

John Giorno



Looped footage of John Giorno, *Sleep* by Andy Warhol, 1963



John Giorno at 222 Bowery,
1969

Photo by Gianfranco Mantegna

John Giorno, Brion Gysin, Wynn Chamberlain, John Giorno, Panna Grady, and John McKendry
Rhinebeck, New York, May 31 1965.



John Giorno with **Dial-a-Poem**,
1970
Image courtesy of the John Giorno Foundation

John Giorno with **Dial-a-Poem**,
1970
Photo by Gianfranco Mantegna. Image courtesy of the John Giorno Foundation



People using Dial-A-Poem,
1970

Image courtesy of the John Giorno Foundation



John Giorno, **The Dial-A-Poem Poets, LP Cover, 1972**

Photograph and design by Les Levine
Image courtesy of the John Giorno Foundation

John Giorno, **The Dial-A-Poem Poets, Totally Corrupt, LP Cover, 1976**

Image courtesy of the John Giorno Foundation



John Giorno, reading, Paris, France,
1976

John Giorno reading at Centre Pompidou, Paris, France,
Jun 10 1983
Photo by Francoise Janicot

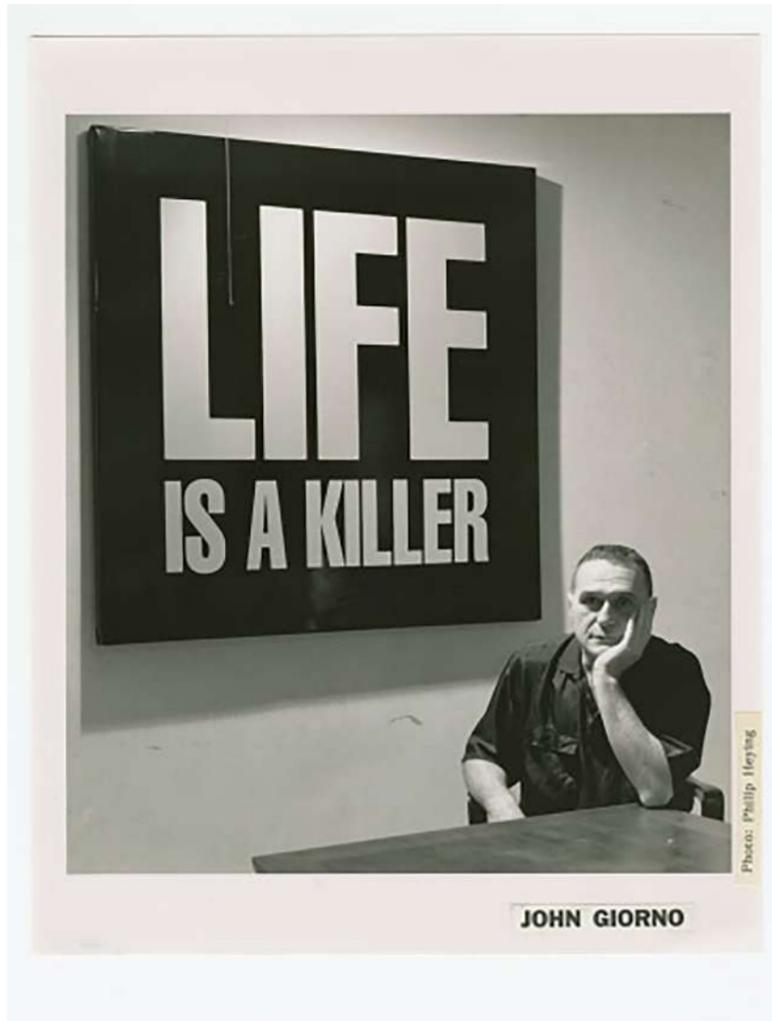


John Giorno reading at City Lights Italia Festival, Florence, Italy,
May 4 1998
Photo by Michele Corleone

