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For Immediate Release

The Kitchen presents Elodie Pong's *After The Empire*, March 19—May 2

Exhibition by Zurich-based artist features two new video projects

New York, NY, February 9, 2009—**The Kitchen** presents *After The Empire*, an exhibition by Zurich-based video artist **Elodie Pong**, who is known for subtle, analytic works about the impact of human relationships and cultural conventions on contemporary society. Curated by **Rashida Bumbray**, the show features the U.S. premiere of two new video projects, *After The Empire* and *Even A Stopped Clock Is Right Twice A Day*. The exhibition will be on view from **March 19—May 2, 2009**. 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. There will be an opening reception for the exhibition at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street) on **Thursday, March 19 from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.**

In both of these new video projects, as in Pong's previous works, the visual language is cinematic, precise and acute, unfolding through metaphors rather than linear narration. In *After The Empire*, the artist orchestrates face-to-face conversations between late icons of popular culture and political history, including Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley, Batman and Karl Marx, among others. Surrounded by a post-apocalyptic set, actors embody these figures' individual and symbolic extremes, longings and ideals in humorous and elegiac ways.

In *Even A Stopped Clock Is Right Twice A Day*, taxidermized birds "speak," offering absurd yet striking commentaries on consumerist culture, globalization and the uncertain state of the world. The spoken phrases which initially seem trivial and superficial investigate complex world economic structures and processes. While the birds' utterances are strangely humorous, they ultimately allow for an uncanny "birds-eye" view on aspects of consumerism and globalization.

About Elodie Pong

Elodie Pong, born in Boston, lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland. Her work investigates the sociological and structural characteristics of her generation. Until 2004, her work focused on immediate visualisation of sociological concepts like intimacy, friendship, gender and communication. Her recent work makes more layered analysis and deconstructions of these themes.

In 2003, Pong's *Any Deal Now/Any Reality Now* series debuted at the Centre d'Arts scéniques Contemporain Arsenic and went on to the Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris. Her *Secrets For Sale* was presented at festivals and museums worldwide and won many awards.

In 2006, Pong's video *Je suis une bombe* was awarded the Swiss Art Award, first prize at Videoex Film Festival and the State of Zurich Art Grant, which she received again the following year. In addition, she was granted a studio residency at the BINZ39/ Levy Foundation (Zurich) for 2006—2008, a UBS Kulturstiftung prize, and the 2007 Namics Art Award.

Recent exhibitions include *Samples*, a large solo show at the Kunstmuseum Solothurn, the Athens Biennial, the Backlight International Photography triennale in Tampere, and the Bienal del Fin del Mundo in Ushuaia among others. Her 2008 solo exhibitions took place at Freymond-Guth & Co. Fine Arts in Zurich, Parrotta Contemporary Art in Stuttgart, and at Lokal 30 in Warsaw. Since 2006, her videos have shown in Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, England, Germany, Finland, France, Ireland, Japan, Luxemburg, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and The Netherlands and the USA.

Pong has published several works: *Where Is The Poison*, *Samples*, a *Cahier d'artiste* in the Pro Helvetia collection, and *We are knights on the trajectories of a post-everything era*.

More information on www.elodiepong.net

Funding Credits

This exhibition is made possible with generous support from Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council, the Dedalus Foundation, Inc., 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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