

THE KITCHEN

CENTER FOR
VIDEO, MUSIC
AND DANCE

Village Voice
November 26, 1979

DANCE

By Deborah Jowitz

SUSAN RETHORST. On the Kitchen's "Dance Now" series at Collective for Living Cinema. (Wednesdays in November).

Susan Rethorst dances with Pam Hagen for half an hour at the Kitchen's annex over on White Street. It's a fact. They do. Alone. Together. The room is narrow and deep, walls and ceiling painted black. It's not a comfortable space: Rethorst, whom I've admired before, is a quiet dancer, softly elegant in spite of (because of?) her matter-of-fact demeanor. Hagen has a pleasing awkwardness; she makes you aware of her joints, folding, opening, adjusting to her weight as it carefully shifts. Actually, everything the two do calls attention to joints. They're not interested in making big gestures in space, not very interested in curves. They work carefully at things like crawling, rolling, fitting one foot behind another, wrapping their arms around their bodies, sitting down smoothly and letting you watch them settle into one hip.

Everything they do looks competent and useful. There's a spark of wit that makes the audience laugh when they seem to be crowding each other as they walk quickly to the back wall. It's the kind of dancing you can view as refreshingly natural and underplayed. Or as drab and disturbingly noncommittal.

Board of
Directors

Robert Ashley
Paula Cooper
Suzanne Delehanty
Philip Glass
Barbara London
Mary MacArthur
Barbara Pine
Carlota Schoolman
Robert Stearns
John Stewart
Caroline Thorne
Paul Walter

HALEAKALA, INC.
59 WOOSTER
NEW YORK,
NEW YORK
10012
(212) 925-3615