

 **The Kitchen**

40TH ANNIVERSARY

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For Immediate Release

**The Kitchen presents *Froufrou Conclusions*,
A solo exhibition by video artist Lauren Kelley,
November 11, 2011—January 7, 2012**

New York, NY, September 30, 2011—**The Kitchen** presents *Froufrou Conclusions*, the first New York solo exhibition by Houston-based video artist **Lauren Kelley**. The exhibition premieres the latest installments of Kelley's ongoing series of short-stop-animation videos and collages, in which she makes witty commentary on matters of sexuality, race and place. Curated by **Rashida Bumbray**, the exhibition will be on view from **November 11, 2011** through **January 7, 2012**. There will be an opening reception for the exhibition at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street) on **Friday, November 11** from **6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.**

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.

The exhibition's title *Froufrou Conclusions*, taken from the title of one of the two new video works on view, alludes to the gap between well-groomed exteriors and internal disorder. Kelley explores this gap in these new works specifically with greater emphasis on the use of sound. Additionally, the exhibition will feature a set of computer-generated drawings and collages—created over time as sketches and studies for the evolution and direction of her animated tales. The exhibition will also include a life-size, site-specific wallpaper photo installation, which explores an alternative point of entry into the world of her narratives.

Stylistically evocative of the children's television programs of her youth, Kelley's video series combines her signature brown plastic dolls with Claymation to stage absurd, jittery and occasionally endearing narratives. For Kelley, the dolls imply feminine ideals while also referencing an era when social science attempted to explore the mental effects of a racial bias—the provocative doll tests that were given to children in the 1940s and 50s, which were used to destabilize segregation via Brown vs. Board of Education in 1954. These doll tests were tried again in 2005 with the same curious results, triggering Kelley to create the series.

These videos are part of the artist's ongoing effort to build a body of animated work to be broadcast as a weekly series on a yet to be determined cable access channel. As the series grows and expands, Kelley draws influence from many varied sources, including the grotesque charm of Todd Haynes' film *The Karen Carpenter Story*, activist group The Yes Men's societal toy endeavors, and her own life and surroundings, particularly the provincial landscape where she resides as a professor on a rural college campus in Texas.

Lauren Kelley is an inaugural recipient of the New Museum's Altoids Award in 2007. She received her MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Currently, Kelley serves on staff at Prairie View A&M University in Texas overseeing the university's art gallery. She has been a resident at the

Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston and Glassell School's Core Program, as well as The Studio Museum in Harlem. Her work has been exhibited at the New Museum, New York, NY; Spellman College Museum of Fine Arts, Atlanta, GA; Sikkema Jenkins & Co. New York, NY; LACE, Los Angeles, CA; and Project Row Houses, Houston, TX. Reviews of her work have appeared in the *Houston Press*, the *Houston Chronicle*, *Art:21 Blog*, *The New Yorker*, *ArtLies*, and *Art in America*. For more information, go to <http://laurenkelleyworld.com>.

Funding Credits

This exhibition is made possible with support from the Jerome Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and 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

The Kitchen
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