

# The Kitchen

2019–2020 L.A.B. Series: Regeneration

Taja Cheek, Catherine Damman, Constance DeJong

September 18, 2019, 6:30pm

Inaugurated in 2012, The Kitchen L.A.B. (Language, Art, Bodies) is an annual series that brings together artists and writers across disciplines to unpack how the meaning of artistic and cultural terms may shift—and become more resonant or ambiguous—over time.

This year, the series considers the term “regeneration” as it pertains to creating something new; as it relates to recycling or re-purposing historic issues or material; and, within the broader cultural and political landscape, as it intersects with the historical question of whether to bring about change through revolution or reform. What tools from the past remain effective, and how should they be turned over to something new?

The L.A.B. season begins with a conversation among Taja Cheek, Catherine Damman, and Constance DeJong that grounds the exploration of regeneration within the context of The Kitchen’s past and present activities. Drawing on their sustained relationships with The Kitchen—developed through engagements including performances, public programs, and published texts—the speakers will address topics such as how exchanges between artists and institutions can be generative for both parties, how an institution’s gradual evolution might inform an artist’s work (and vice versa), and what is at stake for artists when an institution enters into a new programmatic phase.

**Taja Cheek** is an Assistant Curator at MoMA PS1, where she co-organizes performance programming including Sunday Sessions, a weekly interdisciplinary performance series, and Warm Up, an outdoor summer music series. Prior to MoMA PS1, she worked closely with artists to realize projects at institutions including Creative Time, The High Line, and Weeksville Heritage Center. Cheek is also a multi-instrumentalist and performer who collaborates often and creates solo work under the moniker L’Rain. She has performed across the United States at institutions and venues including The Whitney Museum of American Art, The Getty Center, Abrons Art Center, and National Sawdust (where she was an artist in residence in 2018).

**Catherine Damman** is an art historian and critic. Her writing on experimental dance, theater, film, music, and the visual arts can be found in *Artforum*, *Bookforum*, *BOMB*, *Art in America*, *Art Journal*, and elsewhere. She completed her PhD at Columbia University and currently is an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at Wesleyan University’s Center for the Humanities.

**Constance DeJong** is an artist, writer, and performer, producing fiction texts and language/image-based work for print, performance, theater, and audio and video installations. She has permanent audio installations in Beacon, London, and Seattle. DeJong has twice collaborated with Tony Oursler on live performances; was a collaborator on *Super Vision* (2005), a Builders Association production; and librettist for the opera, *Satyagraha* (1980, composer Philip Glass). Her first book *Modern Love* was re-issued in spring 2017 by Primary Information/Ugly Duckling Presse. Her recent work—2016/18— includes *NightWriters*, a performance and online project with Triple Canopy; *Radios*, a series of digitally re-engineered vintage radios that play ten tracks performed by DeJong, Jim Fletcher, and others; and exhibitions and performances at McEvoy Foundation (San Francisco), The Renaissance Society (Chicago), and Bureau (New York). She is represented by Bureau in New York.

## More on The Kitchen's L.A.B. Series:

To date, the yearlong seasons have explored the following words or phrases: presence (2012–2013), audience (2013–2014), narrative (2014–2015), “From Minimalism into Algorithm” (2015–2016), position (2016–2017), relation (2017–2018), and representation (2018–2019). Videos of past L.A.B. programs are available on The Kitchen's [Vimeo](#) page.

### 2012–2013: Presence

September 19, 2012: Shannon Jackson, Elad Lassry, Tere O'Connor, Lynne Tillman

January 22, 2013: Eric Dyer, Maggie Hoffman, Jacob Kassay, Ralph Lemon, Tristan Perich, Lynne Tillman

March 27, 2013: Marina Rosenfeld, Aki Sasamoto, Tina Satter, Ben Vida

April 29, 2013: Sam Green, Tina Satter, Alex Waterman

### 2013–2014: Audience

September 30, 2013: A.K. Burns, Dan Fox, Maria Hassabi, Liz Magic Laser

November 2, 2013: Jacob Kassay, Olivier Mosset, C. Spencer Yeh

December 10, 2013: Mónica de la Torre, Eileen Quinlan, Adrienne Truscott, C. Spencer Yeh

