



The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Robert Getso ACT UP collection

1987-2012

MssCol 18095

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2017.

Summary

Creator: Getso, Robert, 1962-2014

Title: Robert Getso ACT UP collection

Date: 1987-2012

Size: .42 linear feet (1 box); 1 dvd

Source: Donated by Robert Getso, 2009 and 2012.

Abstract: The Robert Getso ACT UP collection documents HIV/AIDS activism undertaken by members of ACT UP and the Costas.

Preferred citation: Robert Getso ACT UP collection, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

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Creator History

Robert Getso (1962-2014) was an activist and visual artist whose work focused on HIV/AIDS activism. His photographs mostly document ACT UP during their active years from the late 1980s to the 1990s. Getso was also a member of the Costas, an affinity group within ACT UP. The Costas was named after artist and activist Costa Pappas (died 1990).

Scope and Content Note

The Robert Getso ACT UP collection, dated from 1987 to 2012, reflects the documentary work of Robert Getso mostly through photographs. The pictures document ACT UP and the Costas at demonstrations including locations in New York City, Albany, Atlanta, Washington D.C., and Montreal, Canada. The photographs show active demonstrations, candid shots of activists and supporters, images from an exhibition entitled "Let the Record Show" at the New Museum, and a "Don't Thread on Me" patch designed by Robert Getso and Costa Pappas. The video of The ACT UP "March on

Washington" was shot by Robert Getso and Tim Landers.

Arrangement: The photographs are arranged alphabetically by title of images.

Key Terms

Occupations

Activists

Subjects

AIDS (Disease) -- Political aspects

AIDS (Disease) -- Social aspects

AIDS (Disease) in mass media

AIDS activists

Gay activists -- New York (State) -- New York

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Motion pictures (visual works)

Photographs

Names

Landers, Tim

Pappas, Costa

ACT UP (Organization)

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 **ACT UP and the Costas 1989**
Several pictures of the Costas at demonstrations.
- b. 1 f. 2 **ACT Up Action 1988**
Albany, New York. Pictured: Robert Getso, Steven Sweat and Kevin Sutton.
- b. 1 f. 3 **ACT UP Demonstration 1988**
Undercounting of AIDS patients in New York City. Pictured: Robert Getso.
- b. 1 f. 4 **ACT UP Demonstration on Wall Street 1988**
Pictured: Robert Gesto marching on Wall Street holding a sign which reads "Big Business is making a killing on us."
- b. 1 f. 5 **ACT Up Twentieth-Fifth Anniversary 2012**
There are several pictures of ACT Up demonstrating on Wall Street.
- b. 1 f. 6 **Battling Anti-Sodomy Law in Atlanta, Georgia 1990**
Several photographs of the demonstration including Gesto.
- b. 1 f. 7 **Benefit for ACT Up Undated**
Photograph of poster used to promote a benefit for ACT UP.
- b. 1 f. 8 **Costa Phone List Undated**
Pictured: Names only, the phone numbers have been redacted.
- b. 1 f. 9 **Day After Tompkins Square Park Riot 1988**
Pictured: Getso and Jon Nalley.
- b. 1 f. 10 **Don't Tread On Me 1990**
Pictured: Photograph of an embroidered patch designed for ACT UP by Getso and Vincent Gagliostro.
- b. 1 f. 11 **FDA Action Handbook 1988**
Pictured: Cover of handbook for FDA Action at Rockville, Maryland.
- b. 1 f. 12 **Fifth International Conference on AIDS 1989**
Montreal, Canada.
- b. 1 f. 13 **Gran Fury Exhibition 2012**
Several photographs from the Gran Fury exhibition at the New Museum, New York.
- b. 1 f. 14 **March on Washington 1987**
Several photographs of ACT UP from the demonstration.
- b. 1 f. 15 **Pappas, Costa 1988-1990**
Several photographs of Costa Pappas an artist and activist.
- b. 1 f. 16 **Sutton, Kevin 1989**
Obituary for Sutton.