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For Immediate Release

**The Kitchen to present double bill of performances by
Michael Paul Britto and Kenya (Robinson),
April 29 & 30**

In conjunction with The Kitchen's current exhibition, *Shame The Devil*

New York, NY, April 11, 2011—**The Kitchen** will present a double bill of new live performance works by the artists **Michael Paul Britto** and **Kenya (Robinson)**. Using the format of a church revival, Britto's *This Little Word of Mine* is a multimedia piece that investigates the use and misuse of the "N" word in music, media, and everyday language. (Robinson)'s *YOURMAMADONTWEARNODRAWS* is a suite of solo performances—some new, others revisions of earlier works. Curated by **Rashida Bumbray**, the shows will begin at **8:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Tickets are \$10.

These performances are presented in conjunction with the group exhibition *Shame The Devil*, curated by Petrushka Bazin, in which both artists are participants. The show is on view in The Kitchen's gallery through **Saturday, April 30**.

Britto's *This Little Word of Mine* extends his longstanding critique of popular representations of "blackness" and unveils the endless reiteration of this country's racial hierarchy. Imaginatively repurposing call-and-response forms drawn from African-American religious traditions as well as popular hip-hop anthems, Britto focuses on the N-word, recalling the NAACP's 2007 mock funeral for the word. While *This Little Word of Mine* remains within Britto's cross-disciplinary style—combining linguistic, textual, musical and visual elements—this piece is a departure for the artist. He not only casts himself in a central role, but also introduces more explicit improvisation through the use of a live gospel choir and audience participation.

This Little Word of Mine enacts the conflicted, ambiguous and, ultimately, politically motivated processes through which language achieves meaning in the creative realm. Engaging themes of transcendence, redemption and conflict, this work implies that the N-word might have multiple lives—lives that we, as spectators and consumers, are actively shaping.

(Robinson) is known for shrewd and riotously humorous performances that explore the complicated relationships between race, class, gender, and popular culture. She will revisit and build upon this repertoire in *YOURMAMADONTWEARNODRAWS*, which is a program structured as a series of vignettes using sound, movement, video impersonation and improvisation. In it, (Robinson) shares new works-in-progress and revisions of past works,

including *WHITEMANTALKING* (2010), a stream-of-consciousness manifesto investigating whiteness by using statements culled from various iconic American movies.

In addition, *YOURMAMADONTWEARNODRAWS* is expected to draw upon *The Inflatable Mattress*, a separate and ongoing current project wherein she acts as a houseguest for a different host, both strangers and friends, each week from February to May.

About the Artists

Michael Paul Britto is a video and performance artist born and raised in Brooklyn. He graduated from the City College of New York. His work includes videos, digital photography, sculpture and performance. Recent residencies include: the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Smack Mellon Gallery and the Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation. Featured exhibitions include: El Museo del Barrio, The Studio Museum of Harlem, The Zacheta National Gallery in Warsaw and the Victoria and Albert Museum in England. Most recently, Britto participated in *Manifesta 8*, the European Biennial of Contemporary Art, which took place in Spain in Winter 2010-2011.

Kenya (Robinson) is a self-taught artist from Gainesville, Florida. She will begin the MFA in Sculpture at Yale School of Art in the Fall of 2011. A past resident of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's WorkSpace Program (2009-2010) and the 2010 Triangle Arts Workshop, her sculptural work has been exhibited at The Museum of Contemporary Diasporan Arts, The Jersey City Museum, The Aljira Center for Contemporary Art and The 60 Wall Street Gallery at Deutsche Bank. In addition, her performances have been featured at Rush Arts Gallery, P.S. 1, DUMBO Arts Festival, Recess Activities Inc. and Cabinet Space.

Funding Credits

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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 ext. 11
Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

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