January 28, 2014: Boru O'Brien O'Connell, Jen Rosenblit, Jay Scheib

February 27, 2014: Yve Laris Cohen, Daniel Lopatin, Park McArthur

March 17, 2014: Alejandro Cesarco, James Hoff, Okkyung Lee, David Levine

April 8, 2014: The Blow, Mónica de la Torre, Gerard & Kelly

April 22, 2014: Gerard & Kelly, Steven Reker, Mika Tajima

June 17, 2014: Hal Foster, Ralph Lemon, Jen Rosenblit, Liz Wendelbo

### 2014–2015: Narrative

October 6, 2014: Claire Chase, Alex Kitnick, Agnieszka Kurant, Anna Moschovakis

November 3, 2014: Agnieszka Kurant, Dean Moss, Alex Segade, Samita Sinha

December 2, 2014: James Hoff, Molly Nesbit, Aki Sasamoto, Tina Satter

February 6, 2015: Dara Birnbaum, Anna K.E., Eli Keszler, Stephen Squibb

March 3, 2015: Richard Maxwell, James Moore, Matana Roberts, Viola Yeşiltaş

March 31, 2015: Kevin Beasley, Moriah Evans, Sahra Motalebi

### 2015–2016: “From Minimalism into Algorithm”

September 23, 2015: Karen Archey, Jace Clayton, Tere O'Connor, Cheyney Thompson

February 16, 2016: Andrea Crespo, Liz Deschenes, Hayal Pozanti, Alexander Provan

March 30, 2016: Hal Foster, James Hoff, Michelle Kuo, Laurie Spiegel

## **2016–2017: Position**

September 27, 2016: DD Dorvillier, Andrew Durbin, Katherine Hubbard, Thomas Lax

October 24, 2016: Maria Chávez, Jackie Sibblies Drury, Joshua Lubin-Levy, A.L. Steiner

*The Kitchen L.A.B. Conference: POSITION*

April 13, 2017: Andrea Crespo, Sahra Motalebi, Tere O'Connor

April 15, 2017: Casey Llewellyn, Claudia Rankine, Will Rawls, Sable Elyse Smith

April 20, 2017: Jaime Shearn Coan, Chitra Ganesh, Mariam Ghani, Kaneza Schaal

April 22, 2017: The Blow, Tristan Perich, Aki Sasamoto, Tina Satter

## **2017–2018: Relation**

September 25, 2017: Ariel Goldberg, Aliza Nisenbaum, Jeremy Toussaint-Baptiste

November 6, 2017: Yulan Grant, Julia Phillips, Mariana Valencia, Simone White

December 6, 2017: Morgan Bassichis, Kameelah Janan Rasheed, Christopher Udemezue

January 16, 2018: Jonathan Gardenhire, Carolyn Lazard, Tiona Nekkia McClodden

February 6, 2018: Marianna Ellenberg, Marguerite Hemmings, Anaïs Maviel

March 10, 2018: Lauren Bakst, Monstah Black, Cy Gavin

April 17, 2018: Chloë Bass, Andrianna Campbell, David Thomson

May 23, 2018: Rizvana Bradley, Aria Dean, Autumn Knight

## **2018–2019: Representation**

October 1, 2018: Eli Keszler, Ajay Kurian, Alexandra Tatarsky

November 5, 2018: Tyler Coburn, Devin Morris, Precious Okoyomon

December 12, 2018: Fia Backstrom, A.K. Burns, Christopher K. Ho

January 23, 2019: Lex Brown, Benjamin Krusling, L’Rain

March 13, 2019: Keren Cytter, Lydia Goehr, Marina Rosenfeld

April 8, 2019: Paolo Javier, Amirtha Kidambi

May 7, 2019: Jerriod Avant, Alex Fialho, Steffani Jemison, Jill Magid

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