

Lines of Distribution

Group Visit Teaching Guide to The Kitchen's exhibition *Lines of Distribution* at Westbeth

What is *Lines of Distribution*?

In what ways can experimental practices from previous eras springboard new strategies for the distribution and circulation of art across today's global circuits? Drawing on The Kitchen's history of presenting and disseminating avant-garde art for over fifty years, the exhibition *Lines of Distribution* takes up this question by reanimating aspects of its past programming through a cross-institutional dialogue with Lofoten International Art Festival – LIAF (Lofoten, Norway) and its organizer North Norwegian Art Centre.

Lines of Distribution brings together new works by Viktor Bomstad, Elise Macmillan, Kameelah Janan Rasheed, and Wong Kit Yi that have emerged from or been shaped by the artists' engagements with both the 2024 edition of LIAF and The Kitchen's local and institutional contexts. The exhibition presents these works in tandem with materials from The Kitchen Archives in sections that bring to light the ways this cross-institutional exchange falls within a lineage of The Kitchen's rich programmatic history and that reveal how the individual artists reflected on the New York art center's traditions through their own research processes.

Learn more about the [exhibition here](#).

Pre-Visit

Before you visit, think about:

1. How do you learn about new art and media? Is it through social media, posters and billboards, movie trailers, your community?
2. Is art accessible? How can it be more accessible?
3. Artists in this exhibition were asked to engage with The Kitchen's archive that includes artwork and institutional materials dating back to 1971. Do you think archives from art institutions are important? Where is their place in the contemporary art scene?

4. Think about the title of the exhibition, "Lines of Distribution." What could this term mean in a literal and metaphorical sense?

Important Words and Terms to Define

1. Distribution
2. Broadcast
3. Archive
4. Biennial
5. Lofoten Line

During your visit

Kameelah Janan Rasheed's [Feral Seeds](#)

With *Feral Seeds (01)*, Rasheed responds to and carries forward The Kitchen's tradition of creating custom-designed print materials for individual events and performances. Echoing the institutions' past distribution method of publicly displaying these posters throughout downtown Manhattan in the neighborhoods around its physical space in the 1970s and 1980s, Rasheed's work appears on surfaces in public spaces surrounding The Kitchen at Westbeth.

Print the [linked document](#) and engage with her work by completing the tear-off prompts.

Post-Visit

Reflection

1. How has your perception of art's distribution changed after experiencing this exhibition?
2. In what ways is art's distribution related to political and economical structures? Is this relationship important?
3. In Wong Kit Yi's work, the artist chose to create a comfy, domestic atmosphere to watch her video. How did this atmosphere affect your viewing experience?
4. Elise Macmillan and Viktor Bomstad performed at LIAF in the fall of 2024, then at The Kitchen at the start of the exhibition, and now their performances are on view for gallery-goers in the form of a video recording. How do these journeys embody the exhibition's themes? How did it feel to watch a performance in the form of a recording instead of being there live?

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5. What did you think about while filling out Kameelah Rasheed's tear-off poster? Do you think you would feel differently about participating if you found the poster in the city, instead of receiving it in the gallery? How can print communication materials be advantageous for artists in a digital world?

Art-Making Activity

Wheatpasting is a method used to attach posters to surfaces using a homemade adhesive. It is a long-lasting method for hanging posters with a non-permanent adhesive.. Often used in public spaces, artists and activists have utilized wheatpaste as a cheap and easy way to spread the word. Below are instructions for how to create your own wheatpaste to get your message out, beautify your neighborhood, and create your own line of distribution!

Surfaces like fences, cement walls, and wooden planks are great for wheatpasting. To avoid risk, ask permission before pasting on any public wall!

Some great resources for wheatpasting:

- [Wheatpaste Posters](#)
- [A Fieldguide to Wheatpasting](#)

Materials:

1. Flour
2. Water
3. Medium sized pot
4. Whisk
5. Heatsource, like a stove
6. Container
7. Poster (the thinner the paper, the better)
8. Paint roller

Instructions:

Mixture:

1. Mix together one part flour and 4 parts water in your medium-sized pot
2. Heat mixture, stirring constantly, until it reaches a boil
3. Continue stirring and reduce heat
4. The paste should be the thickness of heavy cream - you can test the thickness by dipping a paintbrush - it should be smooth without clumps

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5. Let cool and save in your container

Putting up your poster:

1. Clean the surface that you are using (wall, fence, etc.)
2. Place the poster where you would like it
 - a. It might be helpful to have a friend to help!
3. Dip your paint roller into your paste
4. Roll the paste evenly over your entire poster
5. Continue to roll over your poster, until it is smooth and stuck to the surface

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