



The Kitchen Center  
for Video, Music, Dance,  
Performance, Film & Literature

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For Immediate Release

## **The Kitchen presents two evenings of music and recent video by Tony Conrad**

(May 3, 2005) – The Kitchen is proud to present two evenings of music and video by **Tony Conrad**, one of the pioneers of structural filmmaking, video art, and minimalist music. These evenings were co-curated by filmmaker **Andrew Lampert** and musician **Jim O'Rourke**. *Ten Years Alive on the Infinite Plain*, a reprisal of an original 1972 performance and film installation at The Kitchen, will be presented **May 18 (Wed), 8-11pm**. The U.S. premiere of *Quadraga*, a new string trio, and the screening of three recent video works will be presented **May 24 (Tue), at 8pm** at **The Kitchen** (512 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street, New York). **Admission for each evening is \$10.**

For *Ten Years Alive on the Infinite Plain*, Conrad restages his original performance-installation at The Kitchen, which, in 1972, was a notably advanced cinema/intermedia event, and has remained one of the most memorable events of early minimalist music and film practice. This restaged "minimalist spectacle", originally in response to the Vietnam War, contains music scored for violin, bass and a long-string instrument created by Conrad, which will be performed by a stellar cast that includes Jim O'Rourke. *Ten Years Alive on the Infinite Plain*, which includes multiple film loops including Conrad's original projections of black and white images, resonates with the current political climate, referring to the appeal for the need for peace in a time of war during the early 1970s. The performers are **Tony Conrad, Andrew Lampert, Jim O'Rourke, Zachary Wallace, and Karen Waltuch.**

For the U.S. premiere of *Quadraga* (2004), a trio for amplified strings, Conrad transposed into his own musical language the musical form of the Charanga, a popular type of Afro-Cuban music that thrived in New York City during the 1960s and 70s. An important element in Conrad's effort to redirect innovation in Western music, this is a slowed-down and recomposed derivation of a simple harmonic and rhythmic dance scheme.

The New York premiere of three recent video works will precede the performance of *Quadraga*. In *Grading Tips for Teachers* (2001), *Hart* (2001) and *Tony's Ocular Pets* (2003), Conrad replaces the formal concerns in his early cinematic work with humorous engagement with themes of discipline and control. These comedic videos offer a counterpoint to his music, which reflects his roots in early minimalism.

**Tony Conrad** is considered one of the founders of the "minimalist" style in both music and filmmaking. His early violin work in the Theatre of Eternal Music (alongside La Monte Young, Marian Zazeela and John Cale, among others) helped lay the foundation for an entire generation of new music composers, and was also a direct influence on rock bands such as the Velvet Underground and Sonic Youth. His 1966 debut film, "The Flicker", which features alternating frames of clear

and black film that create a hallucinatory sensory overload, is a key work in structural/formal filmmaking. Conrad's pioneering video work led him to a teaching position at the University of Buffalo, where he has been in residence since the mid 1970s. Conrad has become increasingly lauded for his pioneering performances for amplified violins in the U.S. and internationally. His musical collaborations include the German art-rock band Faust, composer/performer Jim O'Rourke, fellow minimalist composer Charlemagne Palestine, among others. -Over

These performances are being held in collaboration with performance and screening events at Anthology Film Archives, where co-curator Andrew Lampert is the Archivist. They are part of a large-scale series of composers' films called EYE & EAR CONTROLLED. Recently preserved films by Tony Conrad as well as rarely staged conceptual performances such as "Bowed Film" and "Sukiyaki" will take place May 19-22. These events will be followed by three weeks of rare music films, featuring work by Mauricio Kagel, George Manupelli, Robert Ashley, Michael Snow, Phill Niblock, Charlemagne Palestine, and many more. For more information or a complete schedule, please contact Travis Miles at Anthology Film Archives, 212-505-5181 x20 or [afatravis@anthologyfilmarchives.org](mailto:afatravis@anthologyfilmarchives.org).

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