

# The Kitchen

Anicka Yi: *You Can Call Me F*  
March 5–April 11, 2015

The Kitchen is pleased to present the exhibition *You Can Call Me F* by artist Anicka Yi.

In *You Can Call Me F* by artist Anicka Yi, The Kitchen's gallery will function as a forensic site in which the artist aligns society's growing paranoia around contagion and hygiene, both public and private, with the enduring patriarchal fear of feminism and potency of female networks. Yi manifests and aggregates this potency by calling upon 100 women in her professional network—fellow artists, curators, critics, dealers and collectors—to donate biological information samples in order to create a collective bacteria under the guidance of synthetic biologist Tal Danino. These networks additionally place themselves within The Kitchen's history as a natural “breeding ground” for artistic collaboration.

This collective bacteria is used as living material representing the idea of the female figure as a viral pathogen, one which is continually subject to external attempts to be contained and neutralized. In a nod to Hollywood's capitalization of the audience's appetite for paranoia around global pandemics, Yi utilizes the collective bacteria to create a petri dish billboard at the entrance to the gallery, modeled on a marketing tool for Steven Soderbergh's 2011 film *Contagion*. The bacteria will continue to grow throughout the exhibition as a time-based work. While we must resist dwelling on the pathogens we encounter throughout our daily routines, this work renders visible the source of our unease.

In the gallery, viewers will enter an environment evoking the anxious isolation in the aftermath of a pandemic. Quarantine tents allow limited transparency and access while aiming to protect the fragile ecosystems within; these ecosystems are ones of Yi's own creation, containing sculptures using her material vocabulary of industrial ingredients in combination with organic matter. Diffusers will release a scent that synthesizes the all-female network of the collective bacteria with the almost imperceptible odor of the ultimate patriarchal-model network in the art world, Gagosian Gallery.

Yi's exhibition speaks to the contradictions of the current moment: one in which the term “feminist” has been reintroduced as a marketing tool in mainstream popular culture, while patriarchal society continues to repress women across all aspects of society; and where “virality” is a concept associated with both desire and dread. Yi's literal cultivation of the female body for “You Can Call Me F” is a reflection of her humanist approach, which foregrounds the politics and subjectivities of smell, and its impact on our empathic understanding of each other.

*You Can Call Me F* is curated by Lumi Tan.

Special thanks to exhibition collaborators Tal Danino, MIT post doctoral synthetic biologist; Dr. Patrick Hickey, biologist; and Sean Raspet, Air Variable; and to the women who have contributed to the exhibition including Michele Abeles, Becca Albee, Alisa Barenboym, Stefania Bortolami, Kerstin Braetsch, Lauren Boyle, A.K. Burns, Johanna Burton, Alexandra Butler, Lauren O'Neill Butler, Eleanor Cayre, Xavier Cha, Mary Ceruti, Margaret Liu Clinton, Lauren Cornell, Aria Dean, Cristina Delgado, Nikola Dietrich, Bridget Donahue, Olivia Erlanger, Emma Fernberger, Elena Filipovic, Bridget Finn, Gabrielle Giattino, Laurel Gitlen, Yulan

Grant, K8 Hardy, Pati Hertling, Liz Hop, Katie Hubbard, Juliana Huxtable, Jane Jo, Lisa Jo, Caroline Jones, Ruba Katrib, Sophie Kaye, Michelle Kuo, Maggie Lee, Margaret Lee, Amy Lien, Rachel Uffner, Mirabelle Marden, Park McArthur, Haley Mellin, Andrea Merckx, Laura Mitterrand, Jeanette Mundt, Andrea Neustein, Mariko Ouchi, Laurence Perrillat, Kari Rittenbach, Rachel Rose, Meg Rotzel, Nicole Russo, Holly Stanton, Simone Subal, Mika Tajima, Lumi Tan, Kelly Taxter, Allese Thomson, Brina Thurston, Alise Upitis, Allyson Vieira, Amy Yao, Wendy Yao, and additional anonymous donors.

### Credits

Anicka Yi: *You Can Call Me F* is made possible with support from Jerome Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Robert Soros, Rebecca and Marty Eisenberg, Eleanor Cayre, Andrew Black, and in part by public funds from New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



### 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.

Facebook: [facebook.com/TheKitchenNYC](https://facebook.com/TheKitchenNYC)

Twitter: [twitter.com/TheKitchen\\_NYC](https://twitter.com/TheKitchen_NYC)

Instagram: [Instagram.com/TheKitchen\\_NYC](https://Instagram.com/TheKitchen_NYC)

Press contact: John Wyszniwski at Blake Zidell & Associates, 718.643.9052, [john@blakezidell.com](mailto:john@blakezidell.com).

###