



The Kitchen Center
for Video, Music, Dance,
Performance, Film & Literature

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For Immediate Release

The Kitchen presents *figures on a field*

A performance collaboration by Dean Moss and Laylah Ali

March 21, 2005, New York – The Kitchen is proud to present *figures on a field*, a collaboration between Bessie-awarded choreographer **Dean Moss** and the 2004 Whitney Biennial artist **Laylah Ali**. *figures on a field* questions the consumption of art, race and power through the “staging” of scenes inspired by Ali’s provocative “Greenhead” paintings as well as the museum environment in which they are typically exhibited. Through disquieting scenarios enacted by a cast of seven, *figures on a field* addresses issues of power related to athletic, religious, and military contexts, while also exploring the dynamic between patterns of cultural consumption and formations of identity. The performances will be **May 5th through 7th (Thu-Sat)** and **May 12th through 14th (Thu-Sat)** at **8pm** at **The Kitchen** (512 West 19th Street, New York). **Admission is \$15**. There will be a **FREE Panel Discussion** with the artists on **Saturday, May 7th at 4pm**.

Conceived and directed by **Moss** in cooperation with **Ali**, this collaboration began after Moss discovered that Ali’s “Greenhead” paintings shared similar strategies as those present in his performance work, which typically take the form of multimedia, movement environments. In creating *figures on a field*, the interaction between the two artists was not a typical visual-performing arts collaboration, whereby a visual artist simply designs a set for a performing artist. Instead, through in-depth exchanges during the rehearsal and development stages, Moss and Ali worked closely to evolve the performance piece. Behavior, sound, color, energy, and psychological tension were fused together to build scenes that translate Ali’s imagined scenarios from painting into real-time performance.

figures on a field, a Gametophyte Inc. production, was co-commissioned by The Kitchen and was curated by **Christina Yang**. The performers are **Kacie Chang, Keila Cordova, Pedro Jiménez, Wanjiru Kamuyu, Dean Moss, Okwui Okpokwasili, and David Thomson**. Music is by **Marcel Duchamp, Mexi and Nguyen van Cung** with lighting and technical design by **Jonathan Belcher**; and audio, video and visual design by Dean Moss. Scene development and costumes were by Dean Moss with Laylah Ali.

Artist Biographies

Dean Moss’s performance and media pieces have been presented and screened internationally, including The Whitney Museum of American Art; P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center; Kunst Kanaal, Holland; Paris University; New York Expo of Short Film and Video; The FNB Vita Dance Festival, Johannesburg; The Brooklyn Museum; The Danspace Project; Anthology Film Archives, and the Brooklyn Arts Exchange. Moss was a 2003 Rockefeller Multi-Arts Production Fund grantee; a 2003 Asian Cultural Council Fellow; a 2001 Artist Grant recipient from the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, a 1999 New York Dance and Performance BESSIE awardee, and a 1998 New York Foundation for the

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Arts Choreography Fellow. In 2002 he founded the performance and media production company, Gametophyte Inc., whose mission is to support the development of rigorous artistic practice and innovative art projects, including the Dialogue Workshop, an experimental composition workshop for emerging choreographers. Moss is currently a Curatorial Advisor at The Kitchen where he served as the Curator of Dance and Performance from 1999-2004. From April 2003 to 2004, he also lectured on "Visual Media and Performance Integration" and taught digital video editing at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music.

Laylah Ali opened a one-person exhibition of paintings and drawings at the Contemporary Art Museum of St. Louis, MO in December 2004. She was included in the 2004 Whitney Biennial of American Art, New York, and in 2003, in the Venice Biennale, Italy. Ali has had recent one-person exhibitions at the Albright Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN and the Atlanta College of Art Gallery, Atlanta, GA. The artist published a 40-page book of her work for Projects 75 at the Museum of Modern Art, NY in 2002, and received the Regione Piemonte Prize from the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo per l'arte in 2001. She is represented by 303 Gallery in New York City.

Funding

Major support for this project has been provided by the Multi-Arts Production Fund, a subsidiary of The Rockefeller Foundation. *figures on a field* received additional support from the Individual Artists Fund of the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and Williams College. This project received initial workshop and presentation support from residency programs of The Kitchen and Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art.

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