

Time Out

New York

MUSIC

CLASSICAL & OPERA

Live preview

Tony Conrad
The Kitchen; Wed 18

Creating effective art in response to wars and catastrophes that are still making headlines can be a near-impossible task, the message often hindered by personal emotion and a viewpoint too close to unfolding events. By contrast, revisiting art of the past created under similar circumstances can have an amplifying effect, pointing out with nauseating clarity all that we have failed to learn from history.

Minimalist godfather Tony Conrad will school us at the Kitchen this week with a restaging of his 1972 performance piece *Ten Years on the Infinite Plain*, a work intended as a call for peace in wartime. This presentation will feature the original abstract black-and-white film loop accompanied by the hypnotic lines of a small string ensemble. To this, the composer has added an updated section representing recent action in Iraq.



If you find yourself mesmerized by Conrad's drones, you can come back on May 23 for a look at what he's up to these days: His *Quadranga* (2004), for amplified string trio, will receive its U.S. premiere alongside three of his more recent video works. Conrad's Kitchen appearances are presented in collaboration with the Anthology Film Archives, which will screen several of his conceptual pieces and a selection of his films May 19-22 under the auspices of Eye & Ear Controlled, a larger series at the Anthology focusing on films by composers. Works by Robert Ashley, Mauricio Kagel, Phill Niblock and Charlemagne Palestine, among others, will also be rescued from the vaults.—*Molly Sheridan*