

# The Kitchen

*center for art, video, music, dance,  
performance, film and literature.*

# Mission

The Kitchen is one of New York City's oldest 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, 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.

# 1971 - Mercer Art Center in Broad Central Hotel



Woody and Steina Vasulka (upper right), two experimental filmmakers, started a presentation space for video in the kitchen of Mercer Art Center which was located in the West side of the old Broad Central Hotel (upper left).



They grew a strong program and even hired Rhys Chatham to expand into experimental music. The literal location in the old hotel kitchen is where The Kitchen got its name.

# Building Collapsed in 1973

Luckily they were already planning to move to a new location when the building collapsed in 1972



## 1973 - Move to Soho



In its new home on the corner of Broome and Wooster, The Kitchen emerged as an internationally recognized leader in avant-garde art of all mediums.

# 1986 - 512 W. 19th Street in Chelsea



Since 1986, The Kitchen has remained in its current location amidst rapid development and the competition of gallery giants like Pace and Zwirner. It is a historic gem of New York and continues to support cutting edge art of all kinds. Grants, donations, fundraising events, occasional gallery sales, and ticketed performances keep the doors open year after year.

# cool artists who have done things there

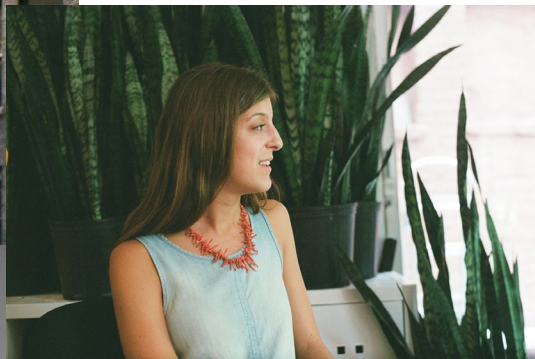
Vito Acconci, Robert Ashley, Nam June Paik, John Cage, and Robert Wilson; by Laurie Anderson, Philip Glass Ensemble, Brian Eno, Meredith Monk, Steve Reich, Z'EV, Talking Heads, Beastie boys, Karole Armitage, Alvin Lucier, Robert Mapplethorpe, Sherrie Levine, Kiki Smith, Robert Longo, Sherrie Levine, Virginia Overton, Nan Goldin

## Artist run—> Curator Run

Over the years, The Kitchen had become more institutional in its approach. In some ways, this is awesome because they can support more artists and projects with a small but strong administrative staff. Still, some argue that they sold out and lost the radical energy of the original collective.



# Curatorial Approach



The small curatorial team, which includes Bryn Mawr alum, Lumi Tan (far left), try to keep Woody and Steina's vision alive by building strong relationships with artists. I am amazed at the level of trust that flows between artist and curator at The Kitchen. Sometimes performance projects are still in progress right up until the public opening. This trust and the creative energy that comes from it is what makes The Kitchen such a successful, relevant space after all these years.



I worked with the archives to prepare materials for upcoming events and produced blog posts for the website. I was also able to work as a gallery attendant for Felix Bernstein and Gabe Rubin's exhibition, Vomitorium (pictured). My interview with the artists can be accessed here: <https://thekitchen.org/blog/121>



# Acknowledgements

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