The Kitchen announces Spring 2023 programming, resulting from durational engagements that give experimental artists and collectives an abundance of time and organizational support to pursue their ideas. Within and beyond The Kitchen’s temporary home in the West Side Loft at Westbeth Artists Housing (163B Bank Street, 4th Floor Loft, New York), the organization features culminating presentations from two 12-month residencies in conversation with The Kitchen’s archive and new media roots; an exhibition reexamining formative multimedia concerts from the early days of The Kitchen; the retrospective continuation of a bold and generative 24-year series of commissioned music; and more. The Kitchen continues this season to untether performance from the finite realm of one-evening presentations (and often from finite space), with works evolving through process, accumulation, and recontextualization.

**On View:**

**Esther Sibiude:** *The Song of Dirt Stammers our Tongue*
June 14 and 16, 2023, 8:30pm
The Kitchen at Westbeth
Tickets $5-15 sliding scale,
On sale now

**Upcoming:**

**Lamb:** *Cape*
June 24, 2023, 8pm
Abrons Art Center
Tickets $15
On sale now

**Mat Kastella**
July 27, 2023, Time forthcoming
Performing Arts Stage at Port Authority Bus Terminal
Free with RSVP; Reservations open early July

**Ethan Philbrick:** *Re:Group Works*
*Re-scheduled, Date forthcoming
The Kitchen at Westbeth
Free with RSVP

**Spring 2023 Video Viewing Rooms**
The Kitchen OnScreen

**Brian Fuata:** *of a house besieged (preposition tweaked)*
the kitchen.org On Screen
Premiered January 27; Online Now

**Christelle Oyiri:** *OBLIMEMBER*
the kitchen.org On Screen
Premiered April 27; Online Now

**Ongoing Collaborations:**

**School for Poetic Computation**
Various Sites
September 2022—September 2023
Information on public programs to be announced in forthcoming months

**Montez Press Radio**
Various Sites
September 2022—September 2023
The Kitchen at Westbeth, Offsite Locations

**Dia Art Foundation**
Various Sites
September 2022—September 2024
The Kitchen and Montez Press Radio present

Esther Sibiude:  
*The Song of Dirt Stammers Our Tongue*  

June 14 and 16, 2023, The Kitchen at Westbeth

The Kitchen x Montez Press Radio is organized by Legacy Russell, Executive Director & Chief Curator, with Angelique Rosales Salgado, Curatorial Assistant.


Season programming is made possible in part with support from The Kitchen’s Board of Directors and The Kitchen Leadership Fund. Learn more about the Leadership Fund.
The Song of Dirt Stammers Our Tongue co-presented by The Kitchen and Montez Press Radio, is a radio operetta directed by its librettist Esther Sibiude, with music created and arranged in collaboration with an ensemble of five players: vocalist Lucia della Paolera, violist Justine Lugli, cellist Timothy Rusterholz, organist Thomas Hobson Williams playing the synthesizer, and Sibiude playing the harp.

As in Prokofiev’s Peter and the Wolf, each of the instruments in this new work illustrates a character or theme from the poetic text—a blade of grass, a second, a ray of sunshine, a leaf. Musical threads weave together the journey of a man who belongs to the night sky, but who falls to Earth one evening while asleep. Unfamiliar with life on this planet, and generally disoriented, his meanderings lead him to New York, where he has to adjust to the city’s temporality. The piece will be semi-staged and performed live with musicians wearing costumes inspired by the natural world. The 40 minute medley of new compositions by the group set to original text by Sibiude merges improvisation with pop, folk, sacred and classical pieces. Production design by Esther Sibiude and Jett Strauss. Costumes by Myranda Gilles, additional Production design (leaves) and hair by Celia Lesh. Make up by Zoe Kestan. Photo documentation during rehearsal by Oto Gillen.
BIOS

Esther Sibiude is an artist, writer and harpist working in New York. Recent performances that she wrote, directed and played harp in include “Esra” a live staged adaptation of a radio play, performed in the panorama of New York City at the Queens museum and “Nightshade” co-written with Colleen Billing and played at Montez Press Radio’s performance space in Chinatown, New York.

