

For Immediate Release

The Kitchen Presents Jose Alvarez's *The Visitors*

Artist's first New York solo exhibition will feature newly created videos, paintings, works-on-paper, and photography

September 27, 2007—**The Kitchen** will present the first New York solo exhibition by the Florida-based artist, **Jose Alvarez**. Entitled *The Visitors*, the show brings together a selection of recent work, from newly created crystal paintings and psychedelic collages to performative videos and photographs that continue his exploration of mysticism, science, spirituality, magic and the construction of belief. Taken as a whole, the work emphasizes how the unfolding of psychic hoaxes, the perceived supernatural energy of charmed objects and the mysterious quests underlying space exploration all connect to the strong human desire for knowledge and transformation.

Curated by **Debra Singer**, *The Visitors* will be on view at The Kitchen from **November 1—December 22, 2007**. The Kitchen's gallery hours are Tuesday—Friday, 12:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. and Saturday, 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Admission is free. There will be an opening reception for the exhibition at The Kitchen on Thursday, November 1, from 6:00—8:00 P.M.

A painter, performance artist and video maker, **Jose Alvarez** is perhaps best-known internationally for his charismatic performances in which he “channeled” the 2,000-year old spirit of the shaman, Carlos, in front of live audiences and in media broadcasts across the globe in the United States, China, Australia, Europe, and South America. Intending to demystify and expose the questionable character of proclaimed faith healers and cult-like spiritual leaders, Alvarez reveals within the structure of the performances, his identity as an artist and the false promises such figures offer the public.

In more recent years, Alvarez has turned away from live performance and has instead been making video works that investigate similar themes, and paintings derived from special materials known for their symbolic mystical powers—crystals, exotic bird feathers and porcupine quills. The first major showing of Alvarez's work in New York since his debut in the *2002 Whitney Biennial*, *The Visitors* reveals how the varied strains of his practice interconnect in his personal quest for scientific and spiritual “truth.” Together, the work reflects the influences of his long-standing dialogue with James Randi, the famous magician and renowned challenger of paranormal phenomena; and the writings of Carlos Castaneda, the Peruvian anthropologist/guru who authored several controversial books detailing the teachings of a Mesoamerican shaman (and after whom Alvarez's performance persona is named); as well as the effect of his recent visits to Houston's NASA Space Flight Center's lunar lab and Australia's Parkes Observatory telescope.

About the Artist

Jose Alvarez was born in 1968 in New York and graduated from the School of Visual Arts in 1995. He has created performances for television, radio and the stage, appearing in such varied venues as Univision, Telemundo, Chinese Central Television, Johnson Space Flight Center and a 1998 ABC News Special, “The Power of Belief.” Alvarez's work has been included in the *2002 Whitney Biennial* and in group exhibitions at such institutions as the Deitch Projects, New York; the Visual Arts Gallery, New York; Gavlak Projects, West Palm Beach; and Ingalls and Associates, Miami. He has received solo exhibitions at the Museum of Art, Ft.

Lauderdale; Western Projects, Los Angeles; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco; Ratio3, San Francisco and Miami. Alvarez currently lives and works in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Funding

This exhibition is made possible with generous support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; Sukey Cáceres and Michael Novogratz; Nancy and Stanley Singer; Gavlak Gallery, West Palm Beach; Ratio 3, San Francisco; and with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



ABOUT THE KITCHEN

The Kitchen is one of New York City's oldest nonprofit performance and exhibition spaces, showing experimental work by innovative artists, both emerging and established. Programs range from dance, music, and theatrical performances to video and media arts exhibitions to literary events, film screenings, and artists' talks. 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 x 11
Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

The Kitchen
512 West 19th Street
New York, NY 10011
www.thekitchen.org

#####