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For Immediate Release

**The Kitchen presents *Whispering Pines 10*,  
new work by artist Shana Moulton and musician Nick Hallett,  
Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17**

New York, NY, March 10, 2010—On the evenings of **Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17**, **The Kitchen** will present the premiere of *Whispering Pines 10*. The piece is the latest in video and performance artist **Shana Moulton's** ongoing video serial about Cynthia, an anxiety-ridden hypochondriac whose constant search for health and happiness leads her to fad cures and new age kitsch, creating situations in turn comic, contemplative, and surreal. Moulton collaborates with composer-vocalist **Nick Hallett** to transform the work into a live electronic chamber opera, woven out of pop melodies, extended vocal techniques, alternative sound controllers and a flexible instrumentation performed by Hallett along with the soprano **Daisy Press** and harpist **Shelley Burgon**. The performances will take place at **8:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Tickets are \$10.

In *Whispering Pines 10*, Moulton stars as Cynthia, enveloping herself in her original multi-channel video design, which tackles the divide between low and high production values through the use of green-screen compositing and interactive technology. An adventurous use of multimedia—produced at Harvestworks Digital Media Arts Center—assists in realizing the dreamlike worlds of Cynthia's subconscious. Music plays an important part in the *Whispering Pines* series and there is a musical theater-like sensibility which Moulton and Hallett mine in the creation of this original opera. Cynthia, who does not typically speak, experiences her thoughts as voiced in songs by Hallett, Press and Burgon.

Over the course of nine video episodes and related installations and performances, the *Whispering Pines* series has probed various aspects of new age culture, reveling in its allures of self-realization and otherworldliness, while also questioning its appropriation of non-Western spiritual belief systems and drawing comparisons to "visionary" approaches to the creation of art, such as those of Georgia O'Keefe and Kenneth Anger.

The mundane objects in Cynthia's world act as portals into her own overactive subconscious, wherein hallucinatory sequences explore the nature of material and spiritual concerns in contemporary culture. In *Whispering Pines 8* (2006), Cynthia fills a glass vase with purple Crystal Light diet drink powder to decorate a plastic houseplant. A ladder grows out of Cynthia's crafty creation, transporting her into a rave dance party, where Piet Mondrian and MC Escher imagery pulsates around her. Similarly, *Whispering Pines 10* sees Cynthia bridge the gap between the prosaic, aesthetic, and supernatural, while also gently addressing issues of Feminism, namely the simultaneous deification and subjugation of the female form.

**Shana Moulton** attended UC Berkeley, the MFA program at Carnegie Mellon University, the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and De Ateliers in Amsterdam. She has had solo shows at Art in General, Broadway 1602, New York; Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich; Pianissimo, Milan; The Bluecoat, Liverpool; Gimpel Fils Gallery, London; Broadcast Gallery,

Dublin; Bielefelder Kunstverein, Bielefeld. She has performed at Performa 09, Electronic Arts Intermix, Participant Inc, Socrates Sculpture Park, The Andy Warhol Museum, Diverseworks (Houston), the Portland Experimental Film Festival.

Her video work has been screened and exhibited in group shows at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Canada Gallery, The Museum of Contemporary Art Banjaluka, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art The Hessel Museum; Bard College, Rencontres internationales Paris/Berlin, Paris; Impakt Festival, Utrecht; Internationale Kurzfilmtage, Oberhausen; European Media Arts Festival, Osnabruck; Images Festival, Toronto; Galerie Fons Welters, Amsterdam and Frieze Art Fair in London. Moulton was born in Oakhurst, California and currently lives in Brooklyn. Her videos were named in Ed Halter's 2007 top ten list in the Village Voice and Michael Robinson's 2008 top ten list in the San Francisco Bay Guardian. Her work has been reviewed in Artforum, The Brooklyn Rail, The New York Times, Artnet Magazine, Tokion Magazine and Flash Art Magazine.

**Nick Hallett** is a NYC-based composer, vocalist and impresario who works across genre and media to create innovative, multidisciplinary music-based performance. Nick held the first *Re:New Re:Play* artist residency at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in May 2009, creating a four-part series of concerts connecting the voice to visual performance art, and recently created original music for the November 2009 Performa biennial, in a concert at Town Hall. Joe's Pub has hosted two evenings of his original songs, *The Nick Hallett Songbook* (2008) and *Man in the Matriarchy* (2009) and his music is performed at other downtown cabarets such as Weimar in New York. Hallett also concertizes and curates at venues such as The Kitchen, ISSUE Project Room, Le Poisson Rouge and The Stone.

As a vocalist, he has performed the music of Anthony Braxton, Susie Ibarra, Matthew Welch, among others. His interpretation project of songs by Arthur Russell with cellist Alex Waterman has seen multiple recent performances. With Zach Layton, he co-directs the Darmstadt new music series. After organizing a performance for the Joshua Light Show at The Kitchen in 2007, Hallett became its music curator and producer, collaborating with its founder, multimedia artist Joshua White to reinvent its explosive approach to live cinema for contemporary audiences. From 2000 to 2003, he led the band Plantains, a new wave-cabaret act incorporating electronic music and video, and collaborating with Ray Sweeten and Seth Kirby, among others. *Whispering Pines 10* is his first stage work and he hopes to continue in this direction.

### **Funding Credits**

*Whispering Pines 10* was made possible with support from the Harvestworks Artist In Residence Program and with Experimental Television Center Finishing Funds, which is supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts.

The Kitchen's presentation of *Whispering Pines 10* was made possible with the support of The Greenwall Foundation and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



### **ABOUT THE KITCHEN**

The Kitchen is one of New York City's oldest nonprofit performance and exhibition spaces, showing experimental work by innovative artists, both emerging and established. Programs range from dance, music, and theatrical performances to video and media arts exhibitions to literary events, film screenings, and artists' talks. 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.

Box Office Information:  
212.255.5793 ext. 11  
Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

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