

## The Kitchen

For Immediate Release  
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### THE KITCHEN PRESENTS “RESIDENT EVIL” BY SONDRA PERRY, NOVEMBER 2 – DECEMBER 10

#### Artist Sondra Perry’s Solo Debut Exhibit at The Kitchen’s Gallery

In 1971, jazz pioneer and philosopher Sun Ra (1914–1993) said, “Black people need a mythocracy, not a democracy, because they’ll never make it in history.... Truth is not permissible for me to use because I’m not righteous and holy, I’m evil, that’s because I’m black and I’m not subscribed to any types of righteousness.” This provocation is amongst the influences that artist **Sondra Perry** uses to frame “Resident Evil,” her most ambitious project to date, and her first institutional solo exhibition. “Resident Evil” is curated by Lumi Tan, and runs from November 2–December 10.

Sun Ra’s concept of “evil” is echoed in the exhibition’s title referring to Capcom’s landmark 1996 “survival horror” video game, and in allusions to Ridley Scott’s *Alien* movie franchise, which has been providing allegories of colonialism and mutability for decades. In this collection of video, sculpture, and writing, Perry asks a multitude of questions: Can oppression function as a virus? How do agents of power behave when their subjects become absolutely unpredictable, fluidly inhabiting societal norms in order to destroy them? How can these defiantly multiplicitous subjects be watched? And how is veracity redefined by this surveillance?

The works of “Resident Evil” are situated entirely within a Chroma-key blue gallery, a signal to the viewer that this is both the blank space of CGI production, and a specifically black space— one in which a blackness existing beyond the black body can be activated and narrativized. By exposing the infrastructure of this black space that is constructed outside considerations of white space, Perry provides a site in which her work, as well its viewers, can begin to reimagine standing value systems and moral structures.

The ideas behind and practices of abstraction are key to Perry’s work, which focuses on the question of what abstraction can do and how to use it responsibly. The constant oscillation between representative and illustrative, or what is perceptible and invisible is inherent in identity construction, and Perry relentlessly questions technology’s role within this. By positioning herself simultaneously as a producer and surveyor of the body in flux, Perry reifies the conditions under which bodies are afforded—or forced to endure—hyper visibility.

“Resident Evil” will be on view November 2 – December 10 at The Kitchen (512 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street). Exhibit hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10am–6pm. An opening reception will take place on November 2 from 6 – 8pm.

In conjunction with the exhibition, M. Lamar will perform *The Demon Rising* on November 5 at 8pm in The Kitchen’s theater. A new composition for male soprano, piano, and projections, it embraces and incarnates white fantasies of blackness as oversized, superhuman, a supernatural menace. At the same time, it charts the black subject’s psychic and mythic odyssey from dehumanizing rituals of death toward a self-made remembering. Tickets are \$15 and available online at [thekitchen.org](http://thekitchen.org) or by phone at 212.255.5793 x 11.

# BLAKE ZIDELL & ASSOCIATES

## About Sondra Perry

Sondra Perry was born in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, in 1986. Perry holds an MFA from Columbia University and a BFA from Alfred University. In 2015, the artist's work appeared in the fourth iteration of the Greater New York exhibition at MoMA/PS1. Other exhibitions include *Disguise: Masks and Global African Art*, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, 2015; *A Curious Blindness*, Miriam & Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery, New York (2015); *Of Present Bodies*, Arlington Arts Center, Arlington VA (2014); and *Young, Gifted, & Black: Transforming Visual Media*, The Camera Club of New York (2012). Perry performed *Sondra Perry & Associate Make Pancakes* and *Shame the Devil* at the Artist's Institute, New York, in 2015. The artist's work has been screened at venues such as Les Voutes, Paris, France; Light Industry, New York; Video Art and Experimental Film Festival, Tribeca Cinemas, New York; Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts Museum, Shenyang China; and LOOP Barcelona Media Arts Festival. Perry was a panelist at Black Artists on Social Media at the Brooklyn Museum, NY. In 2014 Perry was Guest Lecturer at the School of Visual Arts, New York, for the course History, Theory, and Practice of the Image. Perry has participated in residencies at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Vermont Studio Center, Ox-bow, and the Experimental Television Center. Perry is currently based in Houston, Texas as part of the artist-in-residence program CORE at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

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## 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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