

## AIDS/SERVICE

Although AIDS is widely discussed today, beneath the comfortable blanket of words there are still-sensitive nerves shaping what one believes. This depends upon one's situation in the AIDS crisis, information or lack of it, and personal struggle with fear, denial, despair, courage, love, and hope. Having felt and reflected upon a flood of emotions and diverse viewpoints as an AIDS care partner, I have come to understand that, as an artist, I could not prettify or simplify the human condition in AIDS to a narrow agenda.

AIDS is not one thing for all people. In my *AIDS Word Series*, begun in 1988, the different meanings and responses that people have are juxtaposed emotionally and conceptually through visceral medical waste and words. In these works parts of each word composition usually include handwritten statements, by those often least heard, PWA's and their care partners.

*AIDS/SERVICE* is a 1993 work in the *AIDS Word Series*. The issue of sexual acts -- particularly in Gay sex, signifying more than the act itself because of the spread of AIDS and the Gay and Lesbian struggle for civil rights -- is addressed. Sex whether in or out of a relationship, has become a private issue of health, politics, ethics and survival that penetrates deeply into shared moments of passion.

**In the privacy of our minds are questions of personal disclosure.**

**You are invited to anonymously inscribe in the book your thoughts about your sexual activity in the Era of AIDS.**

Dui Seid, 1993

Checklist:

(left) *LINKS III*, 1991, Plastic, Encaustic

(center) *AIDS/SERVICE*, 1993, Plastic, Medical Waste, Paper

(right) *MACE*, 1989, Plastic, Test Tubes, Semen