

For Immediate Release**The Kitchen presents *The Sheltering Sky*, a solo exhibition by Amy Granat, January 29–March 20**

New York, NY, January 8, 2010—**The Kitchen** presents a solo exhibition entitled *The Sheltering Sky* by New York-based artist **Amy Granat** who works mainly in film and photography. For this exhibition commissioned by The Kitchen, Granat has created a new video installation and series of photographs using the Paul Bowles' novel *The Sheltering Sky* as a point of departure. Curated by **Matthew Lyons**, the exhibition will be on view from **January 29** through **March 20, 2010**. The Kitchen's gallery hours are **Tuesday through Friday, 12:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.** and **Saturday, 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.** Admission is free. There will be an opening reception for the exhibition at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street) on **Friday, January 29** from **6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.**

Granat's body of work draws upon the legacy of experimental and abstract filmmaking in order to create new approaches in 16mm film and video. She received early attention for abstract, looped film installations involving distressed film stock—scratched emulsion, holes punched in the celluloid, and reels pulled through chemical baths. However, in *The Sheltering Sky* and recent works including her 2007 collaborative work with Drew Heitzler, *T.S.O.Y.W.*, Granat assembles a cast of friends and peer artists and, while shooting, utilizes the limitations and possibilities of the material—such as playing with the aperture to effect fluctuations in light—to explore the limits of personal and narrative cinema.

For *The Sheltering Sky*, by eschewing dialogue, Granat substitutes the narrative thrust of Bowles' fictional story with a more subtle exploration of character and place through landscape, light, and gestures. She creates an immersive color and black-and-white environment culled from over eight hours of 16mm film footage shot in the Californian desert and Los Angeles in October 2009. On view will also be a new series of photographs and photograms taken during the filmmaking process and a limited edition artist book entitled *Lists for a film* (with short introductory text by Jeffrey Weiss)

Parallel to the gallery exhibition *The Sheltering Sky*, Granat has made a single-channel, feature-length film from the same material, which will be screened in The Kitchen's theater on **Saturday, February 6 at 7:00 P.M.**, followed by a Q&A with the artist. Admission is free.

Published in 1949, Bowles' *The Sheltering Sky* tells the story of three young travelers from New York: a married couple and a friend of the husband, who aimlessly explore the cities, villages, and deserts of North Africa in the uncertain aftermath of World War II. As they make their way through foreign and often desolate territory, they struggle with the harshness of their surroundings and encounter several odd or dangerous characters, causing the couple's relationship to become increasingly de-stabilized and the attachments within the trio to unravel. All three are pushed to the limits of human reason and intelligence by the cruel desert and eventually succumb to their individual, rather unfortunate fates.

Amy Granat was born and raised in St. Louis but now resides in New York. She graduated from Bard College in 1998. She subsequently moved to NYC where she began to work as an archive assistant at the Filmmakers Cooperative and began to organize experimental film screenings on Manhattan's Lower East Side. In 2003 she participated in her first museum exhibition, at the Künstlerhaus Thurn und Taxis in Bregenz, Austria (curated by Steven Parrino). Her work is represented by Eva Presenhuber, Zurich; and Galerie Kamm, Berlin. Granat has been a visiting artist and lecturer at California Institute of the Arts, Los Angeles (2009), School of Visual Arts, New York City (2009) The Art Institute of Chicago (2009), Temple University, Philadelphia (2009), and Pacific Northwest College of Art, Portland (2008). She has been an Adjunct Professor of Art at New York University's Steinhardt School of Education since 2007.

Selected solo exhibitions include Eva Presenhuber, Zurich (2009, 2008); Broadway 1602, New York (2008); Basis, Frankfurt (2008); Project Series, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York (2006); CAN Centre d'art Neuchâtel, Switzerland (2005). Selected group exhibitions include *The 2008 Whitney Biennial*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2008); *Stray Alchemists*, UCCA, Beijing (2008); *Catawampus (for H.D.)*, Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis (2008); *Les Femmes Qui Dorment*, castillo/corrales, Paris (2008); *Unpredictable*, Project Arts Center, Dublin (2007); *Bastard Creature*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2007); *Bunch Alliance and Dissolve*, Cincinnati Art Center (2006). Selected public collections include Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and FNAC (Fond National d'Art Contemporain, France).

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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