

# Drop your stigmas—but keep your pants on

by Ilana L. Fiorenza

Photographer Linda Troeller from Lawrenceville, New Jersey said she considers herself an "activist artist and a magazine photographer." Troeller, who gave an open lecture on her work last Monday, is the first of three guest artists-in-residence in the photography department. She will be at UNLV through Feb. 20.

Often focusing on health issues, she does "extended documentary photography" which she'll emphasize to students during her UNLV stay. Troeller said she'll be teaching her "ideas on putting the personal voice into a body of work and then extending that beyond the fabric of the documentary — adding text, three-dimensions and

media — whatever is required to take that message further into the culture."

Art and information walk hand in hand in Troeller's work. It is devoted to revealing social and political problems differently than standard photojournalism, which is often blatantly graphic and cold. Contrastingly, Troeller's "TB-AIDS Diary" is subtle and concerned about projecting an important message.

In "TB-AIDS Diary," which is her most recent and recognized series of photographs, Troeller depicts intimate moments from the lives of two people from different generations who carry a disease. The first subject centers around Troeller's mother who suffered from TB in the 1930s, the other is

a 1980s AIDS sufferer.

The photographs were initially inspired when reviewing her mother's diary written when she had TB. Although the advent of antibiotics brought TB under

**"Image is formed the way we see and think about things."**

control, it was once known as the "white plague" and caused countless deaths.

The similarities between the public treatment of the victims of TB and those who have AIDS is striking; it's a comparison that Troeller exposes with poignant accuracy. The "TB-AIDS Diary"

shows the devastating effect of the diseases on the victim and also their families.

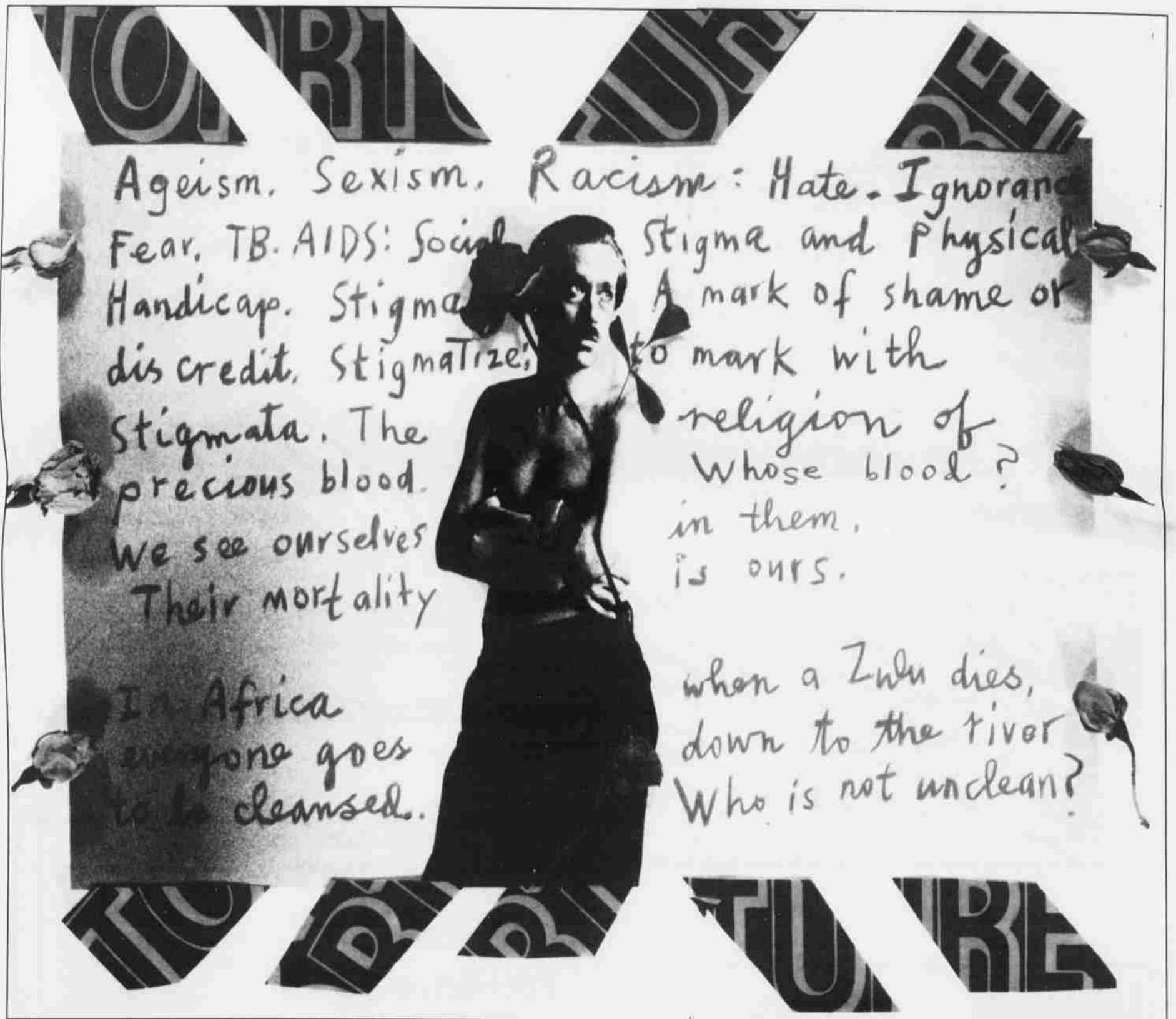
"Image is formed the way we see and think about things. Up until late 1988 the only images we were seeing of people with AIDS were pictures in hospital beds with tubes, as weakened people. I wanted another view," Troeller said. "It's really addressed to people without AIDS, because it's really about stigma."