Montez Press Radio is an experimental broadcasting and performance platform founded in 2018, with the goal of fostering greater experimentation and conversation between artists, writers, and thinkers through the medium of radio. This platform invites different corners of the art world to interact with each other in person and on air—a place where media finally meets flesh. Montez Press Radio is drawn to art that exists in the unexpected, the authenticity of sharing without a script, the sounds of ideas in the making, conversation that forgets there’s an audience. All of its in-studio broadcasts are free and open to the public. Montez Press Radio’s archive is an ongoing auditory document of Montez Press Radio’s existence. It is not designed to reflect the ingenuity of postproduction, but rather serves as a catalogue of rough cuts which contain all the small glitches, false starts, and awkward silences that are intrinsic to our process of live recording and running an event space. Montez Press Radio is as much a radio broadcast as it is a reflection of particular moments in time.

Lucia della Paolera, mezzo-soprano, lives and works in NYC. She is director and vocalist of “Child of the Church Productions,” a site-specific series of experimental staged music performances in NYC churches, combining a wide range of music, old and new. After its recent premiere at Saint Peter’s Church in May 2023, the most recent work in the series, “Spirit and Soul Become Confused,” will be performed at Roulette, Brooklyn in Fall 2023. www.childofthechurchproductions.com

Thomas Hobson Williams is a New York-based collaborative pianist, organist, and choral director. He holds the M.Mus. from the Mason Gross School of the Arts of Rutgers University-New Brunswick and the B.Mus. from Shorter University in Rome, GA, with additional summer studies in past years at Brevard Music Center and Westminster Choir College. He currently serves as Minister of Music at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Brooklyn, and is a past dean of the American Guild of Organists - Brooklyn Chapter. Some previous posts of note include Organist/Choir Director at Flatbush-Tompkins Congregational Church in Brooklyn, NY, Minister of Music at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Monmouth Junction, NJ, staff accompanist at Shorter University (his alma mater), and organist for the First Presbyterian Church of Dalton, GA.

Justine Lugli is an artist and violist based in NYC.

Timothy Rusterholz is a composer, cellist and martial artist working in Brooklyn. Ongoing projects include Ashcan Orchestra, Terra Symphony Orchestra/
Quartet, IKARI, and Platypus Revenge. Rusterholz is also known as Shi Heng Bi at USA Shaolin Temple as a teacher and practitioner of kung fu, tai chi, and qigong.

**Jett Strauss** is a sculptor and designer working in New York.

**Myranda Gilles** is an artist living and working in New York. She works across disciplines with a focus on fiber arts, textiles, and costume. Her work has been exhibited at CLEARING (New York), Susan Inglett Gallery, Jack Hanley Gallery, and White Columns, among others.

**Celia Lesh** is an artist, a gardener and psychotherapist in training, working in New York City.
PRODUCTION CREDITS

Stacy Skolnik, Co-Founder, Montez Press Radio
Thomas Laprade, Co-Founder, Montez Press Radio

Legacy Russell, Executive Director & Chief Curator, The Kitchen
Angelique Rosales Salgado, Curatorial Assistant, The Kitchen
Tassja Walker, Production Supervisor, The Kitchen

Drew Sensue-Weinstein, Tech & Production Crew

Howard Silver, Videographer
Rebecca Smeyne, Photographer

SITE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Kitchen acknowledges that its site has shifted over time from Greenwich Village, where it began in Mercer Arts Center, to a loft in SoHo on Wooster Street, to its home on 19th Street in Chelsea that it’s held since 1986, and now to the temporary location of Westbeth Artists Housing as our building renovation is underway. Since its founding, The Kitchen has presented programming both within its sites and at partner venues around New York City. These sites traverse Indigenous space, Black space, Latinx space, working-class space, immigrant space, queer space, activist space, rebellion space. These diasporic histories have had deep impacts on avant-garde art production at large and The Kitchen’s own experimental institutional work. We strive to bring light to these groundbreaking contributions as we carry this next chapter of our institution forward with care. This is a collaborative, thoughtful process taking place across all facets of our work here, and we look forward to continuing to create experimentation-forward space for all with these values as a guiding force.
The Kitchen

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Legacy Russell, Executive Director & Chief Curator

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