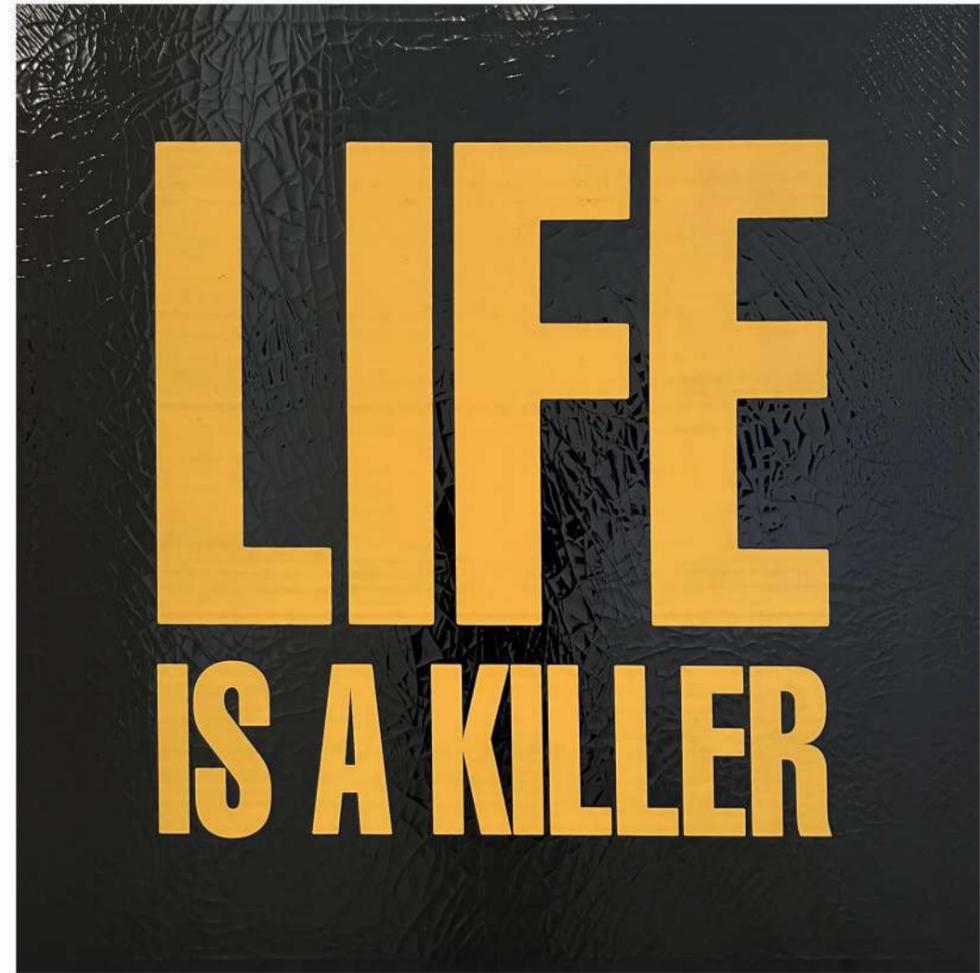


John Giorno, **Life is a killer**,
1989

John Giorno, **Portrait**,
2018

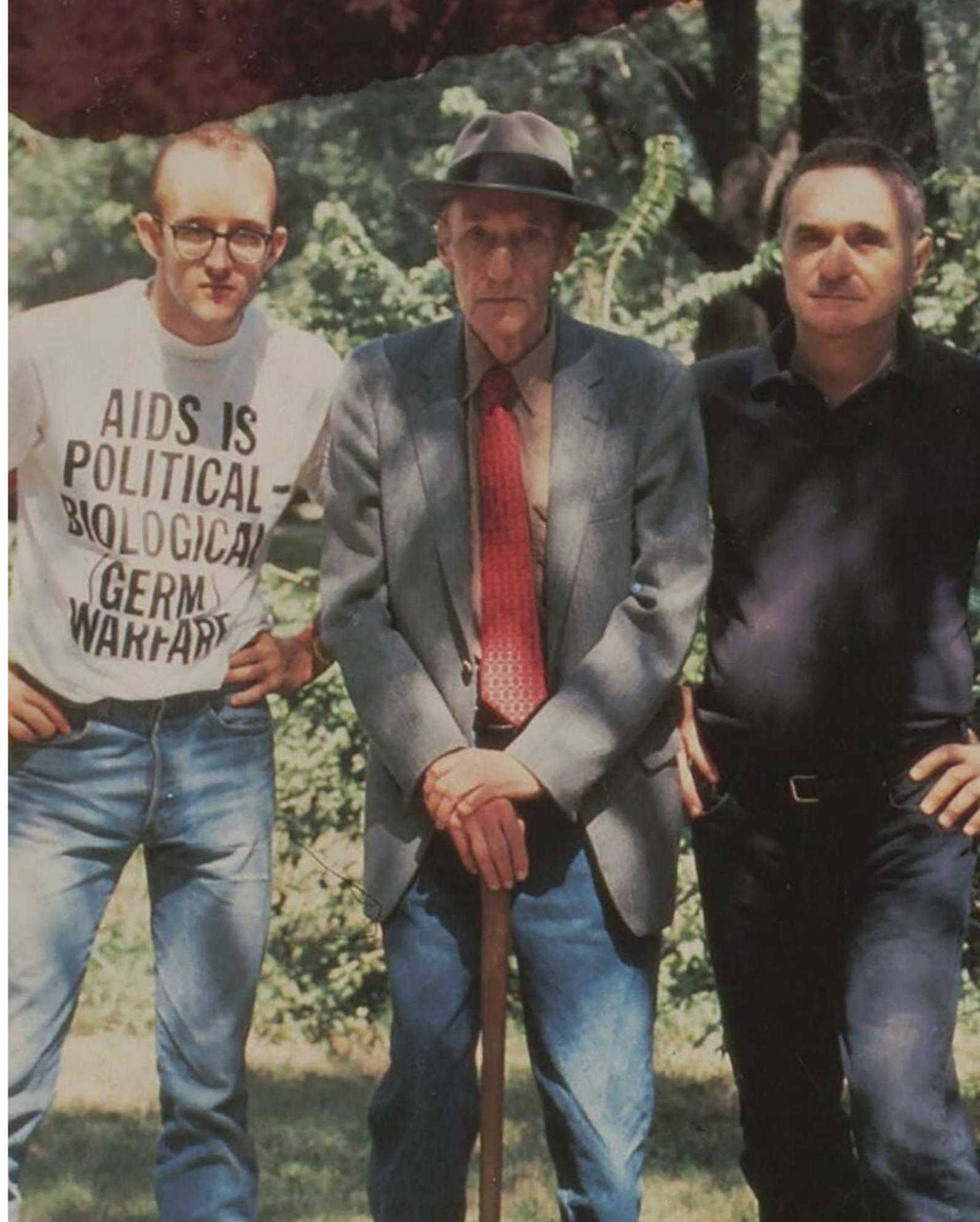


John Giorno, **Life is a Killer**, 1989
Mixed technique on canvas, 130 x130 cm

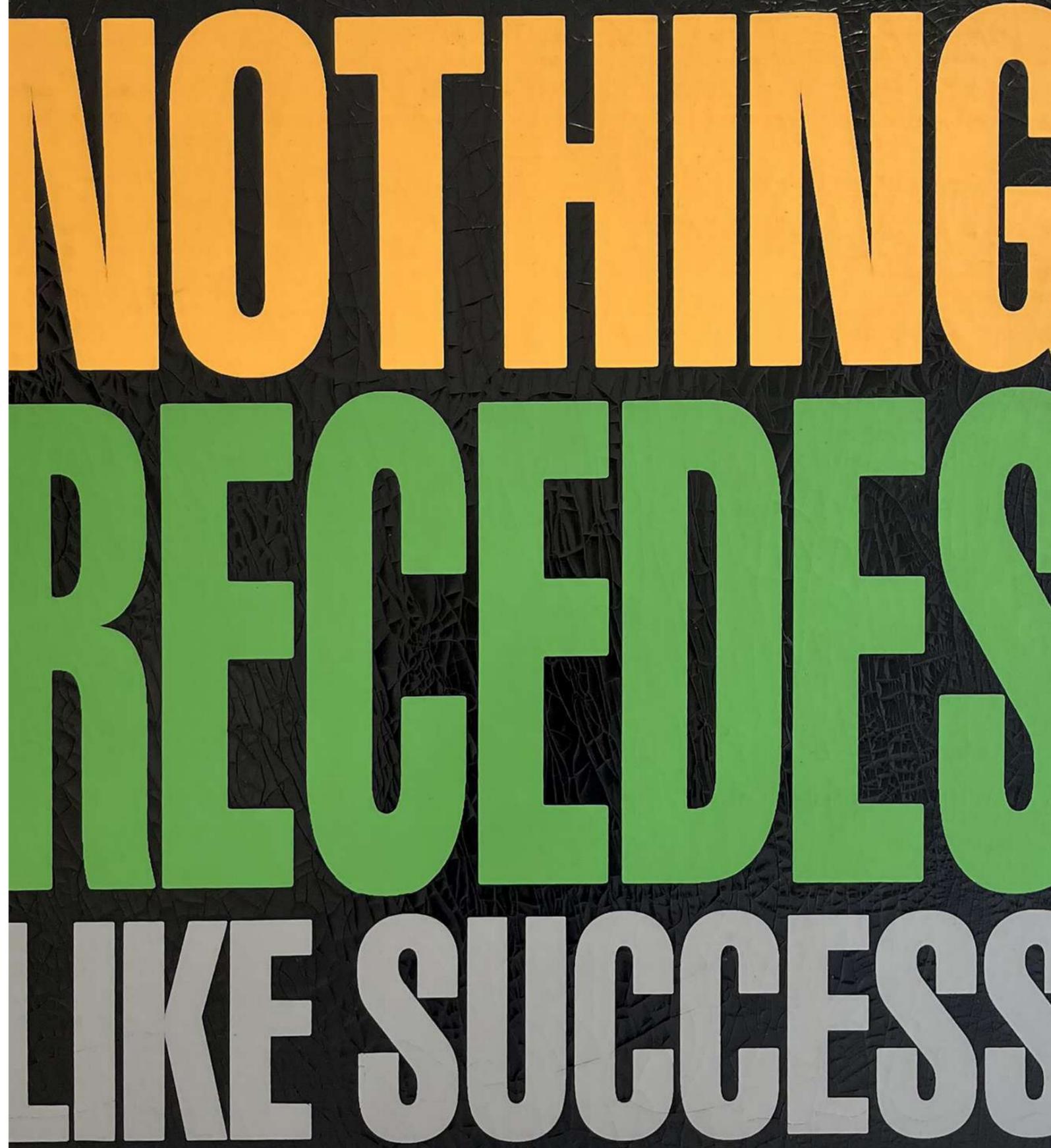
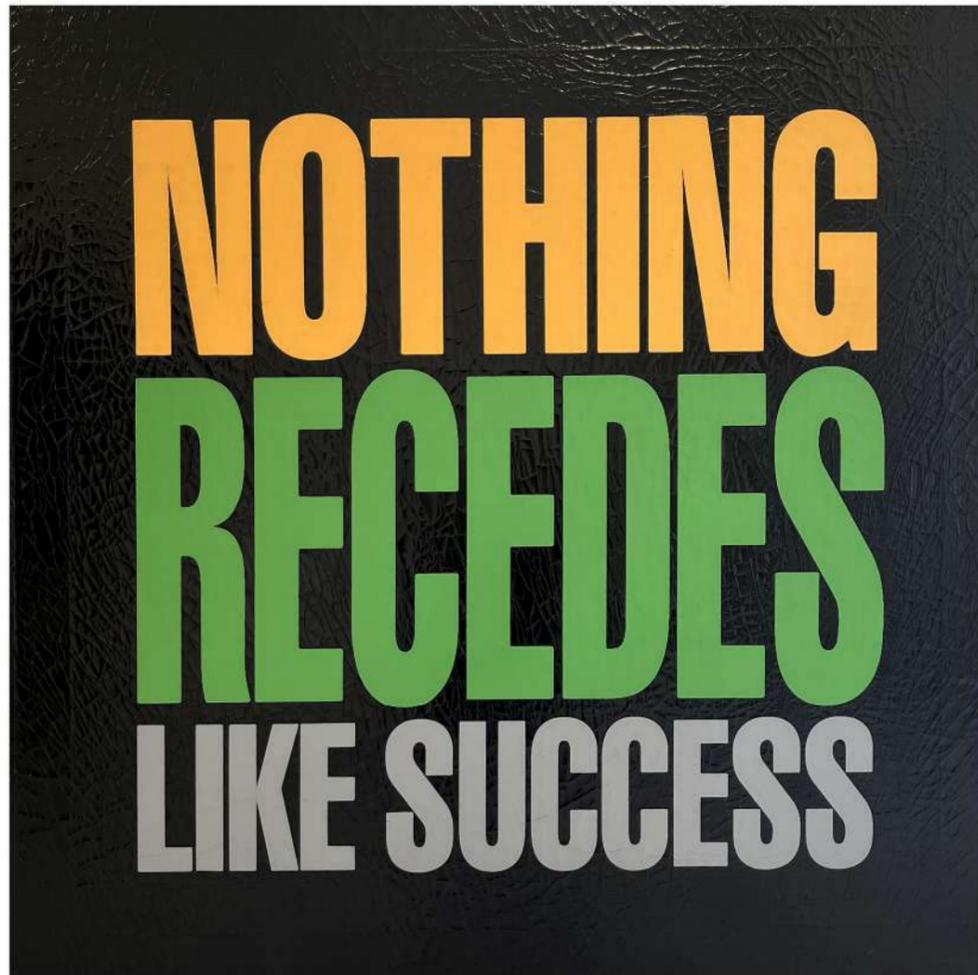




Keith Haring, William Burroughs, and John Giorno in Kansas
Photo by Tseng Kwong Chi, 1987 © Muna Tseng Dance Projects, Inc., New York



John Giorno, **Nothing recedes like success**, 1989
Mixed technique on pcv, 121 x 121 cm



John Giorno at **Almine Rech, Paris,**
2009



John Giorno at Almine Rech, Brussels,
2010







**THE WORLD
JUST MAKES
ME LAUGH**

**LIFE
IS A KILLER**



John Giorno at MoMA, New York City,
2012
Digital Image © 2016 The Museum of Modern Art, New York." Photographed by Thomas Griesel

Textual information panels on the left wall, including a large block of text on the left and a smaller vertical panel on the right.



