

For Immediate Release

The Kitchen presents Mika Tajima: *The Double*

New installation commissioned by The Kitchen

New York, NY, March 3, 2008—**The Kitchen** is pleased to present a newly commissioned sculptural installation by **Mika Tajima** entitled *The Double*. Interested in the given roles and multiple functions at play in performance as well as Modernist aesthetic tropes, Tajima constructs a kind of phantom performance space borrowing imagery and structural references from various archival sources ranging from Herman Miller's office furniture system from the late 1960s to Donald Cammell and Nicolas Roeg's 1970 cult film *Performance*.

Curated by **Matthew Lyons**, *The Double* will be on view from **March 14—April 26, 2008**. 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 at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street) **Friday, March 14 from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.**

In Tajima's installation, the exhibition space is divided by a phalanx of freestanding panels that merge aspects of sculpture, painting, and graphic design to form an obstructive wall of pattern and reflection. Referencing recent and historically significant built structures that form geopolitical borders and divisions, the modular panels also allude to the cubicle structures of the modern office environment, specifically Robert Propst's "Action Office" designs commissioned by Herman Miller and launched in 1968. Considered at the time to be the optimal spatial configuration to foster office productivity as well as shape social interaction, this series was the first panel-based office furniture system in the world. Still in production, the "Action Office" was originally marketed for its ability to adapt to both the needs of the workplace and aesthetic changes in the future; however, to the lament of Propst, its legacy has become associated with alienation and rigid production roles. Beyond this barrier, Tajima constructs a dynamic environment of leaning mirrored panels, embellished with silkscreened and laser-cut patterns, and a swinging, hanging lamp drawn from a scene in the film *Performance*. Casting extreme shadows and shards of reflected or projected light, the lamp activates the otherwise static elements in the installation and underscores their dual roles as either sculptural sites for potential actions or surrogates for absent performers themselves. In a related project, Tajima will create a "double" of this exhibition in a solo show, also titled *The Double*, at the Centre for Opinions in Art and Music (www.coma-berlin.com) in Berlin, Germany which will be on view from May 1 through June 11, 2008. Like the radically impossible projects of the Italian architectural group Superstudio who in the late 1960s and '70s proposed a gridded superstructure that would eventually wrap around the world, the paired exhibitions suggest an expanding and evolving sequence of dystopian monuments and modular obstructions.

Mika Tajima was born in Los Angeles and currently lives and works in New York. She graduated with an MFA from Columbia University School of the Arts in 2003, was the 2004 recipient of the Artists Space Independent Project Grant and a 2005 nominee for the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Initiative Program. In 2007, Tajima had solo exhibitions at Circuit in Lausanne, Switzerland and Elizabeth Dee Gallery in New York. Her forthcoming exhibitions include the *2008 Whitney Biennial*; a solo exhibition at COMA in Berlin, Germany; and *One Way or Another: Asian American Art Now*, at the Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles. New Humans, founded in 2003, is also the moniker Tajima's collaborative music, art, and design projects, and New Humans has performed at such venues as Ballroom Marfa (Marfa, TX), Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia (Madrid, Spain), and the Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN).

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

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

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