

The Kitchen

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For Immediate Release

The Kitchen presents the world premiere of *Untitled (Presence)*, A solo exhibition by artist Elad Lassry, September 7 – October 20, 2012

New York, NY, September 4, 2012 – The Kitchen presents the world premiere of *Untitled (Presence)*, a solo exhibition by artist **Elad Lassry**. The exhibition features more than 20 new photographs and special performances with dancers from the **American Ballet Theater** and **New York City Ballet**. The exhibition also features a new film by Lassry, his first abstract composition in that medium. Curated by The Kitchen's Executive Director and Chief Curator, **Tim Griffin**, the exhibition will be on view from **September 7** through **October 20, 2012**.

There will be an opening reception at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street) on **Friday, September 7**, from **6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.** 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.

Performances, which will take place in The Kitchen's theater, are on **September 13, 14 and 16 at 8:30 P.M.** Tickets are \$10. In recognition of this piece's inclusion in the exhibition, the gallery will also be open for viewing on those evenings from 7:00 P.M. until curtain time. This is the first time The Kitchen has given its upstairs and downstairs spaces to a single project.

To date, Lassry's work has revolved around cultural conditions surrounding photography and, more specifically, the question of when the photographic image obtains presence—becoming at once a kind of material object and a display for viewers' projections. In *Untitled (Presence)*, the artist extends such an inquiry into real space, producing an exhibition that includes a performance featuring ten dancers from the American Ballet Theater and New York City Ballet.

Decades ago a generation of artists suggested that we necessarily see the world through the pictures made of it. Lassry's work takes this proposition as a starting point for an expansion of the concept onstage, flattening perspectival depth through the super-saturated colors and bright, even lighting used in his pictures. (Further, while the dancers blend visually with the set, they repeat limited movements taken from the corps de ballet in various neoclassical ballets, suggesting a kind of historical compression.)

To similar effect in the gallery, the artist deploys a system of walls with apertures designed to render space pictorial, prompting audiences to be newly aware of the intrinsic mediation of perception today and, possibly, to "reset" our ways of seeing.

"There is a great deal of interest in interdisciplinarity among artists today, but it is very rare to see any single artist placing the lexicons of different media into such meaningful relationships, asking how they impact both each other and our understanding of them," says Griffin. "In this regard, Lassry's work clearly belongs to a new moment in art-making."

Elad Lassry's work was recently featured in *ILLUMInations*, at the International Pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale, and in a solo exhibition at Kunsternes Hus, Oslo, Norway. He will have a solo exhibition at Fondazione Galleria Civica, Trento, Italy, this year as well. His solo exhibitions have also been held at The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Kunsthalle Zurich, Switzerland; the Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis; and Tramway, Glasgow, Scotland.

Recent group exhibitions include *The Anxiety of Photography*, Aspen Art Museum; *Secret Societies. To Know, To Dare, To Will, To Keep Silence*, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt and CAPC de Bordeaux; *Time Again*, SculptureCenter, New York; *Les Rencontres d'Arles 2010 / Edition 41*, Arles, France; and *New Photography 2010*, Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Corresponding with his exhibition at The Kitchen, Lassry's *Women (065, 055)*, a 75-foot-wide photo/mural commissioned by the High Line, is on view on the West 18th Street and Tenth Avenue billboard – a mere block from The Kitchen – until September 7.

Funding Credits

Untitled (Presence) is made possible with generous support from the Rebecca and Martin Eisenberg Foundation, Carlo Bronzini Vender and Tanya Traykovski, David Kordansky Gallery, Artis Foundation, the Dedalus Foundation Inc., Office of Cultural Affairs Consulate General of Israel in NY, 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.



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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

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