Although when Troeller began the project in 1987 she had no idea that the AIDS epidemic would reach the global proportion it has today, the "TB-AIDS Diary" has already taken her around the world. Recently returned from a showing in Paris, she said the "Diary" will soon be translated into

five languages. Many magazines and newspapers have also done articles and expressed interest in Linda Troeller's artwork.

The public interest in the "TB-AIDS Diary" could indicate a new light shining on man's inhumanity to fellow man. Ignorance and fear breed prejudice and social stigmatism. The problem of AIDS is a serious world-wide problem of which nobody can be certain to be not at risk.

"We have to invent our own courage," said Barbara Cleaver, mother of the AIDS patient profiled in "TB-AIDS Diary." Troeller, through her poetic photography, asks people to have the courage to face and conquer the ugliness of inner prejudices and care for one another.



"Stigma: Bearing Roses" offers questions and gives a chance to choose a different perspective.

photo by Linda Troeller

## Today in black American history

Feb. 12

\*The NAACP was founded on this date following a series of race riots throughout the United States.

\*Bill Russell, basketball star and first black to manage a major professional sports team in the United States was born on this date in 1934.

Feb. 13

\*Issac Murphy, the first jockey in racing history to have three Kentucky Derby winners, died on this date in 1896. In 1882, he won 49 out of 51 starts at Saratoga and in 1884 he won the first American Derby aboard the horse Modesty.

\*Absalom Jones, the first black rector in the United States died in 1818.

### Many blacks left, some return South

Between 1910 and 1970, about 6 million blacks left Southern farms for Northern cities. In the '70s and '80s, thriving cities in the South and West began to draw blacks to the Sunbelt.

#### Patterns of black migration

Blacks leaving the South followed the routes of major railroad lines.

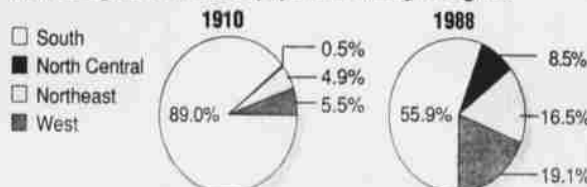


#### Migrants

Number of blacks leaving the South

1910-20	450,000
1920-30	750,000
1930-40	350,000
1940-50	1.6 million
1950-60	1.5 million
1960-70	1.4 million

#### Percentage of U.S. black population living in regions



SOURCE: Census Bureau, National Museum of American History, "Black Migration in the United States"; Research by PAT CARR

### NUTRITION

#### SOW YOUR OATS

Oatmeal has become a breakfast of choice. According to a nationally representative sample of 2,000 monitored U.S. households, people are choosing healthier items to start their day.



SOURCE: Restaurant Business