



The Kitchen
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Performance, Film & Literature

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For Immediate Release

The Kitchen presents a survey of recent video work from Eastern Europe

April 27, 2006 - The Kitchen is pleased to present *New Video, New Europe*, a traveling exhibition surveying recent video work by more than three dozen artists from sixteen Eastern European countries. Organized by Hamza Walker, Curator and Director of Education at the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, the show includes forty-three works reflecting a variety of genres and approaches, ranging from autobiographical and documentary to surreal fantasy and experimental formalism. The works are divided up and presented as five discrete programs focusing on different themes--such as the residual resonances of war, ethnic tensions, and issues of national identity--or common sensibilities, such as a self-deprecating humor that relates to anxieties about joining the European Union. *New Video, New Europe* will be on view from **May 31 – June 30, 2006** at **The Kitchen** (512 West 19th Street). The Kitchen's gallery hours are **Tuesday-Friday, 12 to 6pm** and **Saturday, 11am to 7pm. Admission is Free.** Also, on **Monday June 12 at 7pm** there will be a public panel discussion with curator **Hamza Walker** and three participating artists in *New Video, New Europe*: **Ki'wa, Dan Mihaltianu, and Egle Rakaukaite. Admission is free.**

Taken as a whole, the exhibition reveals the proliferation of video production by artists throughout the region, despite varying levels of development in particular countries. The works also reflect the full spectrum of the field of video as a whole, including video art's historic relationship to performance art, feminism, pre- and post-digital experimentation, and even the ubiquitous influence of music videos and reality television. The artists included are: **Dan Acostioaei** (Romania), **Jesper Alvaer** (Czech Republic), **Azorro** (Poland), **Maja Bajević** (Bosnia), **Dario Bardić** (Croatia), **Alma Becirović** (Bosnia), **Pavel Brăila** (Moldova), **Mircea Cantor** (Romania), **Oana Filipov** (Romania), **Alen Floričić** (Croatia), **Várnai Gyula** (Hungary), **Tia Johansson** (Estonia), **Kai Kaljo** (Estonia), **Ki'wa** (Estonia), **Kristina Leko** (Croatia), **Pēteris Līdaka** (Latvia), **Dan Mihaltianu** (Romania), **Hajnal Németh** (Hungary), **Anna Niesterowicz** (Poland), **Vladimir Nikolić** (Serbia), **Adrian Paci** (Albania), **Jelena Radić** (Serbia), **Arturas Raila** (Lithuania), **Egle Rakauskaite** (Lithuania), **Lala Raščić** (Croatia), **Stefan Rusu** (Moldova), **Ene-Liis Semper** (Estonia), **Erzen Shkololli** (Kosovo), **Son:Da** (Slovenia), **Mladen Stilinović** (Croatia), **Killu Sukmit and Mari Laanemets** (Estonia), **Patricia Teodorescu** (Romania), **Krassimir Terziev** (Bulgaria), **Magda Tóthová** (Slovakia), **Muhidin Tvico** (Bosnia), **Pavle Vučković** (Serbia), **Piotr Wryzykowski** (Poland), **Sislej Xhafa** (Kosovo), and **Dragana Zarevac** (Serbia).

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With the induction of Slovakia, Slovenia, Poland, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Czech Republic into the European Union in 2003, Europe has become much more heterogeneous, with a diverse array of countries in varying states of socio-economic and political development. Given Eastern Europe's complex historical circumstances—each country with its distinct relations to the former Soviet Union and or liberal democracies in the West—a reappraisal of the differences in Europe's cultural traditions as a whole has emerged as new traditions take root. Taking into account Europe's transition, *New Video, New Europe* reflects Eastern European video traditions dating back to the late 1960s and early 1970s (Hungary, Poland, Croatia), to those with scenes that blossomed in the 1980s (Slovenia), and to relatively new but nonetheless robust scenes (Romania, Estonia, Latvia).

About the Curator

Hamza Walker has served as Director of Education / Associate Curator for The Renaissance Society at The University of Chicago since 1994 - a non-collecting museum devoted to contemporary art. Prior to his position at The Society, he worked as a Public Art Coordinator for The Department of Cultural Affairs in Chicago. His writings have appeared in *Artforum* and *Parkett* and he has contributed essays to several artists' monographs including Darren Almond, Thomas Hirschhorn, Moshekwa Langa, Raymond Pettibon, Catherine Sullivan, and Helen Mirra. His most recent curatorial endeavors include *A Perfect Union...more or less* (2004); and *The Here and Now* (2005); *All the Pretty Corpses* (2005); and a current solo exhibition of the work of Mai-Thu Perret. He was the recipient of the 1999 Norton Curatorial Grant and the 2005 Walter Hopps Award for curatorial achievement.

New Video, New Europe was organized by the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago and was made possible by The American Center Foundation. The New York presentation of *New Video, New Europe* and the artist panel discussion are made possible with generous support from the Trust for Mutual Understanding. 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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