



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

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For Immediate Release

The Kitchen presents the premiere of a new video installation

Dara Friedman: *Sunset Island*

August 21, 2005 – The Kitchen is pleased to present the premiere of a new video installation by Miami-based artist Dara Friedman, *Sunset Island*. This project was selected by independent curator, editor, and writer Ali Subotnick. The exhibition will be on view from **September 15 through October 22, 2005**. There will be an opening reception on **Thursday, September 15 from 6 - 8pm. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 12 – 6 pm. Admission is free.**

Drawing on her knowledge of avant-garde film history, Dara Friedman often explores how film functions in space and questions the role played by the viewer. In *Total* (1998) Friedman trashes a room. The record of this process, both the Super-8 film and the sound, are played in reverse, with mesmerizing affect. The sound is disjointed from the narrative, creating a seductive tension. *Government Cut Freestyle* (1998), a video loop that shows youth diving off a bridge into the water below, addresses the paradox of two sensations, sleep and flying. In *Bim Bam* (1999), the image of two doors is projected, while two silhouetted figures move in and out of the doors, slamming them each time.

In her newest work, *Sunset Island* (2005), using synchronized sequences of dialogue, she engages the viewer through a series of questions asked by a woman and a man isolated within two separate screens. The characters in *Sunset Island* ask themselves, and by implication each other, questions about life's big issues and small obsessions, ranging from the philosophical to the tantalizing to the exceedingly mundane. Volleying dialogue back-and-forth, their syncopated exchanges, which fall in and out of step, expose the intricate rhythms of human relationships marked by feelings of desire and repulsion, insecurity and jealousy, love and anger. "Are we alone? What will become of us? Did you put gas in the car? What's that smell? Are you a lot like my mother?" As the short rapid-fire questions accumulate, implications beneath the attractive surface of the actors' faces and surroundings gradually emerge, suggesting how even a brief fragment can reveal underlying assumptions about the roles played and the views held by the audience.

About the Artist:

Dara Friedman was born in Bad Kreuznach, Germany, 1968 and lives and works in Miami, Florida. She has had solos shows at the 2001 Site Santa Fe, New Mexico, and at Kunstmuseum Thun, Switzerland. Her work has also been shown in the 2000 Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; The Wrong

Gallery, New York; Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York; New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; Miami Art Museum, Miami, Florida; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Saint Louis Museum of Art, Saint Louis, Missouri; and at the Barbican in London.

This exhibition is selected by **Ali Subotnick**, New York-based editor, curator and writer. She is curating the 4th Berlin Biennial for Contemporary Art along with Maurizio Cattelan and Massimiliano Gioni. Recent collaborations with Gioni & Cattelan include The Wrong Gallery in New York and the contemporary art publication series *Charley*. She also contributed a radio program to WPS1.org and curated the 2004 MFA Thesis Exhibition for Columbia University's School of the Arts, where she was a visiting critic. She has written about art and contemporary culture for *Frieze*, *Parkett*, *Art News* and *Art Review* among other publications.

The Kitchen's exhibition programs are made possible 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.

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