

The Kitchen

Scaffold Room

Installation on View October 30–December 5

Performances November 3 – 10

The Kitchen is pleased to present the New York premiere of *Scaffold Room*, created by artist **Ralph Lemon**.

Having begun his career as a dancer and choreographer, Lemon has since the 1990s made projects for the gallery context as well, and his unique engagement across disciplines with questions of institutional and social frameworks have placed him among the most pivotal artists working today.

For *Scaffold Room*, which merges performance, visual art, music, and text, such inquisitions are entwined with an exploration of archetypal black female personae in American culture and, more specifically, of refractions of this figure that arise through mediation and representation. For Lemon's gallery installation—which is unique to The Kitchen's presentation of *Scaffold Room*—the artist presents video of a rural Mississippi Delta community, embodied by 86-year-old Edna Carter and her extended family, with whom Lemon shares a long history. This video is featured alongside performances by **Okwui Okpokwasili** (*Bronx Gothic*, Julie Taymor's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*) and **April Matthis** (*Fondly*, *Collette Richland*) taking place in The Kitchen theater in what Lemon calls a “lecture-performance-musical”—summoning iconic characters from literature, film, and history, from Moms Mabley to Amy Winehouse, to act out (and out of) cultural conventions surrounding body politics and identity.

As part of *Scaffold Room*'s gallery installation at The Kitchen, Lemon also features a Graphic Reading Room, in which prominent figures such as **Yvonne Rainer**, **Fred Moten**, **Miguel Gutierrez**, and **Gary Indiana** will read graphic passages from works of literature experimenting with form while grappling with issues of power, sexuality, and identity. Among these texts, selected by Lemon, are works by some of the most transgressive American writers of the past decades, including punk poet and experimental novelist Kathy Acker, whose prose examines power dynamics through a lens of explicit, sometimes violent, sexuality; and Samuel R. Delany, whose work takes up futuristic and pornographic themes, anticipating how human interaction and intimacy would become at once more fractured and intense, or refracted, in a networked era.

Performances of *Scaffold Room* will take place November 3–10 (see schedule below); and Lemon's installation will be open to the public during gallery hours through December 5. An opening reception on October 30 will feature performances by **Kevin Beasley** and **Marina Rosenfeld**.

Tickets for *Scaffold Room* performances are \$20 (\$16 students, seniors) and can be purchased online at thekitchen.org or by phone at 212.255.5793 x11. Please see below for performance and programming schedule. All other events are free to the public.

Scaffold Room at The Kitchen is curated and organized by Tim Griffin and Matthew Lyons.

Scaffold Room Programming & Performance Schedule:

Friday, October 30

6-8pm *Scaffold Room* Opening Reception with Marina Rosenfeld and Kevin Beasley

Saturday, October 31

11am-6pm *Scaffold Room* open

Tuesday, November 3

12pm *Scaffold Room* open

5pm Graphic Reading Room with Yvonne Rainer reading from Marquis de Sade's *120 Days of Sodom*

6pm *Scaffold Room* (Memory) Refraction #1. Artist Talk by Ralph Lemon

8pm *Scaffold Room* Performance*

Wednesday, November 4

12pm *Scaffold Room* open

5pm Graphic Reading Room with Fred Moten reading from Iceberg Slim's *Pimp*

8pm *Scaffold Room* Performance*

Thursday, November 5

12pm *Scaffold Room* open

5pm Graphic Reading Room with Miguel Gutierrez reading from David Wojnarowicz's *Close to the Knives*

8pm *Scaffold Room* Performance*

Friday, November 6

12pm *Scaffold Room* open

4pm Ceremonies out of the Air. Artist Talk by Ralph Lemon

5pm Graphic Reading Room with Okwui Okpokwasilli reading from Samuel R. Delany's *Equinox*

8pm *Scaffold Room* Performance*

Saturday, November 7

11am *Scaffold Room* open

1-4pm *Scaffold Room* Refractions #2, #3, #4, and #5 (with Marina Rosenfeld)

8pm *Scaffold Room* Performance*

Monday, November 9

12pm *Scaffold Room* open

5pm Graphic Reading Room with Gary Indiana reading Mary McCarthy's *My Confession*

8pm *Scaffold Room* Performance*

Tuesday, November 10

12pm *Scaffold Room* open

2pm *Scaffold Room* Performance*

5pm Graphic Reading Room with Tim Griffin reading Chris Kraus's *I Love Dick*

8pm *Scaffold Room* Performance*

Wednesday, November 11 – Saturday, December 5

Scaffold Room open in gallery, Tuesday–Friday, 12–6pm; Saturday, 11am–6pm

*Performances require purchase of ticket.