HEIGHT EL
WEIGHT EVEN
SEVEN

TALK
WALK
TALK
WALK
TALK
WALK
TALK



John Giorno at **Le Cri du Mur**, Paris,
2012

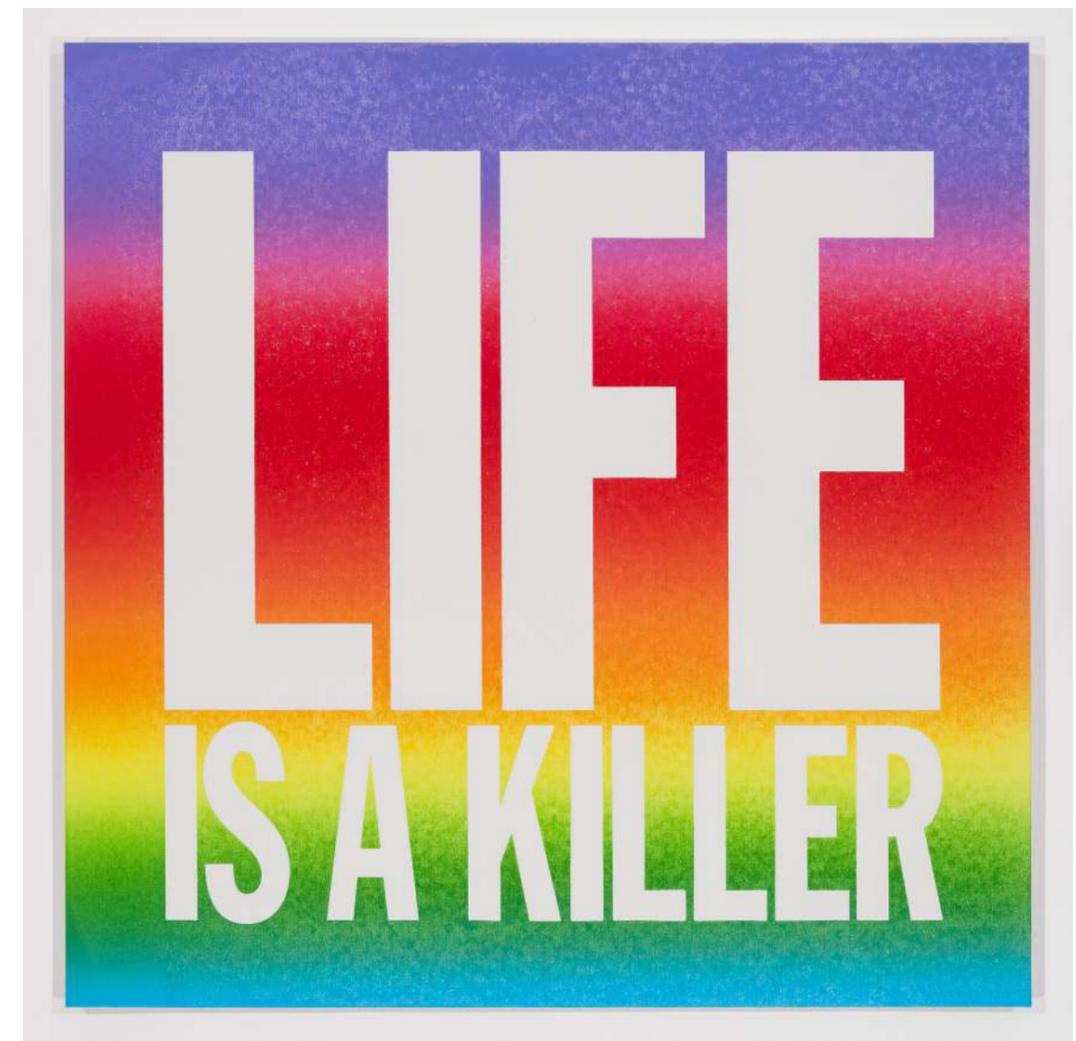


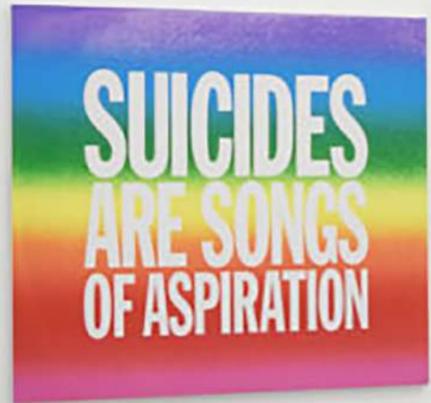
John Giorno at Le Cri du Mur, Paris,
2012



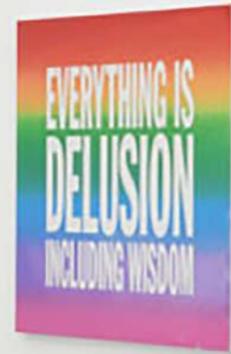
John Giorno, **Everything is delusion including wisdom**, 2015,
101,6 x 101,6 cm

John Giorno, **Life is a Killer**, 2015,
40 x 40 cm, 121.6 x 121.6 cm





**SUICIDES
ARE SONGS
OF ASPIRATION**



**EVERYTHING IS
DELUSION
INCLUDING WISDOM**



**EVERYONE
GETS
LIGHTER**



**WORDS
COME FROM SOUND
SOUND
COMES FROM WISDOM
WISDOM
COMES FROM
EMPTINESS**



HURRICANE
A DROP
OF CUM

DON'T
WAIT
FOR ANYTHING

EVERYONE
GETS
LIGHTER

WORDS
COME FROM SOUND
WISDOM
COMES FROM
EMPTINESS

HEAVIER THAN
HEAVEN
IT'S NOT WHAT
HAPPENS
IT'S HOW YOU
HANDLE IT

CHACUN
EST UNE DECEPTION
TOTALE

THE WORLD
JUST WALKS
THE WORLD

IT DOESN'T
GET
BETTER

IT'S NOT
WHAT HAPPENS
IT'S HOW
YOU HANDLE IT

*I will continue to see you and not see you until
de nos corps y sont dans la flux corporel J.J.G.*



John Giorno and Ugo Rondinone at I <3 John Giorno, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 2015

John Giorno and Ugo Rondinone, 2019



John Giorno, I <3 John Giorno, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 2015



John Giorno, I <3 John Giorno, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 2015



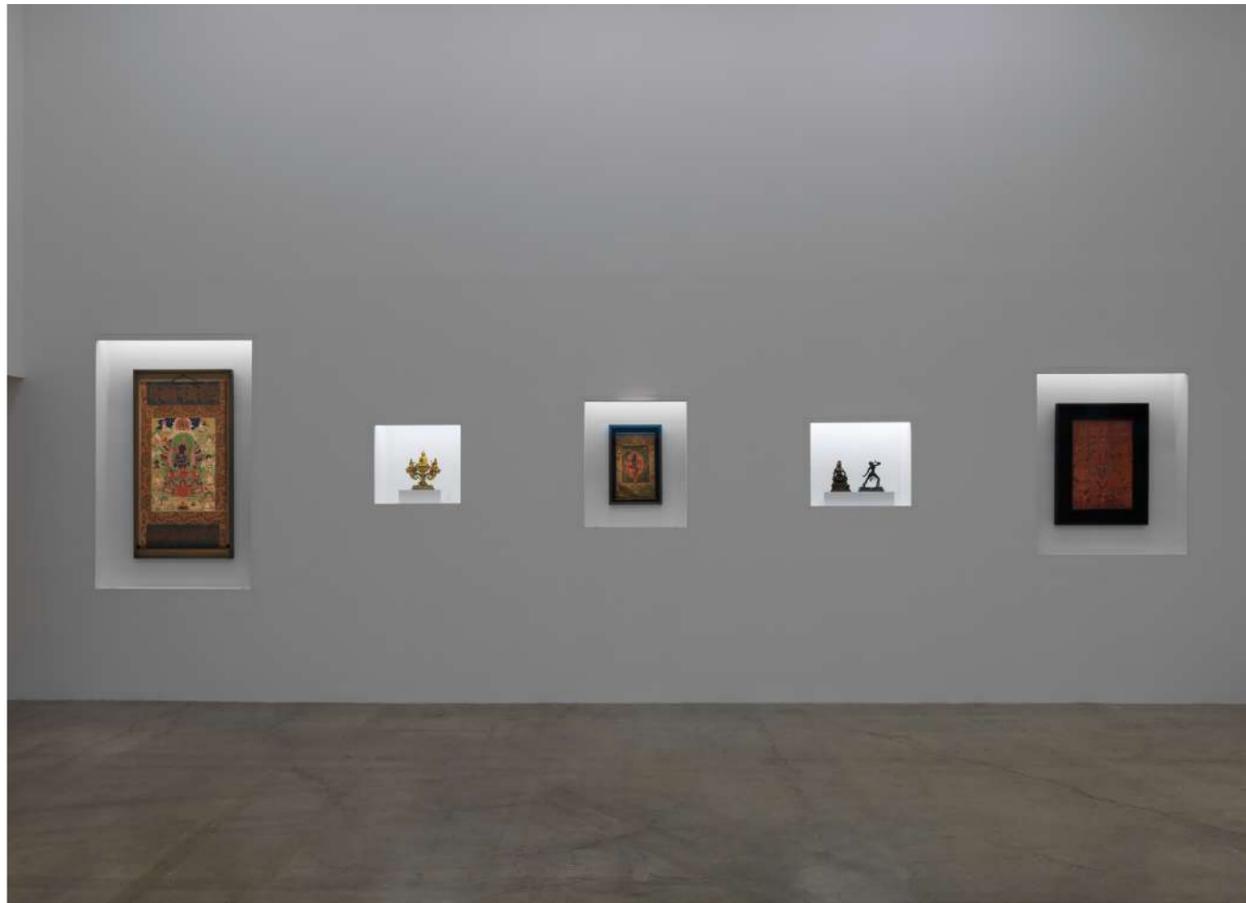
John Giorno, I <3 John Giorno, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 2015



John Giorno, I <3 John Giorno, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 2015



