

# The Kitchen

Press Contact: Blake Zidell & Associates

tel: 718.643.9052

fax: 718.643.9502

[yuri@blakezidell.com](mailto:yuri@blakezidell.com) or [blake@blakezidell.com](mailto:blake@blakezidell.com)

For Immediate Release

## **The Kitchen presents the U.S. premiere of Michael Portnoy's *27 Gnosis*, Wednesday – Monday, March 6 – 11**

New York, NY, February 13, 2013—From Wednesday to Monday, March 6 – 11, The Kitchen will present a new staging of artist Michael Portnoy's destabilizing, combinatorial game show *27 Gnosis*. The game unfolds unpredictably in a mixture of linguistic contortion, world building and dance. *27 Gnosis* will be performed on The Kitchen's second floor. Performances take place on Wednesday – Sunday, March 6 – 10 at 7:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M., 5:00 P.M. on Saturday and Sunday, and Monday, March 11 at 6:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M. Tickets are \$15.

Under the instruction of the game's host, called the Rigid Designator, a limited group of players (culled from the audience) will compete to develop a series of confounding propositions formed through the interplay of a set of 27 "gnoses" – sculptural forms, each one representing a heuristic or conceptual tool for attaining experiential knowledge. The language system of the game borrows structurally from the ontologies of 17<sup>th</sup>-century taxonomic languages, as well as elements of modern constructed languages such as Ithkuil, aUi and Ygede.

In recent years, Portnoy has become known for his participatory works, including conversation games like *27 Gnosis*, abstract gambling tables, and related sculptures that investigate the poetics of social exchange and the rules of communication and play. *27 Gnosis* fuses Portnoy's breed of Relational Stalinism - absurdist, dictatorial interaction with participants – with his background in experimental comedy.

*27 Gnosis* is performed by Ieva Misevičiūtė and Michael Portnoy. The creative team is Christian Wassmann (architecture), threeASFOUR (costumes) and Nasomatto (scent).

*27 Gnosis* had its world debut this past summer at Documenta 13. The Kitchen's presentation will be its U.S. premiere.

### About Michael Portnoy

With a background in dance and stand-up comedy, Michael Portnoy switched camps to the field of visual arts around 2006. His performance-based practice is realized in a variety of media, from sculpture, participatory installation, and curation, to painting, writing, theater, and video.

He has presented work in museums, art galleries, theaters, and music halls internationally, including: dOCUMENTA (13), 11th Baltic Triennial, Vilnius (co-curator), The Taipei Biennial 2010, Performa Biennial 07 & 09, Centre Pompidou, SculptureCenter, The Kitchen, De Appel

(Amsterdam), MOMA P.S.1, Kunsthalle Basel, Objectif Exhibitions (Antwerp), Wilfried Lentz (Rotterdam), IBID PROJECTS (London), Kling & Bang (Reykjavík), Foksal Gallery Foundation (Warsaw), Beursschouwburg (Brussels), Kaaaitheater (Brussels), Migros Museum (Zurich), Le Comfort Moderne (Poitiers) and The National Review of Live Art (Glasgow). His first book, *Script Opposition in Late-Model Carrot Jokes*, was published in 2011, and he has taught and lectured at The Banff Centre, Bard College, Malmö Art Academy, and Goldsmiths.

### **Funding Credits**

This program is made possible with support of public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



### **About The Kitchen**

The Kitchen is one of New York City's most forward-looking nonprofit spaces, showing innovative work by emerging and established artists across disciplines. Our programs range from dance, music, performance, and theater to video, film, and art, in addition to literary events, artists' talks, and lecture series. 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

512 West 19th Street

New York, NY 10011

[www.thekitchen.org](http://www.thekitchen.org)