



The Kitchen Center
for Video · Music · Dance
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October 21, 1999

Diamanda Galás

Special preview performances of

Defixiones, Will and Testament

A Song Cycle for Voice and Piano

December 1, 2 & 4 [Wed, Thu, & Sat] 8 PM \$20
125 seats per night only...

"No other presence in new music is so dramatic, so frightening, so controversial as Diamanda Galás."

—Kyle Gann, *American Music in the 20th Century*

"There's a long tradition, from Paganini to Robert Johnson, of performers whose art is so technically dazzling and terrifying in its communicative power that they're reputed to have sold their souls to the devil. Diamanda Galás proudly continues that lineage."

--Joshua Kosman, *San Francisco Chronicle*

The Kitchen is pleased to present the **preview performances** of **Diamanda Galás's** new song cycle for voice and piano, ***Defixiones, Will and Testament***. In this work, Galás lends her chilling three and a half octave range to the voice of those unjustly imprisoned, outlawed, or exterminated for their religious beliefs. *Defixiones* refers to the warnings engraved in lead on the graves of the dead in Greece and Asia Minor, and cautioning against moving or desecrating the bodies under the threat of extreme harm. *Will and Testament* refers to the last wishes of those who died from "unnatural" causes.

For *Defixiones, Will and Testament*, Galás sets music to texts by Armenian poet/soldier Siamanto, Belgian/French poet Henri Michaux, Syrian/Lebanese poet Adonis. She also gives a unique interpretation to the Sotiria Bellou's rembetika songs, the Anatolian Greek Amanedhes, the blues of Blind Willie

Over...

Johnson and Son House, and the sacred songs of the Deep South. The world premiere of this work took place at the Castle of Gravensteen in Gent, Belgium, in September 1999, and was commissioned by Art Centre Vooruit. *Defixiones, Will and Testament* is dedicated to the forgotten and erased of the Armenian and Anatolian Greek genocide of 1915 and 1922.

About the Artist:

Diamanda Galás is an internationally acclaimed vocalist, composer and poet who has performed worldwide since 1978. She is the creator of *The Plague Mass* (premiered at Queen Elizabeth Hall in London on New Year's Day 1989), *Vena Cava* (premiered at The Kitchen in 1992), *Insekta* (premiered at the 1993 Serious Fun! Kitchen Residency Program Festival at Lincoln Center, New York City), and *Schrei X* (commissioned and premiered at the Wexner Center for the Arts, Ohio). Other credits include the concerts/recordings of *Malediction and Prayer*, *Judgement Day*, and *Masque of the Red Death*. In 1996, Serpents Tail published *The Shit of God*, a compilation of Galás' original performance texts and writing. Currently, Galás is working on the composition of *Nekropolis*, a new opera to be performed in the year 2001. She records for MUTE Records, London, and her primary websites are www.diamandagalas.com and www.brainwashed.com/diamanda.

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The Kitchen is located at 512 West 19th Street (between 10th & 11th Avenues). For tickets, call 212-255-5793. For more information or press comps, call Isabelle Deconinck at 212-255-5793, ext. 14.