John Giorno, I <3 John Giorno, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 2015





John Giorno, I <3 John Giorno, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 2015



John Giorno, I <3 John Giorno, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 2015



John Giorno, solo show *Voyages d'Hiver*, Chateau de Versailles, 2017

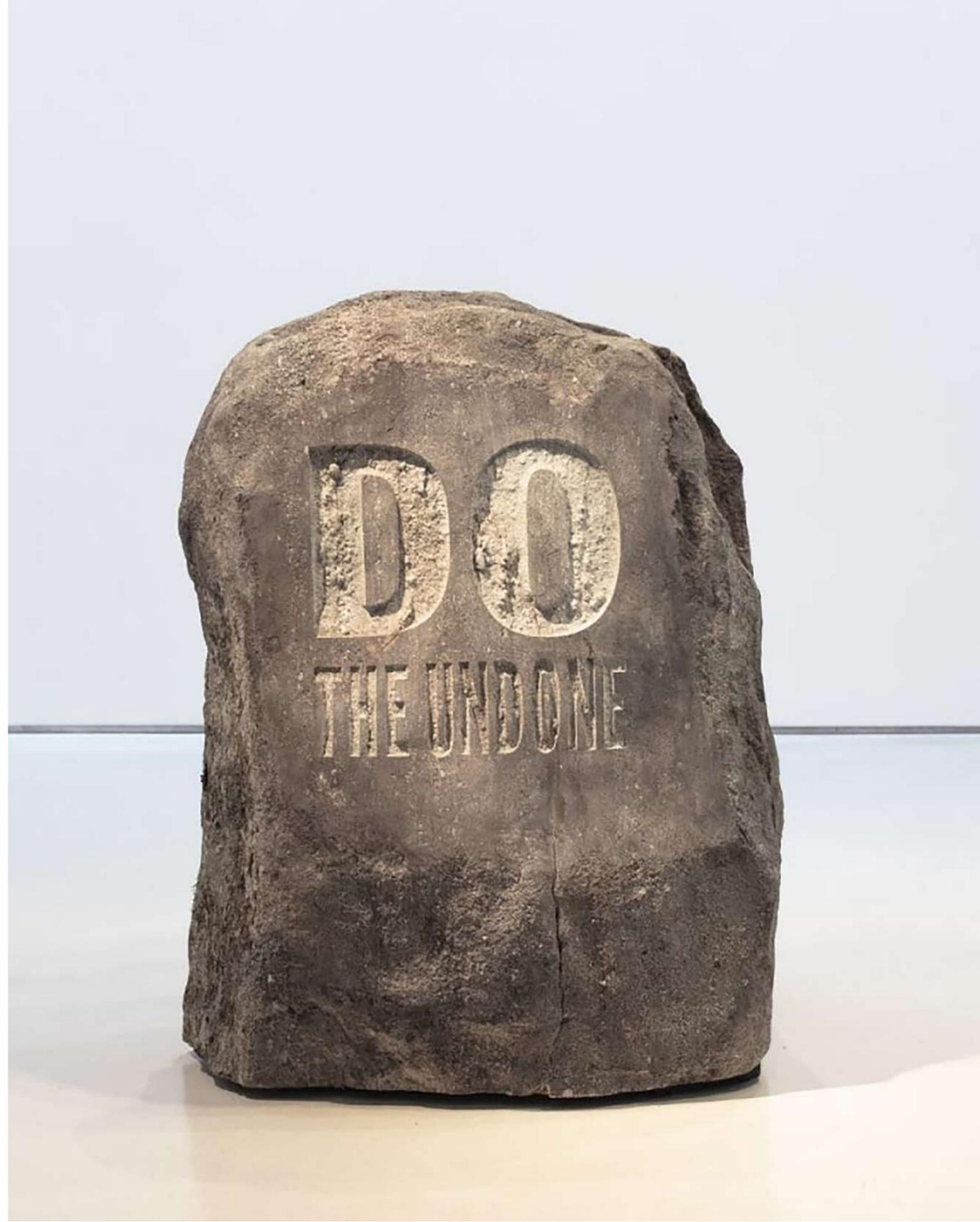
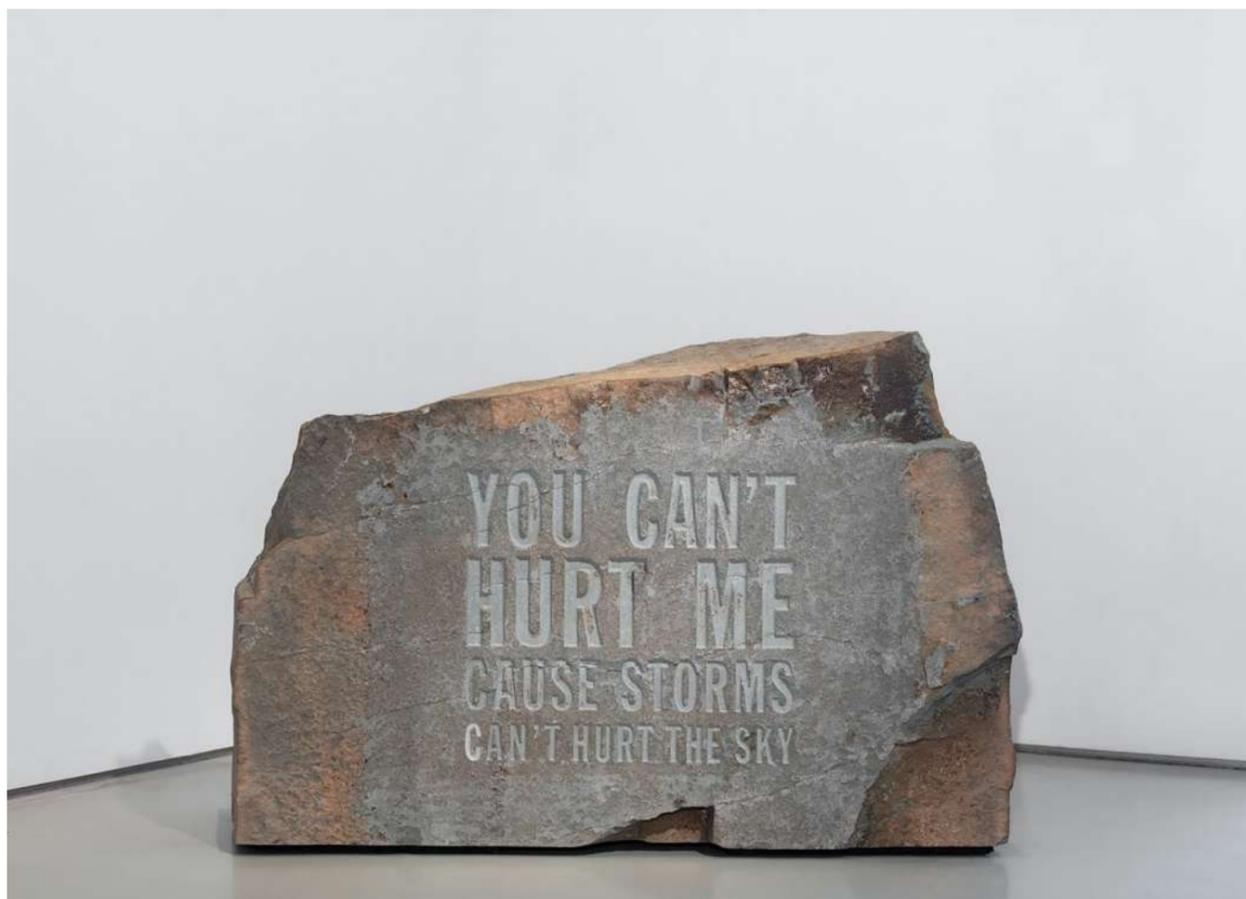




