

# THE KITCHEN

475-9865

240 Mercer St. New York 10012

JACKSON MAC LOW: A PROGRAM AT THE KITCHEN -- 15 May 1972 -- 8 PM

Instead of presenting mostly performances, in which some of the people present participate actively in pieces while the others are passive, I wish to open much of tonight's program to the participation of all those present. I have brought materials with which a fairly large number of people may work.

I throw myself and my pieces on your good will, and ask you to listen intently to all sounds at all times, never overasserting your egos, always contributing with as much sensitivity as possible to the communal experience. While we need not be limited by traditional ideas of beauty, I hope that a serious meditative attitude will reduce the incidence of thoughtless harshness, silliness, and ugliness to a minimum.

Between the larger simultaneities and word events, I will read some poems, Spencer Holst will read one of my stories, and we may do a few pieces with a small number of people.

Remember always that in participating in the simultaneities, it is very important that you spend a great deal of the time "list'ning and silent, and silent and list'ning, and list'ning and silent," as Dryden, in his poem "On the Death of Mr. Purcell," says of the lark and linnet when the nightingale sings. But in our case, we will not listen and be silent because of some singular performer but in order to sense and feel the total situation and to allow each of our actions as participants to arise from our deepest feelings in the situation.

Let us always try to produce sounds that we would like to hear, and to add to the total situation only when we feel that we can contribute to it positively. These situations will then be microcosmic anarchist societies in which the materials and rules of the pieces will replace the ordinary contingencies and customs of social life.

Before each piece I will describe how it is to be done, and ask that you question me as to any obscurities or confusions.

I dedicate this evening to the people of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, in the hope that even a limited situation where a few people cooperate lovingly, thoughtfully, sensitively, and freely to produce an aural environment in which they can all live and breathe will have some effect on the world at large that will reduce the possibility of such violence and injustice as that from which the Indo-Chinese are now suffering at the hands of the U.S. government and its allies.

The recent negative demonstrations that have proliferated in protest against the U.S. government's escalation of the Indo-Chinese War are very much needed, and I pray that they have some positive effect. I wish our mutual participations tonight to be a kind of positive demonstration of the better possibilities of human nature, for only the realization of those possibilities will end warfare and injustice.

Jackson Mac Low  
15 May 1972