

The Kitchen

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For Immediate Release

The Kitchen presents *Maniac Shadows*, A solo exhibition by filmmaker Chantal Akerman, April 12 – May 11, 2013

New York, NY, April 14, 2014 – From April 12 to May 11, 2013, The Kitchen presents *Maniac Shadows*, a solo exhibition by Belgian filmmaker **Chantal Akerman**. Playing on entwined relationships of presence and absence, the exhibition includes a three-channel video comprised of footage from Akerman's residences and daily life in New York and Paris; a suite of 100 photographs from her series *Maniac Summer #2*; and a video of Akerman reading an excerpt from her autobiographical text *My Mother Laughs*. *Maniac Shadows* is curated by **Tim Griffin** and **Lumi Tan**.

Also included in the exhibition is Akerman's presentation, on **Thursday, April 11 at 7:00 P.M.**, of an evening-length performative reading in The Kitchen's theater of *My Mother Laughs*. This event is free and open to the public. Attendees may attend a special preview of the gallery installation.

There will be an opening reception at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street) on **Friday, April 12 from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.** Gallery hours are **Tuesday through Friday, 12:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.** and **Saturday, 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.** Admission is free to the exhibition.

With footage made using both Blackberry and HD cameras, *Maniac Shadows* continues Akerman's explorations of themes apparent in her work since the early seventies, casting a subjective eye on the nature of familial relationships, the conception of home, displacement, and domesticity, and the female position in society. The video of Akerman's reading of *My Mother Laughs*, filmed in The Kitchen's gallery during installation, offers a deeply personal, philosophical account of her relationship to her aging mother. *Maniac Summer #2* is a collection of everyday images of shadows cast on sidewalks, the blurred faces of passersby and intimate details from her homes, joining the videos to introduce a kind of psycho-geography for domestic settings at once near and far.

Akerman's installations, like her films, displace traditional narrative arcs and constructions of time and space to underline how ostensibly a priori phenomena are entwined with the mundane detail of daily life, necessarily grasped only in relation to one's personal history.

In conjunction with *Maniac Shadows*, from **April 18 – 20**, cellist **Sonia Wieder-Atherton** will perform the U.S. premiere of *Odyssey for Cello and Imaginary Choir*, the final piece in a triptych that began with *Jewish Songs* and *Songs from the East*, which accompanied Akerman's eponymous 1993 film. Co-presented with the **French Institute Alliance Française**, these evening performances will take place at **8:00 P.M.** in The Kitchen's theater.

About Chantal Akerman

Chantal Akerman was born in Brussels in 1950 and currently lives and works in Paris. One of the most important filmmakers of her generation, she has been a leading figure in European experimental cinema since her earliest films including *Saute ma ville* (1968), *Jeanne Dielman, 23 quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles* (1975), *Je Tu Il Elle* (1975) and *Les Rendez-vous d'Anna* (1978). Since the early nineties,

Akerman has used video and installation in her exploration of film form, in such works as *D'Est* (1995), *Sud* (1998/9), *From the Other Side* (2002) and *Marcher à côté de ses lacets dans un Frigidaire vide* (2004). Her most recent feature film was *Almayer's Folly* in 2011.

She is the author of several books, including *A Family in Brussels*, a fictional stream of consciousness text first performed as a monologue in Paris and Brussels, and published in French by Les Editions de l'Arche, Paris and in English by Dia Art Foundation.

Akerman's most recent retrospective, *Too Far, Too Close* was presented at MUHKA, Antwerp in 2012. Her 2008 U.S. survey *Chantal Akerman: Moving through Time and Space* traveled to MIT's List Visual Arts Center; the Miami Art Museum; the Contemporary Museum of Art, St. Louis, The Blaffer Gallery at the Art Museum of the University of Houston, and The Jewish Museum, San Francisco. Other solo exhibitions have been seen at the Camden Arts Center, U.K. (2008); Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel (2006); Princeton University Art Museum, (2006); Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires/ Malba, Buenos Aires, (2005); and École supérieure des Beaux Arts de Toulouse (2004).

Important earlier exhibitions include a retrospective survey, *Chantal Akerman*, held at the Centre Georges Pompidou in 2003, as well as the travelling tour of the film *D'EST* (1995), a documentary of the transition from summer to winter across Germany, Poland, and Russia, which was seen at San Francisco MoMA; Walker Art Center; Galerie national du Jeu de Paume, Paris; Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels; IVAM, Valencia; Kunstmuseum, Wolfsburg; and The Jewish Museum, New York.

Her work has also been included in such significant group exhibitions as the 2010 Sao Paulo Biennial, 2002 Documenta XI, Kassel, Germany, and the 2001 Venice Biennale, as well as numerous international film festivals.

Funding Credits

This exhibition is made possible with support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Dedalus Foundation, Inc., and with public funds from New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



About The Kitchen

The Kitchen is one of New York City's most forward-looking nonprofit spaces, showing innovative work by emerging and established artists across disciplines. Our programs range from dance, music, performance, and theater to video, film, and art, in addition to literary events, artists' talks, and lecture series. Since its inception in 1971, The Kitchen has been a powerful force in shaping the cultural landscape of this country, and has helped launch the careers of many artists who have gone on to worldwide prominence.

Box Office Information:
212.255.5793 ext. 11
Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

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