WE GAVE A PARTY FOR
THE GODS
AND THE GODS
ALL CAME

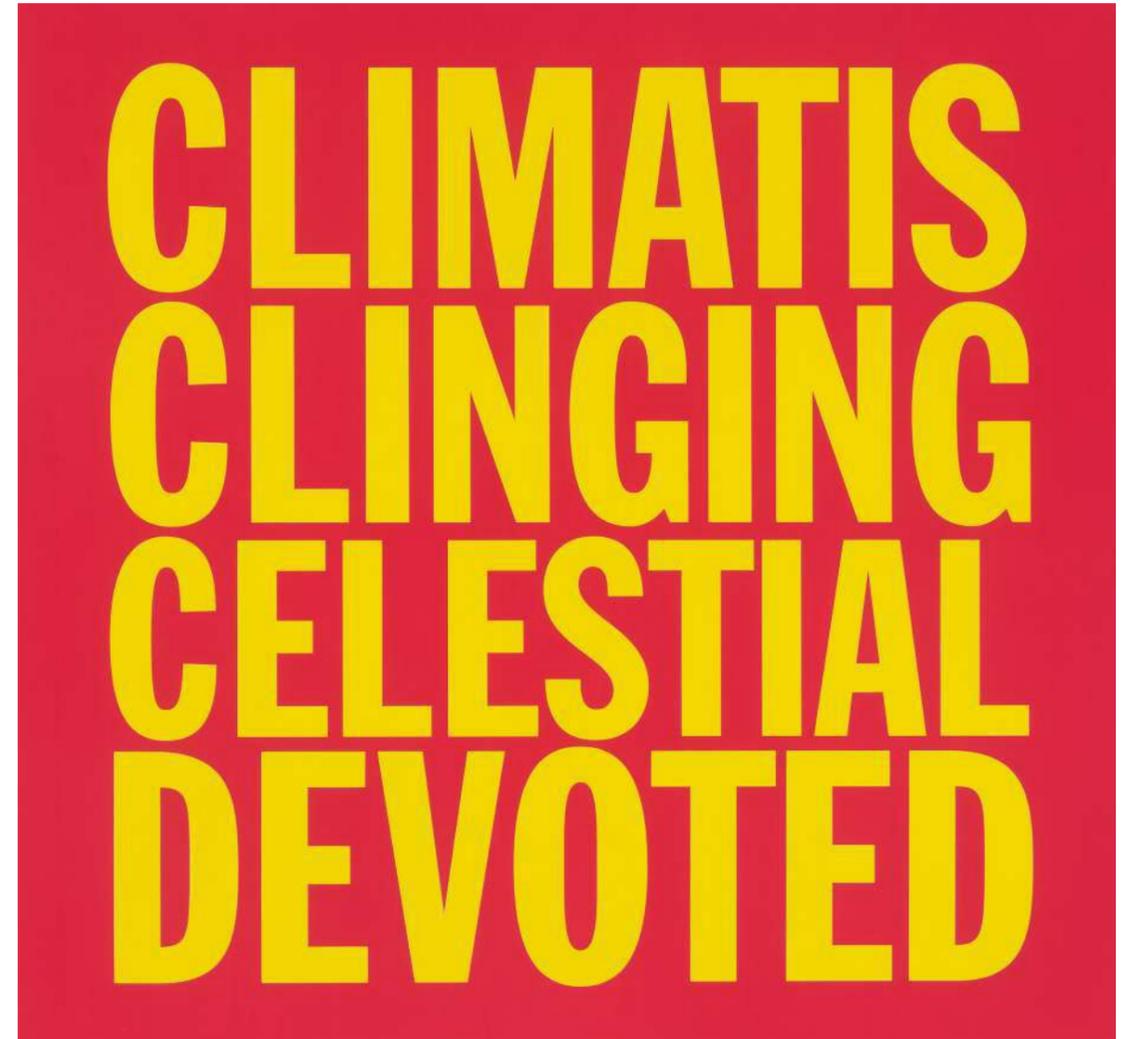
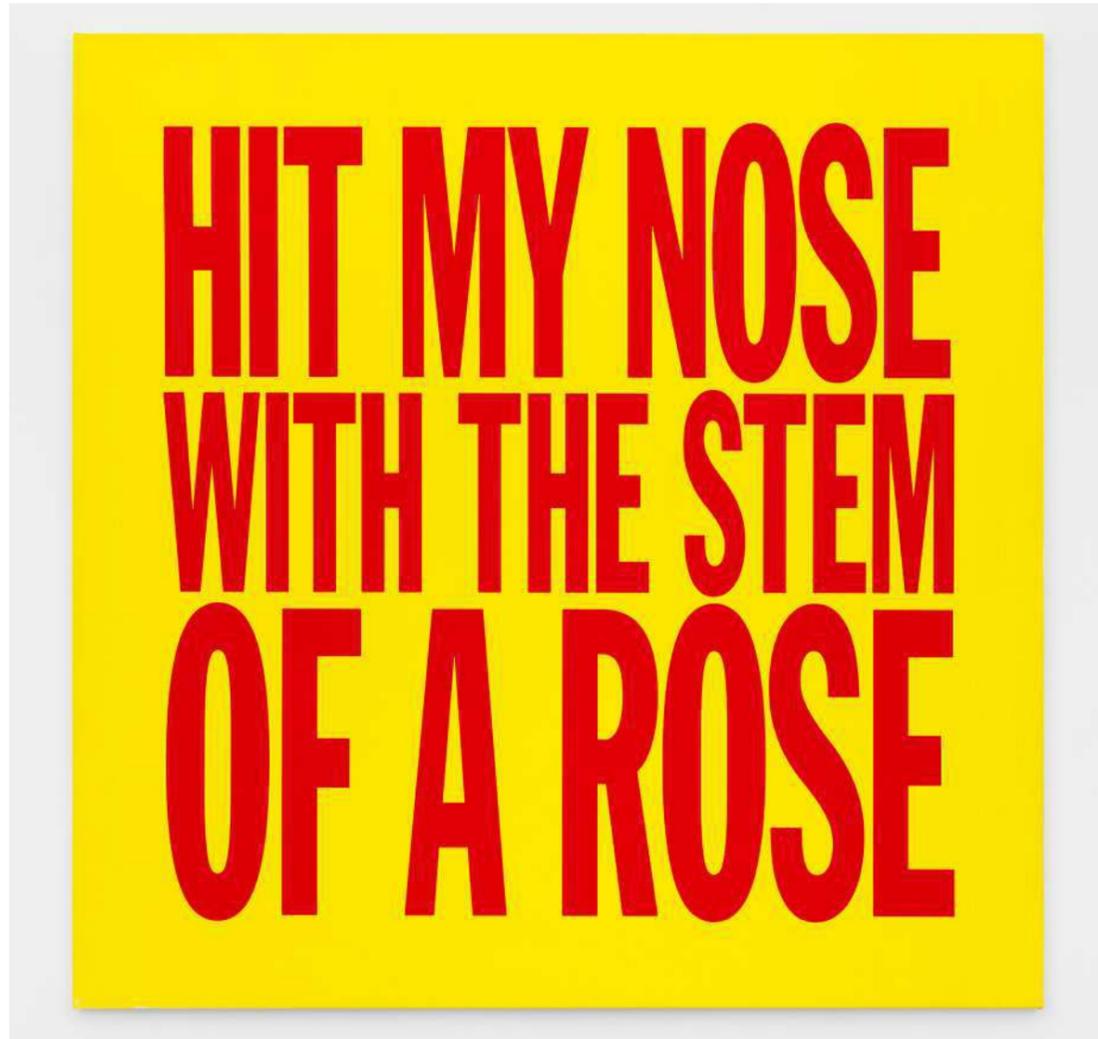
John Giorno, **You cant hurt me cause storms can't hurt the sky**, 2019,
Bluestone, 36 x 56 x 18 cm

