

## ***THE GREAT PANDEMICS ARCHIVE: A CAPSULE IN TIME***



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. NYC, NY. March 8, 2021.** Honoring the one year anniversary of the stay-in-place order enacted in New York City on March 20, 2020 NYC artists and social archivists Jamie Courville and Ed Woodham invite submissions of a variety of paper ephemera to *The Great Pandemics Archive* documenting the multiple pandemics the world has faced in the last year that illustrate the human cost and consequence of these natural and human disasters. Submissions are being taken via mail from March 12 until September 12, 2021.

As the number of COVID-19 cases ballooned throughout New York—which emerged as the epicenter of the new coronavirus pandemic— New York Governor Andrew Cuomo ordered all non-essential retailers and businesses to close, and for residents across the state to stay home as much as possible in an effort to stop the spread.

Along with haphazard, incompetent, and damaging U.S. Federal efforts to contain COVID-19 came the global outpouring of grief and anger at the killing of George Floyd, dead after a police officer knelt on his neck. Ahmaud Arbery, fatally shot while on a jog. Breonna Taylor, shot to death by police raiding her home. Eric Garner, Philando Castile,

Trayvon Martin – the continuation of historically sanctioned police murder, brutality, criminalization, and control of black people.

It is clear that the multiple pandemics are deeply interconnected. According to *The New York Times*, the U.S. deaths from the virus are over 523K and the global deaths are 2.5M. These numbers continue to grow with new variant strains of the virus appearing internationally. With the end of COVID-19 possibly in sight, but still facing lingering and substantial distress, the *Archive* hopes to capture the toll and enormity the last year has taken on our collective consciousness from the psychological effects of quarantine to the unstable political and economic systems.

Beginning on March 12 through September 12, 2021, people from around the world are invited to submit any paper ephemera: relevant advertisements, photos, letters, writings (personal accounts, essays, poetry, etc), newspaper clippings, artwork, postcards, and documents no larger than 9 x 12 inches, ten pages maximum, along with the submission agreement. No tape, adhesives, staples, paper clips, or rubber bands, please. This significant archive of a monumental unique time in global history will eventually be stored at a library or institute in the U.S. to be determined at a later date. Also planned is a publication of the archival contents with information about each of the donors for the reveal of the archive on its five-year anniversary in 2027. To fill out the application and mail your submission(s) to The Great Pandemics Archive please visit the site [here](#).

**For high-resolution photos click [here](#).**

For more information contact:

Jamie Courville, [jamiécourville@gmail.com](mailto:jamiécourville@gmail.com) / 917-622-5790

Ed Woodham, [edwoodham@gmail.com](mailto:edwoodham@gmail.com) / 347-350-4242