Throughout mankind’s brief stint on earth, we have been able to describe history through many avenues. In Pre History, cavemen would paint cave pictures showing the details of their everyday life, as well as big events. The ancient Egyptians created hieroglyphics to communicate to others on the goings on of their civilization. Surprisingly, things have not changed. There have been numerous pictures created from historical events, such as war, abdication of power, religion and disease.  

In the mid 14th century, Europe found itself in the midst of the Black Death, or bubonic plague, which is caused by the bacterium, *Yersinia pestis*. This can be spread by respiratory droplets produced by their victims. In this date and time, the Europeans had not been adhering to the principles of Christianity, and thus when plague struck, people began repenting for their sins. Some citizens, who could afford it, had paintings created in God’s name, and therefore hoping to “buy” their way out of the plague and hell. However some of our most astounding paintings and projects came from these artists who lived during this time. Some of the paintings shown during the upcoming presentation will include frescos from the Arena Chapel: The Triumph of Death and The Annunciation (Florence) to name a few.  

There is also a very significant connection in today’s art to disease. Currently many artists create paintings to describe their disbelief with current actions of society, and how they learned to live with their illness. An artist/poet who exemplifies this is David Wojnarowicz, one of the many people who have succumbed to the AIDS epidemic.