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For Immediate Release

**The Kitchen presents *You Don't Know Where Her Mouth Has Been*,
A solo exhibition by artist Simone Leigh,
January 18 – March 11, 2012**

New York, NY, January 26, 2012 – The Kitchen presents the New York premiere of *You Don't Know Where Her Mouth Has Been*, a solo exhibition by sculptor and video-maker **Simone Leigh**. The exhibition features Leigh's most recent explorations of materiality, women's work, and Afro-futurism in sculpture, video, and site-specific installation. Curated by **Rashida Bumbray**, the exhibition will be on view from **January 18** through **March 11, 2012**. There will be an opening reception for the exhibition at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street) on **Wednesday, January 18**, from **6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.**

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.

Known for her archaic anthropomorphic sculptural forms in porcelain, terracotta, tobacco, glass, and steel, in addition to video and media-based works, Leigh's practice often interrogates the notion of art—especially craftwork and sculpture—as merely decorative. She investigates the processes and cultural histories of constructing objects, bringing handmade ceramic vessels together with re-purposed ordinary objects in order to put forth a dialogue between the aesthetically beautiful and the brutally utilitarian.

Leigh's practice employs early African ceramic techniques to evoke contemporary parallels and underlying social and economic conditions. For *You Don't Know Where Her Mouth Has Been*, the artist draws from the symbolic and political traditions of a diversity of influences—from early African-American face jugs and the manifesto of Africobra to Star Trek and Gilbert and Sullivan—in order to explore the slippages among multifarious cultural, political, and colonial histories that have laid claim to marginalized bodies.

You Don't Know Where Her Mouth Has Been includes three new bodies of work: three sculptural chandelier installations, a bust sculpture, and two video works—*Untitled #1* (from the series *my works, my dreams, must wait till after hell*), a collaboration with artist **Chitra Ganesh**, featuring **Kenya (Robinson)**, and *Uhura (Tanka)* featuring author **Sharifa Rhodes Pitts**. Both works incorporate musical scores created and performed by **Kaoru Watanabe**.

Leigh's work was previously exhibited at The Kitchen as part of *The Future As Disruption*, a group exhibition that took place in Summer 2008.

Simone Leigh is a recipient of many grants and awards, including the Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant for Sculptors (2011) The Art Matters Foundation grant and the New York Foundation for the Arts award for Sculpture. She has been a resident at The Studio Museum in Harlem (2010–

2011), the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Workspace program, The Henry Street Settlement and the Bronx Museum AIM program. Leigh's work has been exhibited at The Studio Museum in Harlem, SculptureCenter, The Kitchen, The National Gallery of Zimbabwe (Harare, Zimbabwe), Jack Tilton Gallery, L'Appartement22 (Rabat, Morocco) The Andy Warhol Museum (Pittsburgh, PA) and the AVA Gallery (Cape Town, South Africa).

Leigh is the founder and co-curator of The Be Black Baby party hosted by Recess Activities. Reviews of her work have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Modern Painters*, *Art 21* and *Art Info*. For more information, go to <http://simoneleigh.com/>.

Funding Credits

This exhibition is made possible with support from Dedalus Foundation Inc., the Jerome Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and 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 ext. 11
Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

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