



The Kitchen Center
for Video, Music, Dance,
Performance, Film & Literature

512 West 19th Street
New York, NY 10011
Tel: 212-255-5793

info@thekitchen.org
www.thekitchen.org
Fax: 212-645-4258

Press Contact: Rachael Dorsey
212-255-5793, ext.14
Rachael@thekitchen.org

For Immediate Release

The Kitchen presents an exhibition by Matthew Buckingham and Joachim Koester

March 9, 2005—The Kitchen is pleased to present the American premiere of **Matthew Buckingham's** and **Joachim Koester's** five-channel video installation, *Sandra of the Tuliphouse or How to Live in a Free State*. This collaborative work reflects the multifaceted history of Christiania, a "free city" in Copenhagen, Denmark, which is one of the best-known anarchistic communities in the world. Fictional narratives merge with historical facts in this visual, aural and spatial investigation of both collective memory and individual identity. **The exhibition will be on view from April 26 through June 18, 2005. There will be an opening reception on Tuesday, April 26 from 6 - 8pm. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 12 - 6 pm. Admission is free.**

Each of the five video projections follows Sandra, a fictional character who relocates to the heterogonous, lawless community of Christiania, through a particular story line. As she engages in daily activities in the city with her outsider's perspective, historical and factual information is interwoven with both the unpredictable, subjective flow of her memories and her freely associative observations. Various methods of constructing history are filtered through Sandra's experience, and the viewer receives information ranging from the scholarly to the idiosyncratic. Details unfold, for example, not only about the military, social, and political history of Copenhagen, but also about eclectic facts such as the origins of the Danish flag, why men's clothes are buttoned to the right, and the function of pirate cities in 17th century Europe.

The scenes are projected on separate screens within the same space. Each segment is experienced separately, aided by audio speaker-cones that isolate each soundtrack. Because the scenes can be viewed in any sequence, viewers are able to construct their own narratives from the work. Through the example of Christiania -- a contained environment where the assumptions and arbitrary events that shape history can be questioned -- the project investigates such broader issues as public versus private space, community and exile, freedom and warfare, revolution and stability, economics and tourism, as well as utopian ideals and their failure.

This exhibition is curated by Debra Singer, Executive Director and Chief Curator, The Kitchen.

-Over

About the Artists:

Matthew Buckingham is a New York and Berlin-based artist. Recent exhibitions include *A Man of the Crowd* at the Museum of Modern Art, Vienna, the Dallas Museum of Art and Murray Guy Gallery, New York; and a commission for the Hudson Valley art project, *Watershed*, in Beacon, New York. His work has been seen in international venues, including: The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Arc/Musée d'Art moderne de la Ville de Paris; The Arnolfini, Bristol; Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna; Kunst Werke, Berlin; Malmö Konsthall, Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen; Villa Medici/Academie de Francia, Rome. His work was included in *Greater New York* at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York and *The American Century* at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. A graduate of the Whitney Independent Study Program, New York, Buckingham was the 2003-2004 fellow in the DAAD artist program, Berlin and is the 2004-2005 Freund Fellow at Washington University, St. Louis.

Joachim Koester is an artist who lives in New York and Copenhagen. He will be a participant in this year's *Venice Biennale* in the Danish Pavilion. His work has been exhibited at *Documenta X*, Kassel; The *Johannesburg Biennale*, Johannesburg; The *Kwangju Biennale*, South Korea; Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Musée d'Art moderne de la Ville de Paris; Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki; Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen; Malmö Konstmuseum. He has had solo shows at Kunsthalle Nürnberg, Nürnberg; Centre National de la Photographie, Paris; Galleri Nicolai Wallner, Copenhagen; Galeri Jan Mot, Brussels; and Greene Naftali Gallery, New York.

Sandra of the Tuliphouse or How to Live in a Free State is supported in part by funding from The Danish Arts Agency - The Visual Art Center in Copenhagen. The Kitchen's exhibition programs are made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



Media contact:

Rachael Dorsey

212-255-5793 x14

rachael@thekitchen.org

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