John Giorno, **Do the undone**, 2019,
Bluestone, 43 x 36 x 31cm



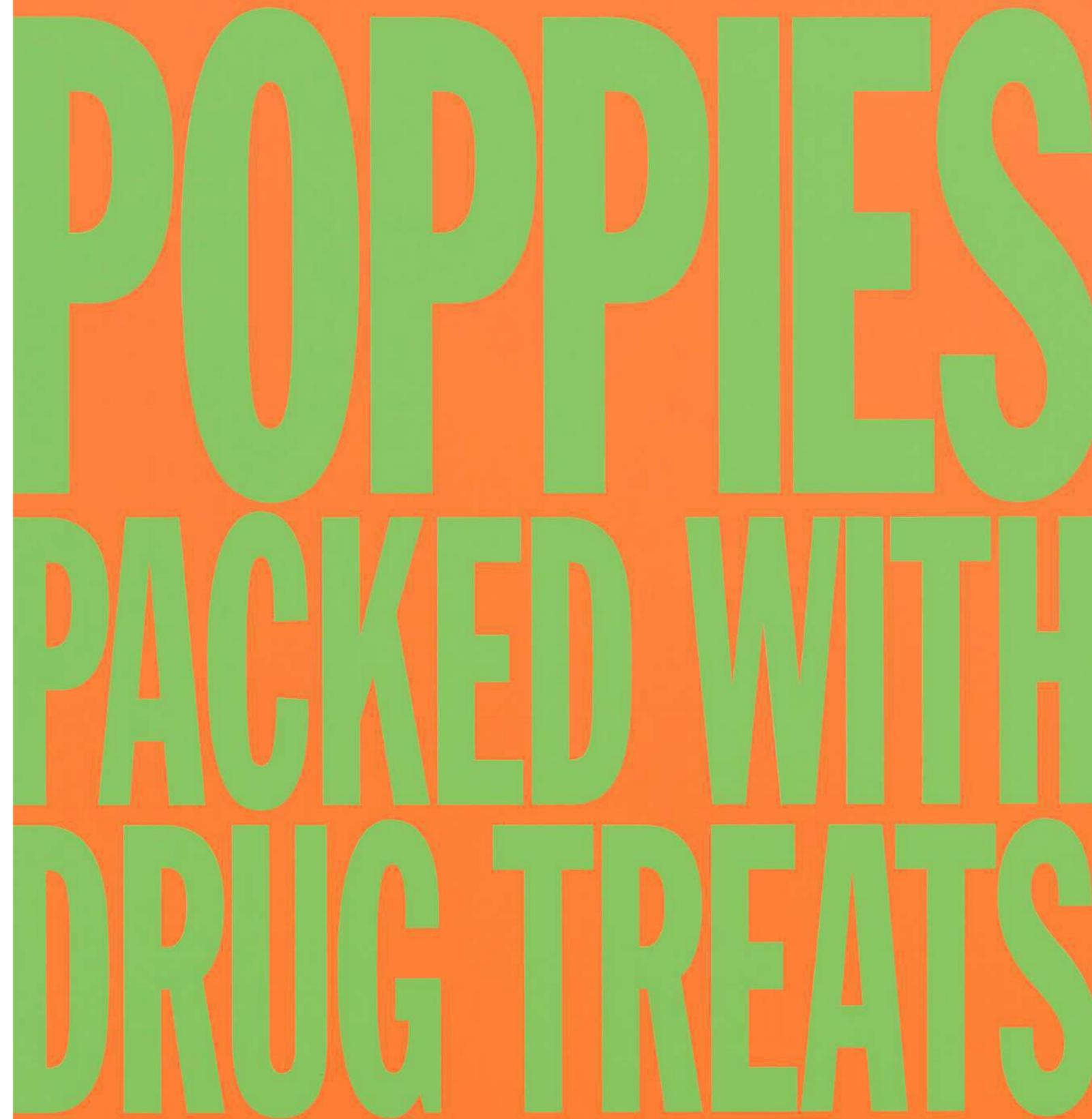
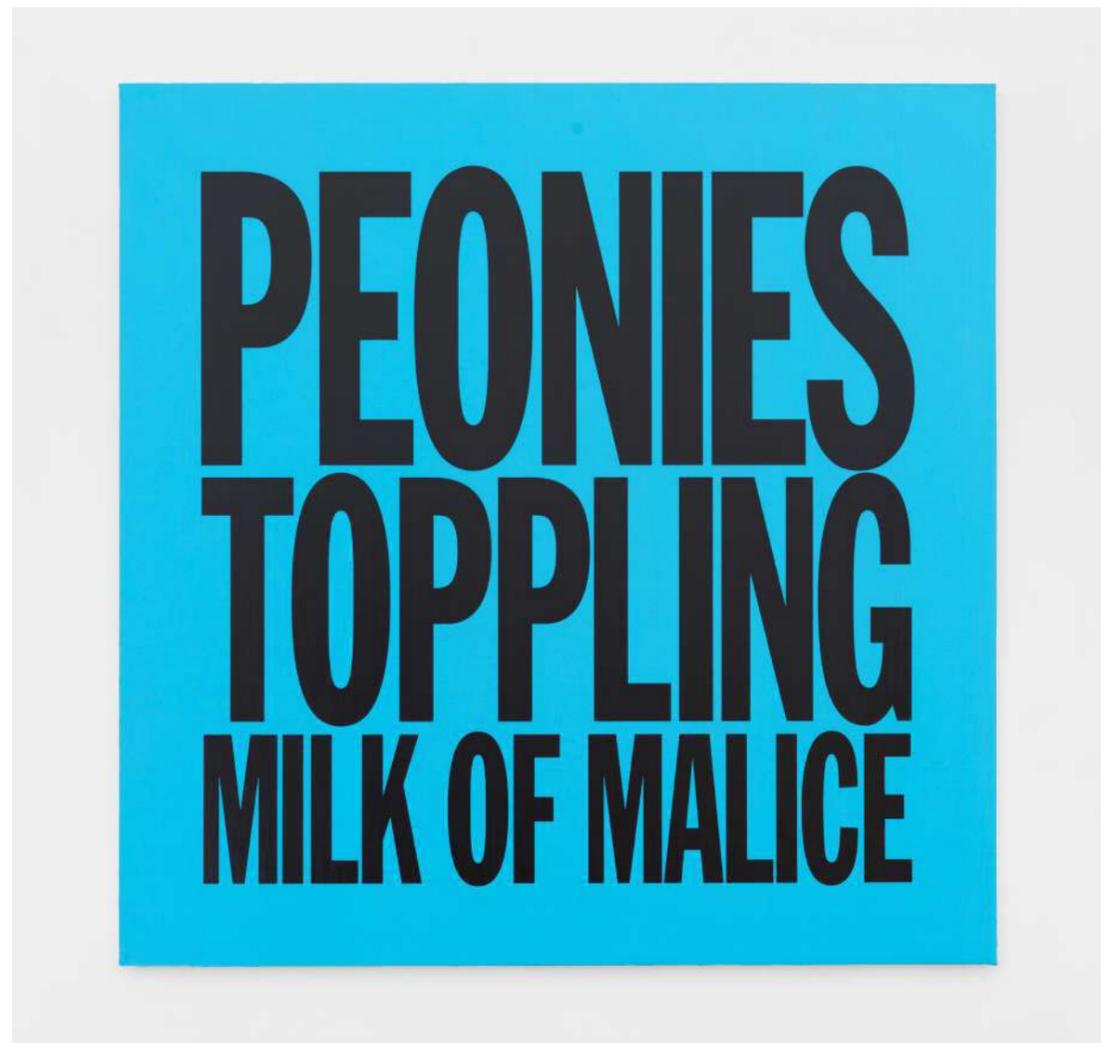
John Giorno, **Hit my nose with the stem of a rose**, 2017
Acrylic on canvas, 101,6 x 101,6 cm

John Giorno, **Climatis clinging celestial devoted**, 2017
Acrylic on canvas, 101,6 x 101,6 cm



John Giorno, **Peonies toppling milk of malice**, 2017
Acrylic on canvas, 101,6 x 101,6 cm

John Giorno, **Poppies packed with drug treats**, 2017
Acrylic on canvas, 101,6 x 101,6 cm





John Giorno, **Waterlillies sucking mud**, 2017
Acrylic on canvas, 101,6 x 101,6 cm

John Giorno, **Chrysanthemums are a gardland of skulls**, 2017
Acrylic on canvas, 101,6 x 101,6 cm

**WATERLILLIES
SUUCKING
MUD**

**CHRYSANTHEMUMS
ARE A GARLAND
OF SKULLS**

ZINNIAS
SHOUT
POSITIVE PARANOIA

John Giorno, **Zinnias shout positive paranoia**, 2017,
Acrylic on canvas, 101,6 x 101,6 cm

John Giorno, **Iris purple spears unsheath wrestling wrathful**, 2017,
Acrylic on canvas, 101,6 x 101,6 cm

IRIS
PURPLE SPEARS
UNSHEATH
WRESTLING WRATHFUL



**LIFE
IS A KILLER**

**PREFER
CRYING IN A LIMO
TO LAUGHING ON A BUS**

I keep
repeating
this
to myself

**EATING
THE SKY**

and you always
get everything
you want
only you
get it
after you
stop
wanting it,

**EVERYONE
GETS
LIGHTER**

repeat
correct. It's like
being a kid
in a car.

**WORDS
COME FROM SOUND
SOUND
COMES FROM WISDOM
WISDOM
COMES FROM
EMPTINESS**

John Giorno, I <3 John Giorno, Ugo Rondinone, Artists space, High Line, Howl, The Kitchen, New Museum, Red Bull Studios, Sky Arts, Swiss Institute, White Columns, Hunter College
2017



John Giorno, I <3 John Giorno, Ugo Rondinone, Artists space, High Line, Howl, The Kitchen, New Museum, Red Bull Studios, Sky Arts, Swiss Institute, White Columns, Hunter College
2017





EXIT

RAGGA NYC
All the strongest and delicious things joining one another

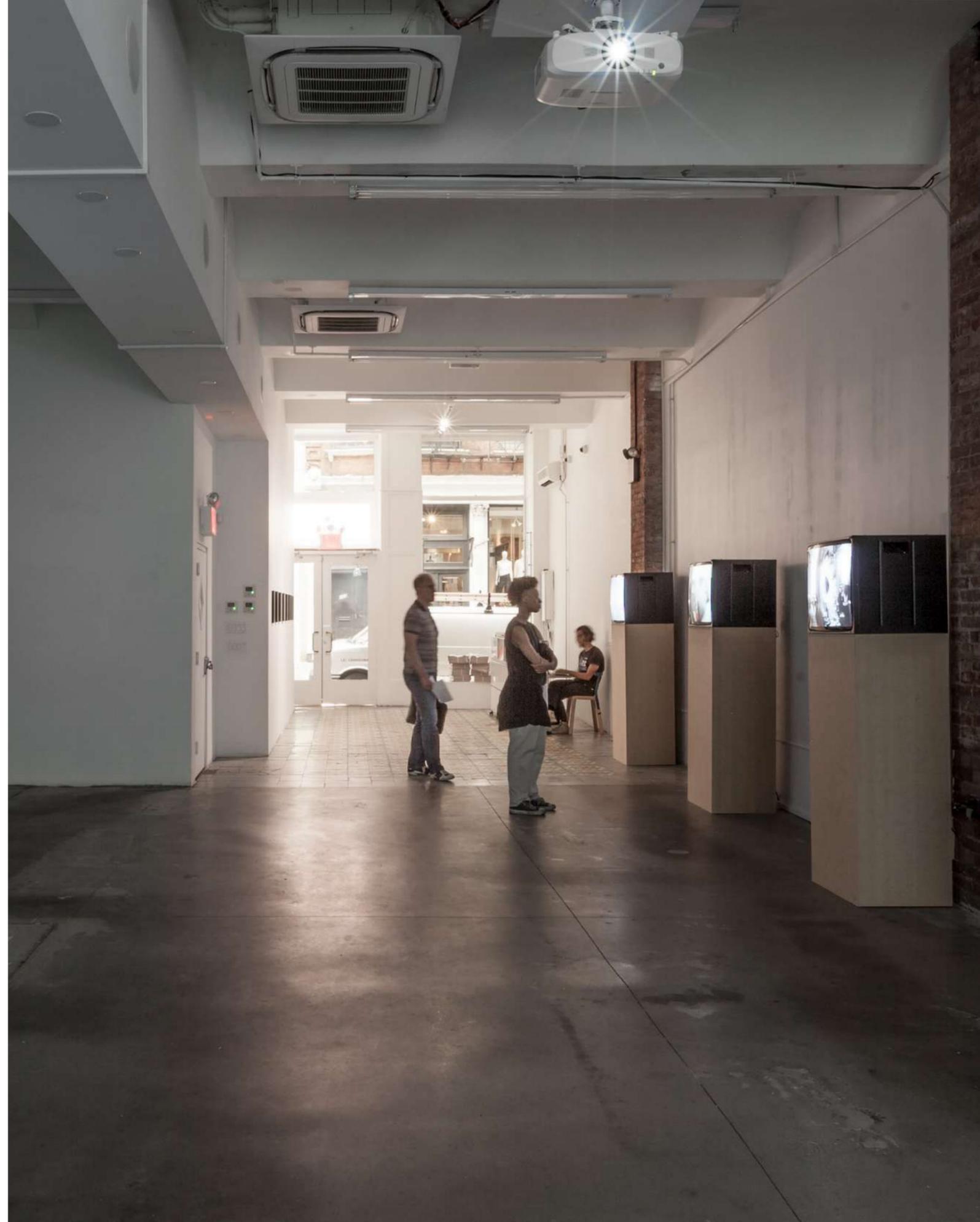
FREE DOCENT TOURS

Tuesday	12:00 PM
Wednesday	12:00 & 2:00 PM
Thursday	12:00 PM
Friday	12:00 & 2:00 PM
Saturday	12:00 & 2:00 PM

