

 **The Kitchen**
40TH ANNIVERSARY

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For Immediate Release

**The Kitchen presents *Shame The Devil*, a group exhibition,
March 17—April 30**

New York, NY, February 22, 2011—The Kitchen is pleased to present *Shame The Devil*, a group exhibition examining the parallel abilities of stand-up comedians and visual artists to play the roles of cultural observer and provocateur. Curated by guest curator **Petrushka Bazin**, the show features new sculpture, installations, video and photography by the artists **Jabari Anderson, Elizabeth Axtman, Michael Paul Britto, Wayne Hodge, My Barbarian, Huong Ngo, Jessica Ann Peavy, Sara Greenberger Rafferty, Kenya (Robinson) and Jimmy Joe Roche.**

An opening reception for *Shame The Devil* will take place at **The Kitchen** (512 West 19th Street) on **Thursday, March 17, 6:00—8:00 P.M.** The exhibition will be on view **Thursday, March 17 through Saturday, April 30.** 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.**

Special performances in The Kitchen's theater will be presented in conjunction with the exhibition: My Barbarian's *Broke People's Baroque Peoples' Theater* on **Saturday, March 26 at 7:30 P.M.**, and Michael Paul Britto's *This Little Word of Mine* and Kenya (Robinson)'s *YOURMAMADONTWEARNODRAWS* on **Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30 at 8:00 P.M.** Tickets are **\$10** for both shows.

In all of its various forms—including stand-up, theater, literature, television, and film—comedy has long provided valuable inspiration and techniques for artists seeking to critique society. The artists presented in *Shame The Devil* utilize parody, satire and dark humor to explore the socio-political dimensions of power associated with cultural, racial and economic issues. Titled after the idiom "tell the truth and shame the devil," which means to speak honestly and without censorship, the exhibition investigates comedy's ability to survey and challenge the values of those confronted by its jokes.

The artists' works examine the subtleties and structure of stand-up comedy routines—the mannerisms, oral delivery and physical stage where performances take place. Furthermore, the agency of comedy is considered as a subversive political strategy, inciting debate and reflection. Following the long tradition of political caricature, the artists offer wry send-ups of political commentary on critical issues like racial profiling, anti-terrorist paranoia and right-wing extremism. The works also highlight the inherent therapeutic qualities of comedy for both stand-up comics and artists who must use humor to assuage harsh realities.

About the Artists

Dawolu Jabari Anderson attended Texas Southern University and the University of Houston and has exhibited work at Project Row Houses, The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Blaffer Gallery and Texas Southern's University Museum. He presented his first solo exhibition at the Art League Houston in 2005. Anderson participated in the 2006 Whitney Biennial: *Day for Night*, as a member of Otabenga Jones & Associates and was also a resident at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. He participated in a travelling exhibition in Palazzo Delle Papesse Centro

Arte Contemporanea in Siena, Italy; was a finalist for the 2007 Arthouse Texas Prize; a recipient of the Louis Comfort Tiffany Grant; and had his Bailout political cartoon featured in The New York Times twice.

Elizabeth Axtman is a performance and video artist who lives and works in Oakland and Brooklyn. Her work has been exhibited at the Renaissance Society, University of Chicago; Gene Siskel Film Center Gallery, Gallery 2; Diaspora Vibe Gallery, Miami; Arthouse, Austin, TX; ThisIsNotaGallery, Buenos Aires; The Studio Museum in Harlem; and The Contemporary Art Museum Houston. Axtman received her BA from San Francisco State University, her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture.

Michael Paul Britto was born in Brooklyn and graduated from the City College of New York. He works in video, 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 in 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.

Wayne Hodge received an MFA from Rutgers University and attended the Whitney Independent Study Program and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. His work has been shown at The Bronx Museum, P.S.1 Contemporary Arts Center and The Studio Museum in Harlem. He was the recipient of a Creative Capital grant in 2008, and has shown internationally in Germany, Brazil and China.

My Barbarian was founded by Malik Gaines, Jade Gordon and Alexandro Segade in 2000. The group has performed and exhibited at venues including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Hammer Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, LAXART, the Whitney Museum of American Art, New Museum and The Studio Museum in Harlem. In addition, they have exhibited at numerous international venues including The Power Plant, Toronto; De Appel, Amsterdam; Galleria Civica, Trento, Italy; and Townhouse Gallery, Cairo with solo exhibitions at Museo El Eco in Mexico City and at the Hammer Museum. My Barbarian is represented by Steve Turner Contemporary in Los Angeles.

Huong Ngo is an artist and educator living and working in New York City. She was born in Hong Kong and grew up in North Carolina, where she received her BFA from UNC Chapel Hill. She received her MFA from the School of the Art Institute in Chicago and teaches at Parsons the New School for Design, Pratt Institute, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. She has exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, The Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art. She has received awards and residencies from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, and Chashama. She is currently working on a show at EFA Project Space in collaboration with Hong-An Truong.

Jessica Ann Peavy was born in Columbus, Ohio and lives and works in New York City. She received her BFA from Tisch School of the Arts–New York University and completed an MFA at the School of Visual Arts. Peavy has exhibited at Momenta Art, The Contemporary Art Museum Houston, PPOW Gallery, and Rush Arts Gallery, and has participated in residencies at Smack Mellon and Harvestworks. She has received grants from Franklin Furnace, Jerome Foundation and the New York State Council of the Arts. Peavy is represented by Collette Blanchard Gallery, New York.

Sara Greenberger Rafferty, who lives and works in Brooklyn, received her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA from Columbia University's School of the Arts. Rafferty has had solo exhibitions at Rachel Uffner Gallery, NYC; The Kitchen, NYC; Sandroni Rey Gallery, Los Angeles; and MoMA/P.S.1, Queens; Her work has recently been included in group exhibitions organized by The Jewish Museum, New York and Public Art Fund at MetroTech Center, Brooklyn. She has an upcoming solo exhibition at The Suburban, Chicago. Sara Greenberger Rafferty is represented by Rachel Uffner Gallery.

Kenya (Robinson) is a self-taught artist from Gainesville, Florida who lives and works in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. A past resident of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's WorkSpace Program (2009-2010) and the 2010 Triangle Arts Workshop, her 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. Her performances have been featured at Rush Arts Gallery, P.S. 1, DUMBO Arts Festival, Recess Activities Inc. and Cabinet Space.

Jimmy Joe Roche lives and works in Baltimore, received a BFA from the Film Conservatory at S.U.N.Y. Purchase College, and an MFA from the Mt. Royal School of Art at the Maryland Institute College of Art. He has had solo exhibitions at RARE Gallery in New York and Phillip J. Steele Gallery at the Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design in Colorado. His video work has also been screened at the Royal Academy of Arts/London, Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, J. Paul Getty Museum, Baltimore Museum of Art, Incubate Arts Festival in Holland, and ROJO@Nova 2010 in Sao Paulo.

Funding Credits

This exhibition is made possible with support from Dedalus Foundation Inc., The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and 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 ext. 11
Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

The Kitchen
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