

For Immediate Release**The Kitchen presents an exhibition of new film and video by Jenny Perlin**

New York, NY, November 16, 2006 - The Kitchen presents a new solo film and video project by New York-based artist **Jenny Perlin**. The two works on view evolved from the artist's research into now-public FBI documents of secretly transcribed conversations from the Red Scare of the 1950s. Addressing the expansive net of espionage during the McCarthy era and the resulting paranoia about hidden enemies, Perlin's work underscores parallels to the current anxieties surrounding privacy and surveillance in contemporary America. There will be an opening reception for the exhibition, as well as for a concurrent exhibition by Peter Welz, at **The Kitchen (512 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street) on Friday, December 15 from 6-8pm**. The exhibition will be on view from **December 15, 2006 through February 10, 2007**. The Kitchen's gallery hours are **Tuesday-Friday, 12 to 6pm** and **Saturday, 11am to 6pm**. **Admission is Free**.

For the 16mm film (transferred to DVD), *Transcript* (2006), Perlin hired actors to re-create a dinner conversation between two couples in October 1953. The conversation was covertly recorded in a Greenwich Village apartment four months after the execution of alleged spies for the Soviet Union, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Against a background of jazz music, the couples discuss being called to testify in front of the House Un-American Activities Committee about their possible roles in the "Commie spy ring." Perlin's audio version of this conversation captures the paranoia the couples felt toward each other and their future and is accompanied by static images of a desolate, mysterious corridor in a New York City apartment building. Much of the dialogue in Perlin's film is muffled, reflecting that the original conversation was not entirely audible to the spy. The second element of this exhibition, a 16mm stop-motion animated film loop, titled *Inaudible* (2006), lists a succession of words that the FBI could not hear or imagined were being spoken in the conversations that inspired *Transcript*.

Both works are part of *The Perlin Paper* series, a multi-part project that takes its title from the name of an archive at Columbia University Law School. This archive contains 250,000 documents related to the case of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. For two decades after their execution, the FBI spied on hundreds of people tangentially connected to the case. The archive is named for the artist's relative, Marshall Perlin, a lawyer who forced the U.S. government to release the papers in the early 1970s.

This exhibition is curated by The Kitchen's Assistant Curator Matthew Lyons.

**About the Artist**

**Jenny Perlin** has had exhibitions have taken place at, among others, P.S.1/MoMA, New York (2001), KunstWerke, Berlin (2003), the Drawing Center, New York (2001), Centre pour l'Image Contemporaine, Geneva (2006); Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (2005); Artists Space, New York (2006); The Renaissance Society, Chicago (2004); and De Appel, Amsterdam (2004). Her films have been shown at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Berlin Film Festival, Rotterdam Film Festival, the SF Cinematheque, Pacific Film Archive, and the Walker Art Center. Perlin has received awards from the Ann Arbor, Humboldt, and Impakt Festivals, and grants from NYSCA and CEC Artslink, among others. Perlin is represented by Annet Gelink

Gallery, Amsterdam and Galerie M+R Fricke, Berlin/Düsseldorf and her work is part of public and private collections in the U.S., the Netherlands, Spain, and Germany. An artist's book based on the film *Perseverance & How to Develop It* will be released by Navado Press, Berlin in 2006. Perlin received her B.A. from Brown University, M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and completed postgraduate studies at the Whitney Independent Study Program, NY.

This show is made possible with generous support from The Greenwall Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and 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.

**Box Office Information:**  
212.255. 5793 x 11  
Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

The Kitchen  
512 West 19th Street  
New York, NY 10011  
[www.thekitchen.org](http://www.thekitchen.org)

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