MARCIATUCKERHILL



John Giorno, I <3 John Giorno, Ugo Rondinone, Artists space, High Line, Howl, The Kitchen, New Museum, Red Bull Studios, Sky Arts, Swiss Institute, White Columns, Hunter College
2017



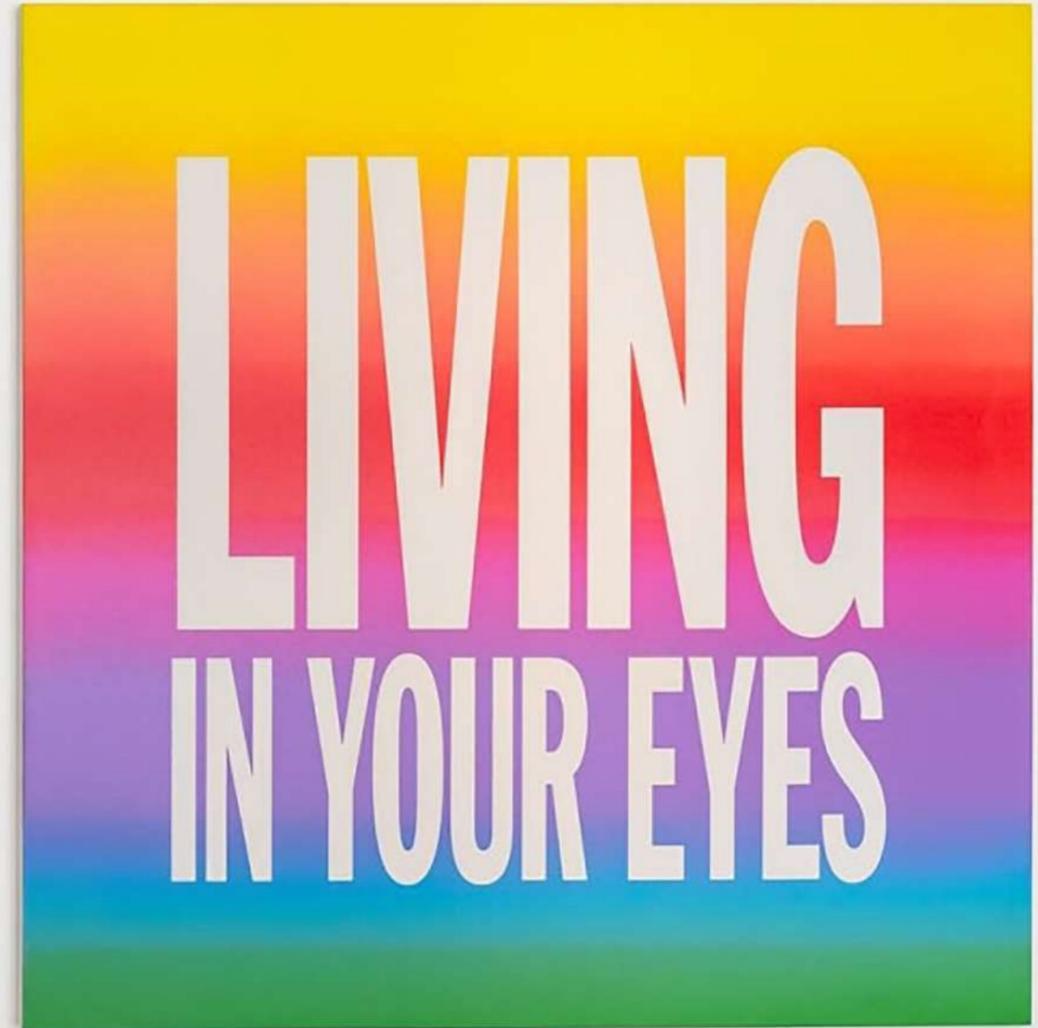
John Giorno, I <3 John Giorno, Ugo Rondinone, Artists space, High Line, Howl, The Kitchen, New Museum, Red Bull Studios, Sky Arts, Swiss Institute, White Columns, Hunter College
2017





John Giorno, *Dial-A-Poem, Push Button Edition Phone*, 2019
Image courtesy of the John Giorno Foundation







IT DOESN'T
GET
BETTER

FILLING
WHAT IS EMPTY
EMPTYING
WHAT IS FULL

THANK
4
NOTHING

A HURRICANE
IN A DROP
OF CUM

HAPPY
THANK YOU
MORE PLEASE

GOD
IS MAN MADE

LIVING
IN YOUR EYES

WORDS
COME FROM SOUND
SOUND
COMES FROM WISDOM
WISDOM
COMES FROM
EMPTINESS

EATING
THE SKY

WHY BECOME
A DROP
OF CUM

HAPPY
THANK YOU
MORE PLEASE

LET'S
PROFESS

GOD
IS AWAY

LIVING
IN YOUR EYES

WORDS
COME FROM SOUND
SOUND
COMES FROM WISDOM
WISDOM
COMES FROM
EMPTINESS

LEAVING
THE SKY

DON'T
WAIT
FOR ANYTHING

THE WORLD
JUST MAKES
ME LAUGH

LIFE
IS A KILLER



CHRYSANTHEMUMS
ARE A GARLAND
OF SKULLS



GIORNO
GIORNO
GIORNO



IRIS
PURPLE SPEARS
UNSHEATH
WRESTLING WRATHFUL





**CARNATIONS
GLORIOUSLY
SELF-SERVING**

**DAFFODILS
BAPTIZED
IN BUTTER**

**LAVENDER
LAUGHING
LUSTFUL**

**GARDENIA
SWEETEN THE AIR
SEDUCINGLY SLY**

The Glenn and Eva Dubin Gallery

DIAL-A-POEM

+1 (917) 994-8949





“John Giorno, I Am A Poet”, installation view at **Almine Rech Gallery, Shanghai, China, 2023**



HIT MY NOSE
WITH THE STEM
OF A ROSE

CLIMATIS
CLINGING
CELESTIAL
DEVOTED

UNWEAPON
WRESTLING
WRATHFUL

IRIS
PURPLE SPEARS
UNSHEATH
WRESTLING WRATHFUL

DAFFODILS
BAPTIZED
IN BUTTER

ZINNIA
SHOUT
PURPLE PRINCE

CLIMATIS
CLINGING
CELESTIAL
DEVOTED

F
M

“John Giorno, Perfect Flowers” installation view at **Thomas Brambilla Gallery, Bergamo, Italy, 2023**





**PEONIES
TOPPLING
MILK OF MALICE**

**DAFFODILS
BAPTIZED
IN BUTTER**

**ZINNIAS
SHOUT
POSITIVE PARANOIA**

**CLIMATIS
CLINGING
CELESTIAL
DEVOTED**

**PEONIES
TOPPLING
MILK OF MALICE**

**WATERLILLIES
SUCKING
MUD**

**ALMOST
MISS AMERICA
ROSE**

**FOXGLOVE
CARILLON
CRYING
PEARLS**

**POPPIES
PACKED WITH
DRUG TREATS**

American poet and performance artist, John Giorno (1936-2019) is considered a leading figure of the Beat Generation, a group of American post-World War II writers who came to prominence in the 1950s through the cultural phenomena that they both documented and inspired. Born in New York in 1936, Giorno graduated from Columbia University in 1958. He briefly worked as a stockbroker in New York before meeting Andy Warhol in 1962. The pair became lovers and Warhol remained an important influence for Giorno's developments on poetry, performance and recordings. Further inspired by subsequent relationships with Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg, Giorno began applying Pop Art techniques of appropriation of found imagery to his poetry, producing *The American Book of the Dead* in 1964. That same year, he began applying cut up and montage techniques to found texts. His first audio poem piece of this sort was played at the Paris Museum of Modern Art Biennale in 1965. He founded the not-for-profit production company, Giorno Poetry Systems, and organized a number of multimedia poetry experiments and events, including *Dial-A-Poem*. In 1970, his *Dial-A-Poem* installation at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, connected words and images to

confront audiences with poetry in different contexts. The work of John Giorno embraces two disciplines: poetry and art, which have been a source of mutual fascination and inspiration for the artist. Harboring a close kinship with William Burroughs, Robert Rauschenberg, and Andy Warhol, for whom he starred in the famous film, *Sleep* (1963), Giorno is recognized today as one of the most influential poets of his generation. He is also considered the inventor of Performance Poetry, and of *Dial-A-Poem* - a free telephone line to connect listeners to recordings of original works of poetry. Giorno's words transform to images in his *Poem Paintings* which are short excerpts from his writings, phrases that have continually haunted him. At the crossroads between poetry, visual arts, music and performance, Giorno's work directs itself toward a broad public, redefining the capabilities of poetry and linguistic form. In 2008, the first career-spanning collection of Giorno's poems, *Subduing Demons in America: Selected Poems 1962-2007*, was published. His first solo show, *Black Paintings and Drawings*, was held at Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery in New York in 2012. Giorno is an AIDS activist and fundraiser, and a longtime practitioner of the Nyingma tradition of Tibetan Buddhism.

