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For Immediate Release

**The Kitchen presents *Reflections on the public, private intellectual*,
a symposium on Roland Barthes, hosted by *n+1*,
Monday, November 8**

New York, NY, October 20, 2010—On **Monday, November 8** at **The Kitchen**, the thrice-yearly literary journal *n+1* will host a symposium entitled *Reflections on the public, private intellectual*, about the work of the seminal French theorist **Roland Barthes**. Immediately following the posthumous publication of Barthes' *Mourning Diary* by Farrar, Straus and Giroux imprint Hill and Wang this month, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer **Richard Howard**—who translated *Mourning Diary*—and *n+1* editor **Marco Roth** will discuss Howard's experience working with and translating Barthes as well as broader questions about public versus private intellectual work. The event will take place at **7:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Admission is free.

The day after his mother's death in October 1977, Roland Barthes began a diary of mourning. In it, the man Susan Sontag considered "the most consistently intelligent, important, and useful critic . . . to have emerged anywhere" confronted a new solitude. For nearly two years, taking notes on index cards as was his habit, Barthes reflected on the ebb and flow of sadness; on the discourse of loss and recovery; on the slow pace of mourning, and modern society's quick dismissal of it. The contents of the 330 cards are published in *Mourning Diary* for the first time. They mark a major discovery in Barthes's work: a skeleton key to the themes he tackled throughout his life. They are also a unique study of grief—intimate, deeply moving and universal.

Compared with his contemporaries, Barthes has always been deemed especially accessible to readers outside academic literature specializations. The October 2010 publication of *Mourning Diary* offers a chance to think anew about the challenges of personalizing the intellectual, or intellectualizing the personal in our own time. Having translated *Mourning Diary* and other Barthes works, Howard is considered responsible for the American understanding of the philosopher. Howard brings the memories of his close friendship with Barthes and a life lived fully between American and French culture to this discussion.

About Roland Barthes

Roland Barthes was born in 1915. A French literary theorist, philosopher, and critic, he influenced the development of various schools of theory, including structuralism, semiotics, existentialism, social theory, Marxism, and post-structuralism. He died in 1980.

About Richard Howard

Richard Howard has been crowned with many laurels, including a Pulitzer Prize and a Macarthur

Genius Fellowship, honoring his importance to American post-war poetry. Howard has also had a great influence on the transmission of "French Theory" and its favorite authors to America. His translations of Baudelaire and E.M. Cioran are canonical, as are his translations of Roland Barthes—notably *Camera Lucida* and *Fragments of a Lover's Discourse*—and now *Mourning Diary*.

About *n+1*

Now a thrice-yearly journal of politics, literature, and culture, dedicated to the cultivation of writing that crosses genres, borders, and professional boundaries, *n+1* celebrates its 5th anniversary this fall. **Marco Roth** is a founding editor of *n+1*, a 2009 recipient of a Pew Fellowship in the Arts, he's currently at work on a memoir about AIDS, literature and family influences, forthcoming from Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

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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:

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Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

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