

The Kitchen

512 W 19th Street New York, NY 10011
(212)255-5793 www.thekitchen.org

Xaviera Simmons: *CODED* **June 22 – July 29**

Opening reception: Wednesday, June 22 from 6 – 8pm.

The Kitchen is pleased to present *CODED*, an exhibition of works by Xaviera Simmons featuring new and recent photographic, audio, text-based sculptural work and ultimately a movement-based performance. Her dynamic interdisciplinary approach to art-making is rooted in an ongoing investigation of experience, memory, and present and future histories, specifically focusing on shifting notions surrounding landscape and character, as well as conversations between formal processes. With *CODED*, Simmons continues to mine art historical sources, Internet media, and archival images, in this case as they relate to queer history, homoerotic imagery as well as Jamaican dancehall culture, to construct a new, cohesive conceptual territory.

Simmons' particular vocabulary of movement, reference, sense, text, breath, sound, and image offers ways of looking at sexuality, gender, pleasure, and sensuality in a queer context and in an island context. The exhibition is the foundation for a unique choreographic score for the forthcoming performance work. Through the sensual, through movement, her works push towards a committed practice of visual freedom. This project is curated by Matthew Lyons.

Xaviera Simmons is a critically acclaimed artist whose body of work spans photography, performance, video, sound, sculpture and installation. Simmons is committed equally to the examination of different artistic modes and processes where, for example, she may dedicate part of a year to photography, another part to performance, and other parts to installation, video, and sound works-keeping her practice in constant and consistent rotation, shift, and engagement.

Xaviera Simmons' *CODED* is on view June 22 – July 29 at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Gallery hours June 23–July 2: Tuesday–Friday, 12pm–6pm, Saturday, 11–6pm. Summer hours July 5–July 29: 11am–6pm Monday–Friday. An opening reception will take place on Wednesday, June 22 from 6 – 8pm. For updated information, please visit <http://thekitchen.org/event/xaviera-simmons-coded>.

Simmons received her BFA from Bard College (2004) after spending two years on a walking pilgrimage retracing the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade with Buddhist Monks. She completed the Whitney Museum's Independent Study Program in Studio Art (2005) while

simultaneously completing a two-year actor-training conservatory with The Maggie Flanigan Studio. Simmons has exhibited nationally and internationally where major exhibitions and performances include: The Museum of Modern Art, MoMA PS1, The Studio Museum In Harlem, The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, The Public Art Fund, The Sculpture Center, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum; David Castillo Gallery and The Savannah College Of Art and Design among many others.

Her works are in major museum and private collections including Deutsche Bank, UBS, The Guggenheim Museum, The Agnes Gund Art Collection, The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, The Studio Museum in Harlem, MOCA Miami, The Nasher Museum Of Art at Duke University and The Perez Art Museum, Miami. Simmons is the recipient of significant and numerous awards including a 2015 Foundation for Contemporary Art Grants To Artists Award for Visual Art. Simmons has multiple major solo and group exhibitions upcoming in 2016 including exhibitions and performances at The Museum Of Modern Art and The Kitchen as well as a curatorial project at the headquarters of Deutsche Bank, New York. Simmons is a 2015 Recipient of a Louis Comfort Tiffany Memorial Foundation Award.

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.

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Press Contacts

For more information, please contact Sandrine Milet or John Wyszniowski at Blake Zidell & Associates, 718.643.9052, sandrine@blakezidell.com or john@blakezidell.com
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