

## **The Kitchen Partners with the Louvre and New York Review Books for Immersive Poetry Installation**

### **Poets Across the Globe Create *At the Louvre***

The Kitchen presents *At the Louvre* (January 15–24) (Gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 12–6pm, Free) in collaboration with **musée du Louvre** and **New York Review Books**. First a royal palace, then a museum, the Louvre has inspired poets for centuries – from Renaissance authors to modern day practitioners of the spoken word. Authors, thinkers, and artists are inspired by the Louvre's collection representing cultures around the world and across millenaries. These thinkers and writers wander the rooms of the Louvre, contemplate its masterpieces, and their context within and beyond the museum. As part of its contemporary programs, the Louvre has launched initiatives that bring together these thinkers, artists, and authors along with members of its staff and communities to read the museum anew.

*At the Louvre* is part of this ensemble, an initiative that led to a book published in 2024. Celebrated poets from around the world were each invited to compose a new piece about the palace-museum, writing in the language of their own and translated into French and English. The writers represent diverse geographies and generations – the youngest are in their twenties, the oldest in their nineties. They evoke the museum's artworks, staircases, corridors, and the many lives and spirits contained within. Some writers look at a detail from a painting; others speak to the passing of time encapsulated at the Louvre. The book came out in French with Seghers and in English with New York Review Books, marking both publishing houses' first collaboration with the Louvre.

To complement this dual language publication, a soundtrack was composed, in which 95 of the 102 poets read their poem in their own tongue, thereby making a statement for an open-ended perception of the museum and, with it, a multiple approach to humankind. Each poet states their name at the beginning of their reading, enabling listeners to find their way through the opacity of languages they may be unfamiliar with. Meaning is never a mere given, it must be experienced and discovered: such is the lesson of poetry.

This soundtrack is an experimental, performative piece, in which voices are heard across cultures and times – echoing through the many lives of art. This sound piece premiered in the medieval Louvre, the inner sanctum of the institution. An immaterial marker of humanity, it was designed to travel. Its first step outside the walls of the Louvre will be at The Kitchen, opening the Winter/Spring 2026 program. The Kitchen, as a central institution for performing arts and experimentations across mediums, is the ideal space for an exhibition of such a sound piece – one conceived in dialogue with a New York publishing house.

For ten days, visitors will be able to listen to the four-hour recording in a loop, finding their way across languages they know, others they do not; copies of the publication will be on hand, enabling listeners to navigate the meaning and negotiate their relationship with other cultures. Artworks from the museum and

the museum itself are brought into central focus, and their impact reverberates within and beyond the borders of the institution. This program is organized by **Donatien Grau** and **Nicolas Marbeau** (musée du Louvre), with **Antoine Caro** (Seghers) and **Edwin Frank** (NYRB).

### **Contributors**

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**THE KITCHEN**  
**NEW YORK CITY'S CENTER**  
FOR EXPERIMENTAL ART  
AND THE **AVANT-GARDE**  
SINCE 1971

ANDRÉS SÁNCHEZ ROBAYNA Spain, Spanish

ALBERT ROIG Spain, Catalan

MARTIN RUEFF France, French

JAMES SACRÉ France, French

BARRY SCHWABSKY United States of America, English

RYOKO SEKIGUCHI Japan, French

YOMI ŞODE Nigeria / United Kingdom, English

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ALEŠ ŠTEGER Republic of Slovenia, Slovene

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VÉRONIQUE TADJO Ivory Coast / France, French

ESTHER TELLERMANN France, French

CAMILLE DE TOLEDO France, French

KRISZTINA TÓTH Hungary, Hungarian

MILÈNE TOURNIER France, French

ANDREAS UNTERWEGER Austria, German

ANDRÉ VELTER France, French

JAN WAGNER Germany, German

WANG YIN China, Chinese

ELIZABETH WILLIS United States of America, English

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**Funding Credits**

*At The Louvre* is made possible through Leadership Support from Elisa Nuyten.

# THE KITCHEN

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AND THE AVANT-GARDE  
SINCE 1971

Additionally, The Kitchen's programs are made possible in part with support from The Kitchen's Board of Directors, The Kitchen Global Council, Leadership Fund, and the Director's Council, as well as through generous support from The Amphion Foundation, Inc., Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Cowles Charitable Trust, Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts, Ford Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, Marta Heflin Foundation, The New York Community Trust, Jerome Robbins Foundation, Lambent Foundation Fund, a fund of Tides Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Ruth Foundation For The Arts, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, and in part by public funds from the Manhattan Borough President, the National Endowment for the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. The Kitchen acknowledges the generous support provided by the Collaborative Arts Network New York (CANNY). As a coalition of small to mid-sized multidisciplinary arts organizations, CANNY is committed to strengthening the infrastructure of arts nonprofits throughout New York.

## About The Kitchen

Founded in 1971 as an artist-driven collective, The Kitchen today reaffirms and expands upon its originating vision as a dynamic cultural institution that centers artists, prioritizes people, and puts process first. Programming in a kunsthalle model that brings together live performances, exhibition making, and public programming under one roof, The Kitchen empowers its audiences and communities to think creatively and radically about what it means to shape a multivalent and sustainable future in art.

The Kitchen seeks to cultivate and hold space for wild thought, risky play, and innovative and experimental making, encouraging artists and cultural workers alike to defy boundaries and sending them into the world to remake art history and catalyze creative change. Among the artists who have presented significant work at The Kitchen are Muhal Richard Abrams, Laurie Anderson, ANOHNI, Robert Ashley, Charles Atlas, Kevin Beasley, Beastie Boys, Gretchen Bender, Dara Birnbaum, Anthony Braxton, John Cage, Lucinda Childs, Julius Eastman, Philip Glass, Leslie Hewitt, Darius Jones, Joan Jonas, Bill T. Jones, Devin Kenny, Simone Leigh, Ralph Lemon, George Lewis, Robert Longo, Robert Mapplethorpe, Sarah Michelson, Tere O'Connor, Okwui Okpokwasili, Nam June Paik, Charlemagne Palestine, Sondra Perry, Vernon Reid, Arthur Russell, Cindy Sherman, Laurie Spiegel, Talking Heads, Greg Tate, Cecil Taylor, Urban Bush Women, Danh Vō, Lawrence Weiner, Anicka Yi, and many more.

Website: [thekitchen.org](http://thekitchen.org)

Instagram: @TheKitchen\_NYC

## About New York Review Books

**[www.thekitchen.org](http://www.thekitchen.org)**

163B Bank Street, 4th Fl. Loft  
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New York Review Books is dedicated to publishing an eclectic mix of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry from different eras and times and of various sorts. Many of these titles are works in translation. NYRB Poets, which publishes the English-language edition of *At the Louvre*, features the work of poets from around the world, classical and modern, ancient and contemporary, in elegant, pocket-size editions.

### **About The Musée du Louvre**

The musée du Louvre ranks amongst the world's most beloved and celebrated museums. Since opening 233 years ago, it has been the home of the public and particularly of artists, which have made it into their home. Set in the king of France's palace, it has been part of history for the last 800 years, from monarchy to Revolution, empire and Republic. Collecting in nine departments, Near-Eastern, Egyptian, Greek, Etruscan, Roman Antiquities, European Paintings, Sculptures, Drawings, Decorative Arts, Arts of Islam, Arts of Byzantium and the Near-Eastern Christians, it is also a place of research, education and creativity on museums and the worlds of art.

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