

BLAKE ZIDELL & ASSOCIATES

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The Kitchen

THE KITCHEN PRESENTS LIZ MAGIC LASER MARCH 27–29

***Bystander* Inverts the Newscaster/TV Viewer Relationship with a Staged “Live” News Broadcast Featuring NY1’s Roger Clark**

New York, NY — From March 27–29, The Kitchen will present *Bystander*, a new project by performance and video artist Liz Magic Laser. Developed through a series of interviews with journalists and members of the public, *Bystander* stages an inverted dialogue between television news and its viewers. Professional newscasters, including NY1’s Roger Clark, former WWOR-TV reporter Maria Trice and former KEYT-TV weatherman Jon Wright, will perform 2014 news highlights interwoven with the personal stories of New Yorkers collected from nearly a hundred interviews. Actors Lynn Berg, Audrey Crabtree, Annie Fox and Michael Wiener will contribute news reports as if they were voicing personal opinions. By re-contextualizing the television news scenario as theatrical dialogue, Laser lays bare the mechanisms at play in the presentation and reception of current events.

Liz Magic Laser will present *Bystander* March 27–29 at 8pm at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at www.thekitchen.org; by phone at 212.255.5793 x11; or in person at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street), Tuesday–Saturday, 2:00–6:00 p.m.

With this work, Laser re-imagines a television news broadcast that is filmed, edited and screened live as it is performed on stage. Laser conducted interviews and wrote the script for *Bystander* in collaboration with writer Sofia Pontén while both were in residence at the non-profit art space Recess in New York City. Both the Recess Session and the resulting performances at The Kitchen will be staged in a functioning television news studio.

Bystander was developed with and features television journalists and actors Lynn Berg, Roger Clark (NY1 reporter), Audrey Crabtree, Annie Fox, Maria Trice (former WWOR-TV reporter), Michael Wiener and Jon Wright (former KEYT-TV and WLBT-TV weather and news anchor).

Script written by Liz Magic Laser and Sofia Pontén based on nearly a hundred interviews conducted by the cast with members of the public at Recess in SoHo. Assistant Director: Sofia Pontén Technical Director: Irwin Seow Director of Photography: Laura Cooper Costume Stylist: Felicia Garcia-Rivera Research Assistants: Mimi Chiahemen, Lucia Hinojosa, Brian Mcelroy and Rachel Zaretsky

About The Artist

Liz Magic Laser (b. 1981, New York) lives and works in Brooklyn. Her performances and videos intervene in semi-public spaces such as bank vestibules, movie theaters and newsrooms, and have involved collaborations with actors, dancers, reporters, surgeons, and motorcycle gang members. She earned a BA from Wesleyan University (2003) and an MFA from Columbia University (2008). She attended the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture (2008) and the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program (2009).

Most recently, her work was the subject of solo exhibitions at Paula Cooper Gallery, New York (2013) the Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster, Germany (2013); DiverseWorks, Houston, Texas (2013) and Malmö

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Konsthall, Malmö, Sweden (2012). Her work has also been exhibited at Lisson Gallery, London (2013); the Moscow Museum of Modern Art (2012); Various Small Fires, Los Angeles (2012); the Performa 11 Biennial, New York (2011); The Pace Gallery, New York (2011); the Biennial of Graphic Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia (2011); and MoMA PS 1, New York (2010). Laser is the recipient of grants from Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation Grant (2013), the Southern Exposure Off-Site Graue Award (2013), New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship (2012) and the Franklin Furnace Fund for Performance Art (2010). She was the 2013 Armory Show Commissioned Artist and has been in residency at the Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation Space Program, New York (2012), Forever & Today, Inc.'s Studio On The Street artist-in-residence program, New York (2012), Smack Mellon, Brooklyn (2011) and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York (2009).

Funding Credits

Liz Magic Laser's *Bystander* is produced in collaboration with Recess, and made possible with support from Michael I. Jacobs M.D., Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo and The Dorothea Leonhardt Fund at the Communities Foundation of Texas, Inc., Eileen and Michael Cohen, Joseph Varet & Esther Kim Varet, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts, the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, and with public funds from 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 Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



About The Kitchen

The Kitchen is one of New York City's most forward-looking 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 in 1971, 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.

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