

# THE KITCHEN VIDEO MUSIC DANCE PERFORMANCE FILM

512 West 19th St. (Btwn 10th & 11th Aves) New York, NY 10011

Reservations: 255-5793

## GRETCHEN BENDER *Total Recall*

May 7 - 9, 1987 (note new times)  
8, 9, and 10 pm on May 7 and 9  
One show only, at 8:00 on May 8  
\$7/TDF + \$2/Kitchen Voucher  
Contact: Kate Doyle or Scott Macaulay  
212/255-5793

TOTAL RECALL

May 7 - 9, The Kitchen will premiere **TOTAL RECALL**, an electronic performance by artist Gretchen Bender. Employing 24 monitors, 8 channels of images, 3 film screens, and a specially composed score by Stuart Arbright, **TOTAL RECALL** is a breathless, high-tech critique of contemporary visual culture. Using an array of stunning images (both computer-generated and from current tv) and sophisticated editing techniques (including dissolves from film to video), Bender inquires into cultural desires and techniques of representation, examining the hallucinatory experience promoted by modern image production.

Gretchen Bender is a visual artist whose work examines information, ideology and seduction in the age of high-tech media. Her visual static work, exhibited in New York at Nature Morte, Metro Pictures and The Kitchen, among others, has investigated the networks of information transfer, depletion and accumulation through which commercial media, advertising and "high art" images are forced to flow. In much of her work, Bender has compulsively used the "newest" images available through mass media, producing an art capable of tracking the constantly diminishing life span of contemporary visuals.

Bender's previous visual work, "Dumping Core," premiered at The Kitchen in December, 1984 and was subsequently presented at the Museum of Modern Art, Vienna. In the piece, Bender

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examined the visual technologies -- computer generation, the animated logo, filmic special effects -- which create a disciplinary ideology of contemporary media.

In critic/artist Thomas Lawson's description of Bender's work, "Dumping Core" is an assertive representation of the media cycle which continually processes and discards information and images:

In a world in which most people are hedging their bets on the future, an enthusiast for technological overload has too seem like some kind of crazy optimist, or a government spokesperson. With a cool ambiguity Gretchen Bender plays it down the middle. In her relentless accumulations of media information, image follows image in a torrent of equivalences. The assault on our senses is kept value free. "Dumping Core" is a fifteen monitor image extravaganza... computers periodically dump accumulated data to make room for more input, vomiting the past to make room for more future. Similarly, when the chain of energy reactions in a nuclear reactor gets out of control, the core threatens to melt down, making room for a very different future.

-- From the catalogue essay for  
Infotainment at Nature Morte,  
1985

**TOTAL RECALL** expands upon these themes and technologies, creating an electronic world of optical overload. As staged in The Kitchen's black box theatre, **TOTAL RECALL** is a dramatic confrontation between the different visual media operating in the world today.

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