

For Immediate Release

The Kitchen presents a solo exhibition of new work by Christian Jankowski

New York, NY, September 25, 2006 - The Kitchen is pleased to present *Us and Them*, an exhibition of new videos, film, photography, and sculpture by artist **Christian Jankowski**. Analogous to earlier works that experiment with commercial filmmaking conventions and question traditional ideas of artistic authorship, this particular body of work explores the film genre of horror, suggesting how cinematic visions of monstrosity and violence can also communicate broader notions of transformation, revenge, and redemption. *Us and Them* will be on view from **October 21 – December 9, 2006** with an opening reception on **Saturday, October 21** from **6-8pm** at **The Kitchen** (512 West 19th Street). The Kitchen's gallery hours are **Tuesday-Friday, 12 to 6pm** and **Saturday, 11am to 6pm. Admission is Free.**

Jankowski is known for involving a range of non-artists such as televangelists, psychics, children, and therapists in his works. Continuing in this vein, *Angels of Revenge* (2006), a new video and series of photographs, grew out of Jankowski's trip to "Weekend of Horrors," a horror film conference in Chicago. There he invited participants from a costume contest to his makeshift film studio in a hotel conference room. Each was asked to write a letter to the person in their lives who had most betrayed, harmed, or offended them, and was then filmed reciting his or her letter, outlining a specific, and often violent, form of retribution. In a related series of photo-diptychs, Jankowski juxtaposes a portrait of each costumed participant with an enlarged photo of the corresponding handwritten narrative of betrayal and revenge.

Another new work featured in the exhibition is *Lycan Theorized* (2006), made up of video and sculpture. The project evolved out of Jankowski's experience this past year working alongside a small film production company in the midst of shooting a straight-to-DVD werewolf movie. This project intermixes scenes from the upcoming commercial release with alternate scenes devised by Jankowski in which actors interrupt the storyline at critical junctures with commentaries extracted from writings by leading film scholars. The third part of the show is a new 16mm silent film titled *Playing Frankenstein* (2006). While working on the werewolf movie, Jankowski met an actor who was making a promotional video to find work impersonating Frankenstein. Inspired by the efforts of this actor and his recreated set alluding to the 1931 film, Jankowski brought out his camera and challenged "Frankenstein" to an impromptu game of chess.

This exhibition is curated by Assistant Curator Matthew Lyons and Executive Director Debra Singer of The Kitchen.

About the Artist

Christian Jankowski was born in 1968 in Göttingen, Germany and lives and works in New York City. The survey exhibition of his work, *Everything Fell Together*, opened at the Des Moines Art Center, Iowa in 2005

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and toured to the MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts and to FACT Liverpool. Selected solo exhibitions also include shows at MACRO, Rome, 2003; the Swiss Institute, New York, 2001; and the Wadsworth Athenaeum, Hartford, Connecticut, 2000. Jankowski's project *Living Sculptures* will open at the Centre de Art Santa Monica in Barcelona this fall. Selected group exhibitions include the Turin Triennial, 2005; *State of Play*, Serpentine Gallery, London, 2004; the 2002 Whitney Biennial, New York; and the Venice Biennale, 1999.

The video *Lycan Theorized* was made possible through a Production Commission as part of the artist's recent residency at Eyebeam.

Exhibition programs at The Kitchen are made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



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.

The Kitchen / 512 West 19th Street / New York, NY 10011 / www.thekitchen.org

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