



512 West 19th Street New York, NY 10011
tel 212 255 5793 www.thekitchen.org

Press Contact: Blake Zidell & Associates
tel: 718.643.9052
fax: 718 643.9502
blake@blakezidell.com

For Immediate Release

The Kitchen Presents Jamal Cyrus' *Winners Have Yet To Be Announced*

Artist's first New York solo exhibition will feature newly created videos, sculptures, and works-on-paper

March 2, 2009—**The Kitchen** is delighted to present the first New York solo exhibition of Houston-based artist **Jamal Cyrus**. Entitled *Winners Have Yet To Be Announced*, the show brings together a selection of recent sculptures, videos, and drawings that continue Cyrus' examination of the spaces between radical socio-political movements and untold histories. Evocatively reworking symbolic and political traditions, Cyrus explores the frequent slippages between the metaphysical and the everyday.

Curated by **Rashida Bumbray**, *Winners Have Yet To Be Announced* will be on view at The Kitchen from **March 19—May 2, 2009**. The Kitchen's gallery hours are Tuesday—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 on Thursday, March 19 from 6:00—8:00 P.M.

A sculptor, video maker, and installation artist, Cyrus is perhaps best known for his collaborative work with Houston-based collective Otabenga Jones & Associates, whose work has been featured at The Menil Collection in Houston and in the *2006 Whitney Biennial: Day for Night*. For this exhibition at The Kitchen, Cyrus will present videos, sculptures and large-scale drawings that intentionally distort the divisions between fictional and historical figures. Using Palmer Hayden's seminal social realist painting *The Janitor Who Paints* (1937) as a point of departure, Cyrus' enacts the role of a maintenance worker caught on surveillance camera during his nightly ritual of making graphite dust drawings with his broom. Within the project, the janitor becomes a metaphor for creativity within the realm of ordinary and the unnamed.

This exhibition will also feature sculptures and works on paper that explore the dual role of the conceptual and physical nature of the stage as a site of resistance, where the spiritual, political and symbolic merge. Taken as a whole, these projects explore overlapping ideas of labor, creativity, and the rewriting of radical histories.

About the Artist

Jamal Cyrus was born in 1973 in Houston, Texas. He attended Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2005 and has a Masters of Fine Arts from The University of Pennsylvania. His work has been included in exhibitions at institutions such as The Menil Collection, Houston, The High Museum, Atlanta, Office Baroque Gallery, Antwerp, LandFall, Museum of London Docklands, London and, CTRL gallery, Houston.

Funding

Winners Have Yet To Be Announced is made possible with generous support from 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.

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

#####