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**The Kitchen presents the New York premiere of *County Down*,  
A new film by artist Laura Parnes,  
Monday, April 2**

**New York, NY, August 7, 2018**—On **Monday, April 30**, **The Kitchen** presents the New York premiere of artist **Laura Parnes**'s film *County Down*, which is an episodic, web-based film exploring an epidemic of psychosis among the adults in a gated community, brought on by a teenage girl's invention of a designer drug. Parnes will give a special introduction prior to / discussion following the screening. The event will start at **7:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street). Admission is free.

*County Down* is a multi-platform project, combining web-based elements, a video installation and a feature film component. Mirroring rave culture and the unbridled optimism around technology during the 1990s, *County Down* presents a society so obsessed with novelty and consumerism that it euphorically embraces its own destruction.

The film uses the structure of youth-culture media products, such as horror and science fiction movies, video games and coming-of-age films as a barometer of cultural depression. In this live-action animation, reality and illusion intermingle, creating a highly stylized world of visual excess.

The multigenerational cast of downtown performers and artists including: **Chloe Bass, Becca Blackwell, Ellen Cantor, Patty Chang, Marti Domination, Nicole Eisenman, Jim Fletcher, James Fotopoulos, Andy Haynes, William Powhida, Emily Roysdon, Kate Valk, Stephanie Vella** and **Sacha Yanow**. The soundtrack and musical arrangements are by **Johanna Fateman**, formerly of *Le Tigre*, and also include music by **JD Samson, Wynne Greenwood, Long Hind Legs** and **Lesbians On Ecstasy**. Costumes and styling are by **GGrippo**.

*County Down* is the story of Angel, a teenage resident of a gated community. She develops a designer drug with potentially apocalyptic side effects. The drug, called Quix, is the ultimate consumer product, highly addictive and cheap to produce. This substance is a relative of ergot, a rye contaminate responsible for St. Anthony's Fire, inducing symptoms that include hallucinations and gangrene. It is also the fungus from which LSD is derived. Those that ingest the drug develop immunity but become unwitting carriers. Angel holds the key to the outbreak and its prevention – but her own debilitating addiction to both the drug and her self-made success clouds her judgment.

Angel is intoxicated with power and enraptured by the disaster she set in motion. As Angel's friends band together to fight the infected adults, their social order becomes more and more distorted. Consumption becomes addiction, which, in turn, hastens the spread of disease. As the authorities close in, Angel clings to her delusions ferociously.

**Laura Parnes** is a Brooklyn-based artist whose work engages narrative film and video art to blur the lines between storytelling conventions and experimentation. She combines elements like continuity and dialogue with highly stylized sets and performances to present non-linear narratives as installations that utilize the architectural space of a gallery or museum. By using cinematic citation as an element of site-specific installation, the staging of her own productions reverberate in exhibition settings, often requiring the audience to physically enter a scripted environment or re-creation of the set. Parnes's installations operate at a symbolic and sculptural level, while maintaining a narrative coherence that points to a future in which reality is tightly nested in layers of art, pop culture and experience.

Parnes has screened and exhibited her work widely in the US and internationally, including Deste Foundation for Contemporary Art, Athens; LOOP Festival, Barcelona; Light Industry, Brooklyn; Kusthalle Winterthur, Switzerland; Overgaden- Institute for Contemporary Art, Copenhagen; iMOCA, Indianapolis, IN; Cinematexas, Austin, TX; Contemporary Art Center, Vilnius, Lithuania; Museo Nacional Centro De Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid; Whitney Museum of American Art (1997 Whitney Biennial), NY; Dunedin Public Art Gallery, New Zealand; PSI Contemporary Art Center MoMA, NY; Miami Museum of Contemporary Art, FL; and Brooklyn Museum, NY.

Solo exhibitions include the upcoming LA><Art, LA; Alma Enterprises, London; Locust Projects, Miami; Upstream Gallery, Amsterdam; Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions; Participant Inc, NY; and Deitch Projects, NY. Solo screenings include CATE 10 Year Anniversary, presented by the School of Art Institute of Chicago and Video Data Bank, Gene Siskel Film Center; Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley Art Museum, CA; Vtape, Toronto; and a two-person screening at MoMA, NY. She was presented by Participant Inc. in a two-person exhibition at No Soul for Sale at X Initiative, NY.

Parnes has lectured and been a visiting artist at Harvard University, Columbia University, UCLA, the Guggenheim, PS1-MoMA and the Whitney. She has taught at NYU, The New School, Bennington College, and is currently a visiting critic at Yale University in the graduate Painting & Printmaking department, and visiting faculty at Maryland Institute College of Art in the graduate Photographic & Electronic Media department. She received her BFA from the Tyler School of Art, Temple University.

### **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

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