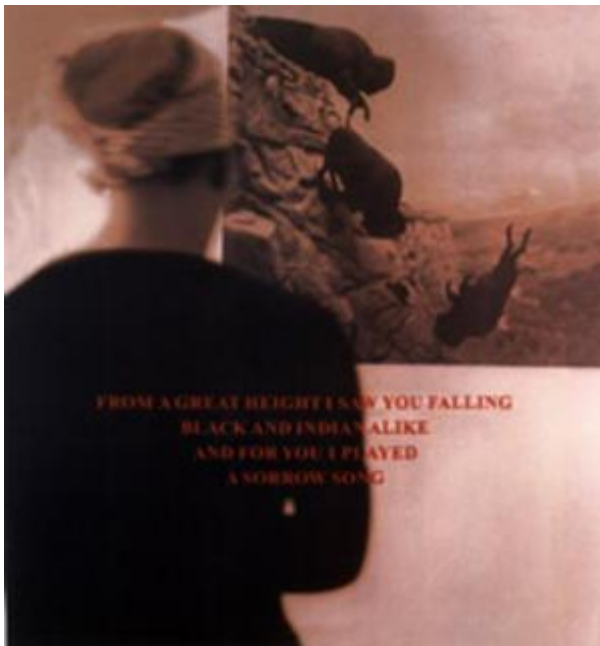


the village VOICE

History Keeps Me Awake at Night

By [R.C. Baker](#)

Thursday, August 7th 2008 at 3:43am



By turns kicky and plaintive, this group show offers a spirited homage to the life and work of Lower East Side artist and AIDS activist [David Wojnarowicz](#) (1954–1992). Performance duo Lovett/Codagnone's slide projection (lavender letters onto a black-leather jacket) of a passage from [Pier Paolo Pasolini](#) reads, in part: "Where everything has become transgression, there is no more danger." [Carrie Mae Weems](#)'s photo of a blurred viewer taking in a scene of buffalo tumbling down a cliff evokes the self-destructive pressures felt by the "Other" in America; [Wolfgang Tillmans](#)'s enigmatic shot of a crawling figure radiates a pungent vibe through its green, seraglio-like light. At times hilarious—when not shocking with footage of the brutal beatings doled out by Mayor Daley's cops during the 1968 [Democratic Convention](#)—Frédéric Moffet's 2006 video, [Jean Genet](#) in Chicago, revisits the French provocateur's coverage of America's political and psychic meltdown. A photo by [Zoe Strauss](#), one of the most moving works in the show, riffs on a portrait of Wojnarowicz with his mouth tightly stitched shut: A woman revealing her unglamorous torso is bisected by a picture of a bird flying between taut wires, its wings meeting on the downbeat as if in prayer.

Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m. Starts: Aug. 6. Continues through Aug. 22, 2008