

Luna Luis Ortiz

Luna Luis Ortiz was born in New York City 1972. In 1986, he contracted HIV at the age of 14. Thereafter he picked up his father's camera and began the birth of his self-portraits to leave images for the family as a remembrance before he succumbs to AIDS.

In the late 1980's Ortiz was a part of the New York ballroom voguing scene and it is here where his creativity for the arts flourished especially as a photographer. In 1988, he began his journey as an HIV awareness spokesperson for youth living with HIV at the Hetrick-Martin Institute, where he attended the Harvey Milk School. Over the years Ortiz has dedicated his life to HIV prevention and AIDS awareness for people around the world by appearing on television specials, such as MTV, VH1, PBS, Telemundo, NY1, MSNBC, ABC, Time Out with Magic Johnson and Arsenio Hall as well as Living in the Age of AIDS with Peter Jennings.

Ortiz has received letters of appreciation from two New York City Mayors Edward Koch and David Dinkins, the Distinguished Service Award from the State of New York, as well as the City of New York Proclamation from The City Council at City Hall for his 30 plus years of dedication in the fight against AIDS. HIV Plus magazines named Ortiz one of the 20 Most Amazing HIV Positive Gay Men in 2014. He appeared in POZ magazine's 100 list- Celebrating Long Term Survivors. At the 10th Annual Visual AIDS Vanguard Awards Ortiz received The William Orlander VAVA Award.

As a public speaker, he has been invited to share his life and art at New York University, Cornell University, Penn State University and Yale University, Jersey City Museum, Whitney Museum, Queens Museum, Museum of the City of New York and American Folk Art Museum

As an artist, Ortiz has been included in exhibitions at New York galleries as well as the Boston Center of the Arts, Whitney Museum, The Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, Museum of the City of New York, New Museum of Contemporary Art, Eternal Gallery in Paris, France, the LGBT Center/ Bureau of General Services Queer Division, The Annual Global Pride Art Exhibition at Clifford Chance; NY and DC.

He taught photography at The Hetrick-Martin Institute, Home of the Harvey Milk High School from 2000 to 2007. He is one of the co-founders of the House of Frame by Frame Fierce; a project that teaches animation filmmaking to high-risk youth as a form of activism. In 2007, the House of Frame by Frame Fierce received a Peabody Award for their work on a documentary short titled "I'm Not a Boy" about the life of a transgender youth. From 2006- 2009, Ortiz was a spokes-model for the "HIV Stops with Me" campaign.

In 2007, Ortiz continued his dedication to HIV prevention and youth work at Gay Men Health Crisis (GMHC). At GMHC, he works tirelessly on the agency's social marketing campaigns such as the GLAAD award-winning 'I Love My Boo' campaign as well as host youth workshops, Kiki balls, conferences and health fairs to over 250 youth of color monthly. He also plans and gathers a committee of House and Ball members for the annual Latex Ball. The Latex Ball draws a crowd of over 3,000 participants from around the world.

Today, Ortiz continues to inspire and empower youth of color around the world with his story of survival with living with HIV for over 35 years. His passions as a father of the House of Khan (whose members

compete in the voguing competitions at the balls) give him the opportunity to continue to guide and support young people from the LGBT experience with love, compassion and care.