

JENNY PERLIN / PETER WELZ

In the seventies, a lawyer named Marshall Perlin forced the government to declassify F.B.I. surveillance files pertaining to the case against Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. Now archived at Columbia University, the Perlin Papers are the basis for a film-and-animation diptych by the artist Jenny Perlin, a distant relative of Marshall. "Transcript" re-creates a covertly recorded dinner conversation in which two couples in a Greenwich Village flat discuss testifying before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Perlin hired actors to perform the text, which we hear while the camera lingers on a dingy marble hallway in an apartment building. The animation scrolls through a re-creation of the transcript itself, which mostly reads "inaudible." It's a fascinating and timely project, but, unfortunately, it sounds more interesting than it looks. The same could be said for Welz's collaboration with the choreographer William Forsythe, which "transcribes," in installation and video, a phrase from Samuel Beckett. Through Feb. 10. (The Kitchen, 512 W. 19th St. 212-255-5793.)