

NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

*The Kitchen Center for Video · Music · Dance
Performance · Film and Literature*

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CAFE BARBIE

An Inter-Continental Salon

AN INAUGURAL EVENT OF ELECTRONIC CAFE INTERNATIONAL™

A Multi-Media Spectacle Featuring LAUREN HUTTON and THE LADY BUNNY
in Person, Comments by CAMILLE PAGLIA, and Live Teleconferencing with
SUSAN FALUDI from Santa Monica and Real-Life Barbie CINDY JACKSON from Paris

*“Living Book” Celebrates the Publication of Forever Barbie: The Unauthorized
Biography of A Real Doll by M.G. Lord (William Morrow);
Salon de Barbie, the Accompanying Visual Exhibition, is Curated by Alison Maddex*

Date: November 10

8pm

Tickets: \$12, Members \$10

After a summer of development and testing, The Kitchen inaugurates its second floor cafe/theater as the New York strong site of Electronic Cafe International. **Cafe Barbie**, one of the first public cafe events, will be a salon, discussion and visual art exhibition – a virtual environment with live interactive audio-visual connections to Electronic Cafe sites in Santa Monica, California and Paris, France. **Cafe Barbie** will bring to life *Forever Barbie: The Unauthorized Biography of a Real Doll*, the last word on Barbie through the decades, by **M.G. Lord**, to be published by William Morrow in November. The accompanying visual exhibition will be curated by Alison Maddex.

Cafe Barbie, an untamed media event will feature some of the best interviewees from *Forever Barbie*, the first comprehensive look at one of the most potent icons of popular culture in the late twentieth century. In the book, Ms. Lord traces Barbie's history from her origins in postwar Germany – the doll was copied from a three-dimensional plastic pinup sold in tobacco shops to men – to her current incarnation. Among many others, the book includes comments by **Betty Friedan**, **Susan Faludi** and **Camille Paglia**. These three provocative thinkers will make live, recorded or virtual appearances at **Cafe Barbie**. Also scheduled to appear, in various forms, are model **Lauren Hutton**, *New York Times* fashion writer **Holly Brubach**, Whitney video curator **John Hanhardt**, novelist **A.M. Homes**, critic **RoseLee Goldberg**

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and drag star **The Lady Bunny**. Ms. Faludi will be present via the Electronic Cafe site in Santa Monica, California. London resident **Cindy Jackson**, who spent \$55,000 for 20 operations to make herself over into a real-life Barbie, will be part of the evening via the Electronic Cafe in Paris, France.

Set against the backdrop of photorealist Charles Bell's mural size painting *The Judgement of Paris*, the inter-continental dialogue of **Cafe Barbie** will give way to **Salon de Barbie** – a Barbie-related multi-media exhibition curated by **Alison Maddex**. The exhibition in the entire second floor space of The Kitchen will feature actual fine art and other works and representations. Among the included works will be figurative and literal manipulations of the Barbie doll and the doll's extended family, Barbie paraphernalia including fashion accessories, Barbie periodicals and comics. Examples of historical Mattel-produced Barbie television commercial advertising will be shown on videotape. A compilation of slides of original artwork and of "Barbie's World" will be projected in large scale onto the vaulted walls of The Kitchen. An opening reception for the exhibition and for the book will directly follow **Cafe Barbie**. In early December, **Salon de Barbie** is scheduled to travel to the Guild Hall in South Hampton, New York.

The technological aspects of Cafe Barbie are made possible in large part by newly installed ISDN telephone lines which carry full motion video and audio signals in and out of the Electronic Cafe International at The Kitchen. The Kitchen, the New York "strong site" of the Electronic Cafe network, will become an important component of the Cafe – an international performing/visual arts teleconferencing project which will enable artists around the world to collaboratively explore the cutting edge of interactive, multi-media, communications technology. The Kitchen joins the network of other cafe sites in Santa Monica, Paris, Denmark, Asia and South America. The intention of this milestone project is to create a global telecommunity for the arts – a virtual environment to explore the "human factor" in future technologies. Some have taken to calling it "the people's Bell Labs."

M.G. LORD is the author of *Forever Barbie: The Unauthorized Biography of a Real Doll*, to be published by William Morrow in November. She was a syndicated columnist and political cartoonist for *Newsday* and *New York Newsday* from 1979 to 1994, when she left to write books full time. Her articles have also appeared in *The Nation*, *The American Spectator* and the *Wall Street Journal*. **ALISON MADDEX** has curated a number of exhibition in Washington, D.C. and New York City (better bio...).

Information and telephone reservations for all Kitchen events may be obtained by calling The Kitchen's general number at (212) 255-5793. Advance tickets are available at The Kitchen Monday through Friday, 10am to 5pm, or through TicketMaster at (212) 307-7171.