DESIGN AND HEALING: CREATIVE RESPONSES TO EPIDEMICS

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

This exhibition, curated by MASS Design Group and Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, was organized during the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic revealed what some have known for a long time: breathing is spatial. This fact has implications at the scale of the body, building, city, and planet. Everyone on Earth has been affected by the pandemic. Unequal access to housing, jobs, and health care ensured that COVID-19 hit marginalized communities harder than others.

On View
Now through Monday, February 20 2023

See the Exhibition
Purchase your ticket to the museum.

View All Exhibition Objects
Design and Healing: Creative Responses to Epidemics
Many individuals and families want to monitor their own health at home and in their communities. Trips to a clinic or hospital can be inconvenient and intimidating, leading to delayed treatment. Such visits also expose people to potential infection. Telehealth accelerated during the COVID-19 crisis. Tracking population data helped public health officials respond to the pandemic.
6

Wearable Sensors, 2017–21

John A. Rogers, a physical chemist and materials scientist at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, creates medical-grade wearable devices. These devices can be applied to optimal parts of the body (unlike a wristwatch) and can be used to track a wide range of body processes. Sensors designed to monitor COVID-19 track coughing, vocalization, and temperature.

John A. Rogers (American, b. 1967)
Silicone, electronics
Courtesy of John A. Rogers

7

Catch HIV Testing Device Prototype

HIV is a treatable illness if caught early. Designed by Hans and Farah Ramzan, an HIV test that is as easy to use as a pregnancy test. Catch is under development for manufacture.

Hans Ramzan (British, b. 1994), Research by Farah Ramzan
Plastic
Courtesy of Hans Ramzan