***

Artists **Ni'Ja Whitson** and **Kiyan Williams** will perform and present their work in response to Riggs' declarative, affirmative practice through a screening of his film *Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien (No Regret)*, 25 years after its creation. Williams will stage a performance titled "Reflections in BlaQ," that activates black queer and trans archives as part of their ongoing engagement with Riggs' writings and films. Whitson will present their work and research from *A Meditation on Tongues*, a live interdisciplinary adaptation of the artist-educator-activist's iconic film *Tongues Untied* (1989). Following

the screening, performance, and presentation, a conversation between Williams and Whitson, moderated by **Tavia N'yongo**, will address Riggs' work and legacy. The event will center contemporary conversations across the gender non-conforming spectrum, highlighting testimony and performativity as central to combating the ongoing rampant whitewashing of HIV/AIDS narratives.

*Sponsored by a Humanities New York Vision/Action Grant.*

[RSVP Here](#)

Friday August 11 6:30–8:30PM

### ***Closing Event: Artist & Curator Tour***

To celebrate the culmination of *VOICE = SURVIVAL*, curators **Claudia Carrera** and **Adrian Saldaña** will lead a tour and speak about their motivations for curating the exhibition. The tour will also feature participating artists **Kameelah Janan Rasheed**, **James Romberger**, **LJ Roberts**, **Marguerite Van Cook**, **Jordan Arsenault**, **Robert Sember (Ultra-red)** and **James Wentzy**, who will discuss their creative process and the works they have on display.

[RSVP Here](#)

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### **About The 8th Floor**

The 8th Floor is an exhibition and events space established in 2010 by Shelley and Donald Rubin, dedicated to promoting cultural and philanthropic initiatives, and to expanding artistic and cultural accessibility in New York City. The 8th Floor is located at 17 West 17th Street and is free and open to the public. Schools groups are encouraged. Viewing hours are Tuesday through Friday, 11am to 6pm and Saturday by appointment. [the8thfloor.org](http://the8thfloor.org)

### **About The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation**

The Foundation believes in art as a cornerstone of cohesive, resilient communities and greater participation in civic life. In its mission to make art available to the broader public, in particular to underserved communities, the Foundation provides direct support to, and facilitates partnerships between, cultural organizations and advocates of social justice across the public and private sectors. Through grantmaking, the Foundation supports cross-disciplinary work connecting art with social justice via experimental collaborations, as well as extending cultural resources to organizations and areas of New York City in need. [sdrubin.org](http://sdrubin.org)

Join the conversation with the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation on Facebook ([The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation](#)), Twitter ([@rubinfoundation](#)), and Instagram ([@rubinfoundation](#)) with the hashtags [#RubinFoundation](#), [#The8thFloor](#), [#VoiceEqualsSurvival](#), and [#ArtandSocialJustice](#).

### **About Visual AIDS**

Visual AIDS is the only contemporary arts organization fully committed to HIV prevention and AIDS awareness through producing and presenting visual art projects, while supporting artists living with HIV/AIDS. Visual AIDS is committed to preserving and honoring the work of artists with HIV/AIDS and the artistic contributions of the AIDS movement. Capturing critical and audience acclaim, Visual AIDS' art exhibitions examine the deep cultural history of the AIDS crisis and contemporary issues around HIV/AIDS today. Exhibitions are organized by guest curators and feature a range of emerging, international and HIV+ artists. *VOICE = SURVIVAL* was selected for The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation exhibition from a competitive call for proposals.

For more information on Visual AIDS, contact us at [info@visualaids.org](mailto:info@visualaids.org) or join us on Facebook ([Visual AIDS](#)), Instagram ([@visual AIDS](#)), Twitter ([@visual AIDS](#)), and [www.visualAIDS.org](http://www.visualAIDS.org).

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