

nyartdoc: curating as advocacy art + medicine

In the early 90s, Hawaii-born physician Kóan-Jeff Baysa began to combine a curatorial practice that promoted the work of emerging and under-represented artists as well as themes of health, the body, concurrent with a clinical practice. Like other medically educated individuals who establish themselves in creative fields, he has organized over thirty exhibitions cross-linking perception (smell, hearing, touch, taste, sexuality), knowledge of the world (propriocept, stereognosis, balance), body responses, substances, and conditions (fear, honor, anxiety, vanishing, cadavers, blood, skin), and popular culture (condom use, visual literacy, representation, digital photography, fetishism). Dr. Baysa has taught courses in visual literacy and is on the boards of art organizations that serve specific populations like Art Omi International Artists Residency Program (Ghent, NY), Vera List Center for Art and Politics (NY), and Cross Path Culture (NY and Johannesburg), New York art-science organizations ArtFlask and PaperVeins Museum of Art, is the in-house curator at TAMA (NY) and in the past served on the boards of Iona Pearl Dance Theater (Honolulu) and Creative Growth Art Center (Oakland). With business partner Ryan Harris, he is also the co-editor of the online contemporary art journal ArtPulse and the co-director of KJREE the art, commerce, and culture consultancy. An alumnus of the Whitney Museum of American Art's prestigious Independent Study Program, Curatorial Section, Baysa works from bases in New York, Los Angeles, and Hawaii. He continues to forge new alliances between art and medicine from world-wide resources.



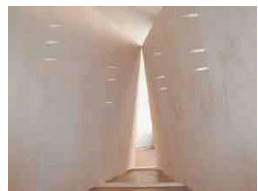
grimanesa amoros



margaret evangeline



ginger andro and chuck glicksman



s- (homage to mark foo)



christopher saunders

1

list of artists:

daiki wakachi
michelle lopez
long nguyen
qui zhijie
pan xing lei
maghan leborious
catya plate
stas orlovski
sarah loviitt
allan desouza
mark depman
jeff wyckoff
heather sparks
gordon matta-clarke
ann hamilton
marina abramovic
oscar muñoz
wendy jacob
montien boonma
pak keung wan
david shaw
roland flexner
rey akdogan
william anastasi
dove bradshaw
thomas caggiano
carla rocha
wendy jacob
stephen lang
robert narracci
dennis oppenheim
marco scoffier
ian curry
mariko tanaka
anexandra charriol
grimanesa amoros
christopher saunders
catya plate
ginger andro
chuck glicksman
lance fung
richard humann
top changtrakul
nathan elbogen

the book

2

why

Artistic interest in health-related issues has intensified with the growing anxiety over bio-terrorism, genetic manipulation, pandemics, life expectancy, sophisticated drug delivery, and HIV-AIDS — taken in the face of intensification of imagery of marketing and journalism. Art's 'response' is playing an unexpected role in this discourse by developing new forms and revising general notions of representation. 'Curating' has developed into a crucial strategic factor in articulating the zone between scientific discovery and public understanding. Kóan-Jeff Baysa has redefined the exhibition as art-form and linked health-medical issues to global concerns.

The proposed book will include:

- samples of work of over 200 artists from over 30 exhibitions
- essays by critics, artists, and curators
- a threaded narrative about the relations between art and medicine
- interviews with Kóan-Jeff Baysa, MD

The book will benefit from the visual richness of the over 200 artists Kóan-Jeff Baysa has included in exhibitions over the past 15 years. Essays by co-curators and others interested in the art-medicine relation will be linked by a running narrative and punctuated by a series of interviews with Baysa.

The book will employ an 'acoustic' metaphor to organize margins, texts, and graphics in terms of echoes, voices, resonance chambers, silences, and the phenomenon of 'voix acousmatique' (the unseen voice).

essays proposed by:

dominique nahas
donald kunze
simone ostroff
marco frascari

topics

skin
blood
gravity
marks
representation
digital photography
condom design
propriocept
stereognosis
anxious landscape
shadow
fear
smell
touch
body image
food
death
visibility/invisibility
minority artists
art for handicapped
memory
tuberculosis in art
stendhal syndrome
synæsthesia
pointing
four humors
symptoms as signs
cadavers
nothingness
phlogiston
asian artists
emerging art forms
sexuality

3

www.paperveins.org

PAPER VEINS develops the marked but silent territory between medicine and art, filling in the gap with artists' maps of the body, its substances, its senses, and its responses to a world that is increasingly uncertain, global, and mirrored by a wealth of representation. Kóan-Jeff Baysa creates a new kind of curating that doubles as advocacy, research, and event.

NYARTDOC's basic features:

What is the book about?

The book follows the innovative curatorial work of Dr. Kóan-Jeff Baysa, MD, using exhibitions, essays, and a threaded narrative line to develop a case for exploring the way art ties together themes in medicine, behavior, and well being. Baysa's approach to curating is unique. He engages issues by creating a space between art and medicine, filling it with discourse, events, and the art of young, often minority artists.

What are the book's main themes and objectives?

The book intends to cultivate an audience for the use of curating as advocacy and the role of art in raising public awareness of both health issues and the political centrality of the arts. Baysa's curating reveals a gap between standard notions of the body and the real encounters that can too easily be concealed within the abstractions and specialist knowledge of epidemiology, physiology, and neurology.

What does the book do that is new, different, and better?

The book will engage its readers with the abundance of its illustrations of young artists. Its topics are novel and engaging for audiences who may originally lack an interest in either medicine or art. For professionals in both fields, however, Baysa's style of advocacy curating establishes a new paradigm. The essays will range over a variety of new critical ideas.

Summary statistics:

Diagrams and Illustrations: 60-80, estimated

Estimated Length of Book, 60,000 words, excluding acknowledgments,

Delivery date of manuscript: October 15, 2005

Description of the target market:

This is a book aimed at educators, health professionals, the general public, and artists. Baysa challenges art educators, producers, and curators to find new standards and regain the ground lost with the 20th century public's cultivated indifference to the fine arts. His most exciting proposition is about how curating can be used to bring together new communities. His 'raw materials' come from the native ground of artists working locally, thinking globally. Given a new turn by his exploration of such medical phenomena as dermatome, propriocept, HIV-AIDS, and perception, these works find themes appealing to broad audiences. By raising awareness of our institutional and political framing of disease, disability, and the human body, Baysa's exhibits enter the arena of popular advocacy and health policy. There would be very few readers connected to issues of health care and art *not* interested in the art, the method, or the results of this new form of public speech.