John Giorno John Giorno (December 4, 1936 – October 11, 2019) was an American poet and performance artist.

Biography

John Giorno John Giorno (December 4, 1936 – October 11, 2019) was an American poet and performance artist.

Solo exhibitions

2023

Thomas Brambilla Gallery, Bergamo, Italy.
I Am A Poet, Almine Rech Gallery, Shanghai, China.

2022

Cherry Blossoms are Razor Blades, Morán Morán, Los Angeles, US.

2021

John Giorno, Almine Rech, London, UK.
John Giorno, Sperone Westwater, New York, US.

2019

John Giorno: DO THE UNDONE, Sperone Westwater, New York, US.

2017

Perfect Flowers, Elizabeth Dee Gallery, New York, US.
Space Forgets You, Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Zurich, CH.
Ugo Rondinone: I <3 John Giorno, a cross-institutional exhibition (Artists space, High Line, Howl, The Kitchen, New Museum, Red Bull Studios, Sky Arts, Swiss Institute, White Columns, Hunter College, New York, US.
John Giorno: New Work, Cahiers d'Art, Paris, FR .

2016

Le Case D'Arte, Milan, IT.

2015

Ugo Rondinone: I <3 John Giorno, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR.
God Is Man Made, Almine Rech Gallery, Paris.
Un mois autour de la poésie– John Giorno, Flux Laboratory, Carouge, CH.
Space Forgets You, Elizabeth Dee, New York, US.
John Giorno, Elizabeth Dee, New York, US.

2014

John Giorno, Max Wigram at Independent Projects, New York, US.

2013

Everyone Gets Lighter, Max Wigram Gallery, London.
Le cri du mur, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR.

2012

John Giorno - Paintings, Almine Rech Gallery, Paris, FR.
Thanx 4 Nothing, Faux Mouvement Centre d'Art contemporain, Metz, FR.
Interventions sur le bâtiment, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR.

2011

Star 69: Dial-A-Poem Relics, The Bauer Hotel, Campo San Moise, Venice, IT.

2010

Eating the Sky, Almine Rech Gallery, Brussels, BE.
Black Paintings and Drawings, Nicole Klagsbrun, New York.
Diagonales, Centre National des Arts Plastiques, Puteaux, FR
Sonopoetics (de la parole à l'image, de la poésie au son), Institut Supérieur pour l'Étude du Langage Plastique, Brussels, BE.

2009

LIFE IS A KILLER, Galerie Almine Rech, Paris, FR.
Thanx 4 Nothing: Drawings and Print Poems, Galerie du Jour Agnès b., Paris, FR.

2007

LA SAGEZZA DELLE STREGHE/ WISDOM OT THE WITCHES / LA SAGESSE DES SORCIÈRES, Kaplan Project n°3, Napoli, IT.

2005

Millions of Stars Come into my Heart, Welcome home, Galerie du Jour Agnès b., Paris, FR.

Selected group exhibitions

2023

Something Else Press and Intermedia (1963-1974), Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain.

2022

Fire Figure Fantasy, ICA Miami, Florida, US.
Pas Sommeil: La Fête Dans Tous Ses États, FRAC Bretagne, Rennes, France.
Space Forgets You, Dovecot Studios, Edinburgh, UK.
Nature Doesn't Know About Us, Sculpture Milwaukee, WI.
Phraseology, The Bass, Miami Beach, FL.

2021

From The Archives: White Columns & 112 Greene Street – 1970-2021, White Columns, New York, NY.
Petits papiers du 20e siècle, Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR.

I know where I'm going, Who can I be now?, The Modern Institute, Glasgow, UK.

Rites of Spring, LongHouse Reserve, Easthampton, NY.

WHAT A DUMP, David Zwirner, New York, NY.

OVR: Pioneers, Morán Morán for Art Basel (online).

Doomed and Famous: Selections from the Adrian Dannatt Collection, Miguel Abreu, New York, NY.

2020

Eva Presenhuber, Zurich, CH.
In Focus: Statements, Copenhagen Contemporary, Copenhagen.
Color & Complexity: 30 Years at Durham Press, Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, PA. Andy Warhol, Tate Modern, London, UK curated by Gregor Muir (catalog).
It Never Ends, Kanal Centre Pompidou, Brussels.
John Giorno Poetry Day, MAMCO, Geneva.

2019

Do The Undone, Sperone Westwater, New York, NY.
You Got to Burn to Shine, Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Rome.

2017

Voyage d'hiver, curated by The Palais de Tokyo, the Palace of Versailles, Versailles, France.
Call and Response: Recent Acquisitions from The Bass Collection, The Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach.
OVER THE RAINBOW, Praz-Delavallade Gallery, Los Angeles.
The World Is Sound, The Rubin Museum of Art, New York, US.

2016

SEEABLE/SAYABLE, Kunstnernes Hus, Oslo.
III Seen III Said, White Flag Projects, Saint Louis.
Looking Back / The 10th White Columns Annual, selected by Matthew Higgs, White Columns, New York.

2015

The Exhibition of a Film, by Matthew Copeland, Centre Pompidou, Paris.
Artists and Poets, Secession, Vienna.

2014

Platform, Curated by Nicolas Trembley, Almine Rech Gallery, Brussels.
Sed Tantum Dic Verbo (Just Say The Word), Blain Southern, Berlin.

2013

Ceremonie, Melina Gloss Gallery, Paris.
Futur simple: saison 1, FRAC Bourgogne, Dijon, France.
Kilomètres / heure, Musée du Château des ducs de Wurtemberg, Montbéliard, France.
39 Great Jones, Eva Presenhuber Gallery, Zurich.

2012

Le paysage, l'art et le fleuve, Estuaire Nantes ⇨ Saint-Nazaire, FR.
Ecstatic Alphabets / Heaps of Language, MoMA, NY, US.
Les Maîtres du désordre, Musée du quai Branly, Paris, FR.

2011

15 Minutes: Homage to Andy Warhol, Pollock Krasner House & Study Center, East Hampton, NY, US.
It's For You: Conceptual Art and the Telephone, Housatonic Museum of Art, Bridgeport, CT, US.
Star 69: Dial-A-Poem Relics, The Bauer Hotel, Campo San Moise, Venice, IT.
WE GAVE A PARTY FOR THE GODS AND THE GODS ALL CAME, last party, Kaplan's Project n°3, Napoli, IT.

2010

It's All American, Inaugural exhibition, New Jersey Museum of Contemporary Art, NJ, US.
Rip It Up and Start Again, Artists Space, New York, NY, US



2009

Modern modern, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY, US.

2008

Traces du Sacré, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, FR.

Printed in France, Jordan Seydoux Gallery, Berlin, DE.

Martian Museum of Terrestrial Art, Barbican Centre, London, UK.

LA CHUTE OU LA LUTTE/LA CADUTTA O LA LOTTA/FALL OR FIGHT,

Kaplan's Project n°3, Napoli, IT.

KAPLAN'S PROJECTIONS: dans un monde de plus en plus sombre / in

a darkest and darkest mood / in un contesto sempre più buio, Kaplan's

Project n°3, Napoli, IT.

2007

Galerie d'art Contemporain, Hôtel de Ville de Besançon, Besançon, FR.

WELCOMING THE FLOWERS, Senior & Shopmaker Gallery, New York,

NY, US.

Words and Music, Michael Berger Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA, US.

2006

Renegades: 25 Years of Performance at Exit Art, Exit Art, New York, NY,

US.

2005

Multiplo – 3, N.O.Gallery - Giannattasio, Milan, IT.

Multiplo – 1, N.O.Gallery - Giannattasio, Milan, IT.

2004

Multiple Strategies, Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, US.

c:neai= ephemeris, Centre National de l'Estampe de l'Art Imprimé,

Chatou, FR.

2003

Zona People 1974-1985, Non profit art space – Firenze, Musée d'Art

Moderne et Contemporain, Geneva, CH.

2002

Lowland Lullaby, SI Swiss Institute, New York, NY, US.

1997

Konkrete Poesie: Konzeptuelle Kunst, Städtische Galerie, Rosenheim,

DE.

1993

Galerie Donguy, Paris, FR.

FABULOUS SEX/COMPASSION, Artists Space, New York, NY, US.

1992

Kunstwerke Gallery, Berlin, DE.

Marcel Sitcoske Gallery, New York, NY, US.

1988

Whatever Window Is Your Pleasure, George Mulder Fine Art, London, UK.

1970

Information, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY.

1969

Software, The Jewish Museum, New York, NY.

Awards

2021

The American Book Award, Awarded by The Before Columbus Foundation

Public Collections

The Alford Collection of Contemporary Art at Rollins College, Cornell Fine Arts Museum, FL.

The Bass Museum, South Beach, FL, US.

Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, FR.

Perez Art Museum, Miami, FL, US.

Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, FR.

The Hirshhorn Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., US.

Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, QLD.

MUDAM, Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, LU.

MoMA, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, US.

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