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For Immediate Release

## **The Kitchen presents *The Art of Hypochondria*, an evening with *Cabinet*, Tuesday, February 9**

**New York, NY, January 25, 2010**—On **Tuesday, February 9** at **The Kitchen**, *Cabinet*, the award-winning quarterly magazine of art and culture, will host a panel entitled *The Art of Hypochondria*. The evening will feature *Cabinet*'s UK editor **Brian Dillon** in conversation about his new book, *The Hypochondriacs: Nine Tormented Lives*, with historian of science **D. Graham Burnett** (Princeton University) and literary historian **Marina van Zuylen** (Bard College). The event will take place at **7:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street). Admission is free.

Hypochondria is the ancient name for a malady that is always fretfully new: the fear of disease and the experience of one's body as alien and unpredictable. Dillon will open the evening with a short talk about his book, which explores the lives of several eminent malingerers — including Darwin, Proust, and Warhol — and the fear of illness that drove them to withdraw from the world. His presentation will be followed by brief meditations from Burnett and van Zuylen on this most elusive of medical conditions and a conversation among the three. The evening will conclude with an open, moderated discussion with the audience.

### **About the Participants**

**D. Graham Burnett** is an editor at *Cabinet* and professor of history at Princeton University, where he is a member of the Program in History of Science. He is the author of four books, most recently *Trying Leviathan* (Princeton University Press, 2007), which won the 2007 New York City Book Award. Currently a fellow at the Italian Academy, Columbia University, he is writing about aesthetics.

**Brian Dillon** is the author of *The Hypochondriacs: Nine Tormented Lives* (Faber & Faber, 2010), which comes out February 2, and *In the Dark Room* (Penguin, 2005). He is UK editor of *Cabinet*, and his writing has appeared in (among other publications) the *Guardian*, the *London Review of Books*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, *frieze*, *Artforum*, *Art Review* and the *Wire*. He is AHRC Research Fellow in the Creative and Performing Arts at the University of Kent, where he is working on a project about modern ruins. Sternberg Press will publish his novella, *Sanctuary*, later in 2010.

**Marina van Zuylen** is professor of French and comparative literature at Bard College. She is the author of two books — *Monomania: The Flight from Everyday Life in Literature and Art* (Cornell University Press, 2005) and *Difficulty as an Aesthetic Principle* (G. Narr, 1994). She has published articles on aesthetics, literature, medicine, and philosophy, and is currently writing a book about the relationship between conversation, idleness, and the work ethic in the Franco-American imagination. She has taught at Harvard, Columbia, Princeton, and the University of Paris VII.

### **Funding Credits**

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## **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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