

MAKE ART/STOP AIDS at the 2010 AIDS Conference in Vienna

August 4, 2010

Dear friends of MAKE ART/STOP AIDS,

We have just returned from the 2010 International AIDS Conference in Vienna, and are happy to report that our MAKE ART/STOP AIDS exhibition was a huge success. The pieces were prominently positioned at key points throughout the main conference session hall. We estimate a thousand delegates a day from all over the world circulated through the collection, many returning two and three times to take photographs and share the work with friends and colleagues. The exhibition included work by Daniel Goldstein and Gideon Mendel, two artists who have become longtime collaborators and dear friends of MAKE ART/STOP AIDS.



Daniel Goldstein's *Medicine Men* consisted of three eight-foot-tall anthropomorphic sculptures constructed of pill bottles, needles, and syringes. The three mobiles, which were suspended from the ceiling, reflect the experience of people living with HIV and AIDS in San Francisco, Johannesburg, and Eastern Europe.

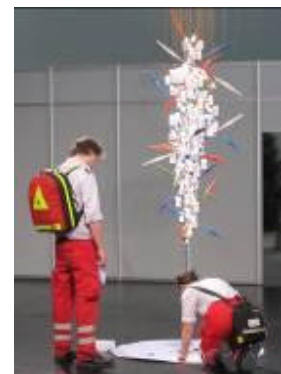


Gideon Mendel offered the debut of *Through Positive Eyes*, a participatory photography project made in collaboration with people living with HIV/AIDS in Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, and Johannesburg. The multimedia collection included oversized art/text posters from South Africa alongside short films from Mexico, Brazil, and South Africa. [See ThroughPositiveEyes.org](http://ThroughPositiveEyes.org) Monitors also displayed Mendel's *Sharing the Journey*, which chronicles the work of Columbia University's MTCT-Plus Initiative, and *The Secret that Kills my Heart*, a project on forced sterilization in Namibia and South Africa, funded by the Open Society Institute for Southern Africa

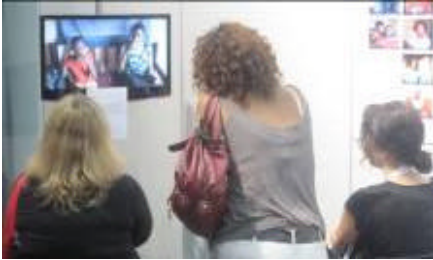
(OSISA).

Allow us to share a few comments that visitors have left in the comment book:

"This exhibit has been a great reminder that we are in the fight against HIV because it is a disease that touches the most intimate aspects of people's lives.... As a future physician I hope to remember this basic reminder that humanism is what keeps us all moving forward."



“It is amazing to see such art being done in relation to HIV and AIDS. ART is a tremendous therapy and brings happiness and joy in moments of darkness.”



“As a P.W.A. and an M.D., ‘medicine man’ speaks to my soul.”

“Visually fascinating and soul stirring.”

“Thank you for the art—and especially for bringing the voices of positive people in South Africa.”

We held a small reception to thank our supporters and friends who were fortunate enough to travel to Vienna for the conference. Though we regret that you all could not be there to share a toast with us in person, your presence was felt through your longtime commitment to this work. MAKE ART/STOP AIDS would not be what it is without all the friends and partners whose enthusiasm and hard work motivates its continued success.

All the very best,
David Gere and the Art and Global Health Center team

P.S. UNAIDS Outlook 2010 features our work prominently. How cool to have their endorsement.
[See the 2010 UNAIDS Outlook Report](#)