

What's cookin' at the Kitchen

By JERY ROSA

SOMEONE'S IN THE Kitchen with experimental art. Someone else with experimental dance and music. Someone else with video as an art form, featuring themes surreal, conceptual, and documentary. In the Gallery there are exhibitions. On television monitors in the Viewing Room, there are avant-garde works of all sorts. And in the performance space, dance and music.

The Kitchen is in SoHo, and, as all good kitchens must, it feeds (the senses) and nurtures (new talent). According to its director, Mary MacArthur, the Kitchen provides a refuge and leaping point for contemporary arts limited by the "strain of convention."

This weekend, for example, there is Space Force, a multi-monitor installation of the finest earth-monitoring satellites. Space Force, a service of the Ocean Earth Construction and Development Corporation, unites artists and scientists in showing advances in art and technology. Computer-processed tapes, "digital colors," photographs, and an artist's touch produce landscapes that one can "visually walk through."

There is also a unique presentation entitled "Women's Work," displaying video art forms produced by women around the country.

When the Kitchen opened in 1971 as a center for video art, it was the only such outlet around, since museums and galleries were not providing screenings for artists' works and many people were even reluctant to call it art.

Steina and Woody Valsulka, who were not reluctant, rented a small space in the Mercer Arts Center—in the former Broadway Central Hotel. There in the hotel kitchen they screened video art and presented concerts.

In 1974, the Kitchen settled in SoHo, and, says MacArthur, "just attracted a very good reputation very quickly. The work was intelligent and interesting."

It still is.

The Kitchen, at 59 Wooster St., is open Tuesday through Saturday. The Viewing Room and gallery events are free from 1-6 p.m. Evening dance and music performances range from \$4-\$5.

Daily News, February 26, 1982