



Protest the Censorship by the Smithsonian

Demand that the David Wojnarowicz video be reinstalled now.

Protests against this act of censorship have been issued by:

The exhibition's curators

The Estate of
David Wojnarowicz

The Andy Warhol Foundation for
the Visual Arts

The American Civil
Liberties Union

The Association of
Art Museum Directors

The National Coalition
Against Censorship

The New York Times

As *ArtInfo* put it: "In response to the Smithsonian's disgraceful act of censorship, a remarkable array of museums, galleries, and artists have come together to decry the suppression of the work."

Photography by Andreas Sterzing

Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture

October 30, 2010 – February 13, 2011

at the National Portrait Gallery,

a Division of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC

This is a major ground-breaking exhibition, one of the first to bring artistic expressions of sexual difference to wide public view. It included a response to the injustices suffered by people with AIDS: **A Fire In My Belly** (1986-1987), a video by David Wojnarowicz.

Responding to attacks by the Catholic League and threats of future funding cuts from U.S. Representatives, Smithsonian Secretary, G. Wayne Clough, ordered the video's removal!

Join the Protest!

Sunday, December 19, 1pm

Gather on the front steps at the

Metropolitan Museum, 5th Ave. and 82nd Street.

March

to the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, a New York Division of the Smithsonian! 5th Ave. and 91st Street.

www.artpositive.org

We're here today to send a message to the Smithsonian and all of its museums: **STOP THE CENSORSHIP!**

When the Smithsonian shamefully ordered the video's removal, the *New York Times*, echoing many other voices, called this an "appalling act of political cowardice."

No one religion, no one party, no one segment of our society can be allowed to restrict access to works of art in our public institutions, which are funded by our taxes.

We salute **Hide/Seek**, a ground-breaking exhibition that brings artistic expressions of sexual difference to wide public view. We urge you to see what's still on display and to join us in demanding that the video **A Fire in My Belly** be returned to the show.

Call, write, shout: **PUT THE VIDEO BACK**

G. Wayne Clough, *Smithsonian Secretary*
Cloughw@si.edu

Martin E. Sullivan, *National Portrait Gallery Director*
npgnews@si.edu

John Boehner, *United States Congressman*
(202) 225-4000, (202) 225-6205

To support the Hide/Seek exhibition go to:
www.facebook.com/support.hide.seek

ART+ is a New York City-based art action group fighting censorship and homophobia.
www.artpositive.org
info@artpositive.org

How The Issue Developed

November 29

Conservative blogger Penny Starr attacks the exhibition on www.cnsnews.com.

November 30

Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League publicly attacked the National Portrait Gallery's **Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture** exhibit as anti-Christian, citing images of ants crawling over Jesus on a crucifix, in the David Wojnarowicz video.

Congressional Representatives John Boehner and Eric Cantor publicly attacked the exhibit and threatened to hold hearings about the Portrait Gallery's future funding.

December 1

The Smithsonian Institution's Secretary, G. Wayne Clough, ordered the video's removal without the consent of the curators or the Director of the National Portrait Gallery, one of its Divisions.

Representative Jack Kingston appears on Fox and Friends to attack the exhibition and threaten investigations about funding.



ART+
Art Positive