Ralph Lemon (Creator, Choreographer and Director) is a director, choreographer, writer, visual artist, and curator, and the Artistic Director of Cross Performance, a company dedicated to the creation of cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary performance and presentation. His most recent works include the innovative dance/film project *Four Walls* (2012), and *How Can You Stay in The House All Day and Not Go Anywhere?* (2008-2010), a work with live performance, film and visual art that toured across the U.S. The immersive visual art installation, *Meditation*, which was part of *How Can You Stay...*, was purchased for the permanent collection of the Walker Art Center in 2012. In January 2011, a re-imagined section of *How Can You Stay...* was performed at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City in conjunction with *On Line: Drawing Through the Twentieth Century*. Mr. Lemon curated the fall 2012 performance series *Some sweet day* at MoMA, and the acclaimed 2010 performance series *I Get Lost* at Danspace Project in NYC.

Lemon's visual artwork was shown in a group exhibit *When the Stars Begin to Fall: Imagination and the American South* at the Studio Museum of Harlem (summer 2014). His solo visual art exhibitions include: *1856 Cessna Road* at The Studio Museum in Harlem, NYC (2012); *How Can You Stay In The House All Day and Not Go Anywhere?*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco (2010); *(the efflorescence of) Walter*, Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans (2008), The Kitchen, NYC (2007) and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2006); *The Geography Trilogy*, Zilkha Gallery at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT (2001); and *Temples*, Margaret Bodell Gallery, NYC (2000). His group exhibitions include: *When the Stars Begin to Fall: Imagination & the American South*, The Studio Museum in Harlem; *Move: Choreographing You*, Hayward Gallery, London, UK and *The Record: Contemporary Art and Vinyl*, Nasher Museum at Duke University, Durham, NC. Mr. Lemon's book, *Come home Charley Patton*, the final in a series documenting The Geography Trilogy, was published in 2013 by Wesleyan University Press.

In 2012, Lemon was honored with one of the first Doris Duke Performing Artist Awards; he was also one of the first artists to receive the United States Artists Fellowship (2006). He is recipient of two "Bessie" Awards (1986, 2005); two Foundation for Contemporary Art Awards (1986, 2012); two New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships (2004, 2009); a 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship; a 2004 Bellagio Study Center Fellowship; and the 1999 CalArts Alpert Award.

Mr. Lemon has been an IDA Fellow at Stanford University (2009); artist-in-residence at Temple University (2005-06); Miller Endowment Visiting Artist at the Krannert Center (2004); Fellow of the Humanities Council and Program in Theater & Dance at Princeton University (2002); and Associate Artist at Yale Repertory Theatre (1996-2000). For the fall 2011 semester he was a Visiting Critic with the Yale University, School of Art, Sculpture Department. Currently he is the 2013-14 Annenberg Fellow at the Museum of Modern Art, where he has curated a series of "performance essays," titled *Value Talks*.

Scaffold Room has been seen in various iterations at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, and The Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, MN. Claudia LaRocco, writing for *Artforum*, called it "one of the headiest and most beautiful things I've seen in I don't know how long"; and Jenn Joy, in for *BOMB Magazine*, described it as "gorgeous and terrifying."

Scaffold Room is made possible through grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Surdna Foundation, The Doris Duke Performing Arts Awards Audience Development program, and the MAP Fund (a program of Creative Capital supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation), and the Poss Family Foundation. *Scaffold Room* is also made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and additional funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the MetLife Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as The New England Foundation for the Arts' Production Residency for Dance Program, with funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; the James E. Robison Foundation, the Bossak Heilbrun Foundation; and individual donors.

Scaffold Room is a production of Cross Performance and MAPP International Productions. It was commissioned by The Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, MN and was co-commissioned by Live Arts Bard at the Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College. Additional co-commissioning support has been provided by Maggie Allessee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University, and the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC). The work was also developed through a residency at the Park Avenue Armory.

The Kitchen's production of *Scaffold Room* is made possible with support from the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts; The James E. Robison Foundation; Mertz Gilmore Foundation, The Jerome Robbins Foundation, and The Harkness Foundation for Dance; 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.

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For more information, please contact Emily Reilly or John Wyszniwski at Blake Zidell & Associates, 718.643.9052, emily@blakezidell.com or john@blakezidell.com.

Scaffold Room

Created by **Ralph Lemon**

In collaboration with: **Kevin Beasley, Jim Findlay, Paul Hamilton, Malcolm Low, April Matthis, Roderick Murray, Naoko Nagata, Okwui Okpokwasili, Omagbitse Omagbemi, Katherine Profeta, Marina Rosenfeld, Mike Taylor, and Philip White.**

The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street, NYC)

Performances: November 3–7, 9, 10 at 8pm; November 10 at 2pm

Installation: October 30– December 5; Tuesday–Friday 12–6pm, Saturday 11am–6pm

Tickets: \$20 (\$16 students, seniors)

thekitchen.org; 212.255.5793 x11