

THE KITCHEN IN FOCUS AT 47 CANAL

Part One

Andy de Groat, Susan Rethorst, and Elizabeth Streb

September 4–14, 2024

Between 1974–1985 The Kitchen expanded its interdisciplinary program—exploring formats and presentations of music, video art, and performance—on the second floor of 484 Broome Street (on the corner of Wooster Street) in SoHo. This fall The Kitchen returns to its former location, now home to the art gallery **47 Canal**, for a curated program that highlights distinct works from the historic Wooster Street loft years. *The Kitchen in Focus* at **47 Canal** will comprise two exhibition programs across September and October 2024.

From September 4–14 the gallery will host a presentation of work from *Dancing in the Kitchen*, the institution's innovative and longest running dance series established in 1978. Initiated by then Dance Curator Eric Bogosian, *Dancing in the Kitchen*, inaugurated a program organized around a set of performances that hosted one choreographer a month who performed a new work across three or four evenings at The Kitchen. The program structure supported artists at various stages of their careers as they developed and presented new work to the public for the first time. The format of the series lent itself to a range of themes and formats such as dance festivals, artists in conversation, rehearsals, and varying durational showcases. This distinct approach to support and engagement created a space for experimentation and network for the New York dance and performance community that continues today. In 1990, The Kitchen's Dance Curator Steve Gross, restructured *Dancing in the Kitchen*, renaming it to *Working in the Kitchen*, and in 1995, the series title shifted again to *Dance in Progress* before taking the name *Dance and Process* in 2005, now known as The Kitchen's longest running dance series to date.

This first program at **47 Canal** will center around video recordings of movement-based works by artists Andy de Groat, Susan Rethorst, and Elizabeth Streb. Andy de Groat's 1981 presentation at The Kitchen included *Portraits of American Dancers*, *Dutch Circumstances (DUST)*, and *(Gravy) a medicine of spaces*. De Groat's *(Gravy)*, included in *Focus*, was accompanied by Julius Eastman's *The Holy Presence of Joan d'Arc* (1981), conducted by Eastman live. In December of 1980, Susan Rethorst brought *The Life of the Wasp*, a dance piece for sixteen women, to The Kitchen. Playing on Doris Humphrey's dance piece titled *The Life of the Bee* (1929) and on the socioeconomic label "W.A.S.P.", Rethorst created a commentary on commerce and community. Elizabeth Streb's *Ringside/Fall Line* (1982) comprised two dance works: *Fall Line*, performed with Michael Schwartz was danced on a "hill," a 35-degree inclined plane, that required them to utilize their arms and legs for support. Streb's solo work, *Ringside*, focused on the limitations of dance movements in a confined space. To demonstrate this, Streb performed a multitude of different actions on a slightly tilted disk. These videos will be on view alongside key materials from The Kitchen's archive.

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The Kitchen in Focus at **47 Canal** will feature a second program with a solo exhibition of work performed by American choreographer and performer Sheryl Sutton from September 20–October 26, 2024. *The Kitchen in Focus* at **47 Canal** continues the organization's exploration of site and cross-institutional collaboration during this “Without Walls” period as The Kitchen’s Chelsea building is under renovation and we operate from our temporary home at Westbeth Artists Housing.

The Kitchen in Focus at **47 Canal** is organized by Robyn Farrell, Senior Curator.

Production by David Riley, Production & Exhibitions Manager, and Tassja Walker, Production Supervisor, The Kitchen. Research and administration by Alex Waterman, Archivist, Fernanda Escalera Zambrano, Administrative Assistant, and Gilberto Rosa-Duran, Communications Manager.



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Exhibition checklist

West Wall (left to right)

1. Dance Point of View, The Kitchen, c. 1970s
18 x 24 inches.
2. Exterior view of entrance to The Kitchen at 484 Broome Street/59 Wooster, c. 1978
Reproduction, photograph by Patrick Hinely
9 1/2 x 6 1/4 inches.
3. The Kitchen 1975-76 Yearbook Title Page
Reproduction with etching by Richard Haas, 484 Broome Street
Courtesy of Brooke Alexander, New York
7 1/2 x 10 1/2 inches.
4. Folder, circa 1970s.
Interior view of The Kitchen at 484 Broome/59 Wooster, c. 1975
Photograph by Kathy Landman
19 x 12 inches.
5. Drawing of The Kitchen Staff Seating Chart at Wooster loft, circa 1970s
24 x 18 inches.

East Wall (left to right)

6. The Kitchen program poster, April 1981
Includes *Dust* and *Gravy* by Andy de Groat & Dancers
17 x 22 inches.
7. Press release for *Dust* and *Gravy* by Andy de Groat (with score by Julius Eastman), 1981
8 1/2 x 14 inches.
8. *Get Wreck* poster featuring Andy de Groat, part of *Dancing in The Kitchen* series, 1978
14 x 17 inches.
9. *Dust and Gravy*, 1981, photograph by Paula Court
Reproduction, 8 x 10 inches.

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10. Program notes for *Dust and Gravy*, page 1 and 2
Reproduction, 10 x 6 inches.
11. Program notes for *Dust and Gravy*, page 3, notated score by Julius Eastman
Enlarged reproduction, 15 1/2 x 21 inches.
12. Julius Eastman, *Letter to Joan*
Reproduction, 8 x 10 1/2 inches.
13. The Kitchen program poster, December 1980
Includes Susan Rethorst and dancers
12 x 22 inches.
14. Press release for *The Life of the Wasp* by Susan Rethorst, 1980
Reproduction, 8 1/2 x 11 inches.
15. Program notes for *The Life of the Wasp* by Susan Rethorst, page 1 and 2, 1980
Reproduction, 8 1/2 x 11 inches.
16. *The Life of the Wasp*, 1980, photograph by Paula Court
Reproduction, 10 x 6 1/2 inches.
17. *The Life of the Wasp*, 1980, photograph by Paula Court
Reproduction, 10 x 6 1/2 inches.
18. The Kitchen program poster, February 1982
Includes *Fall Line* and *Ringside* by Elizabeth Streb
11 x 17 inches.
19. Press release for *Fall Line* and *Ringside* by Elizabeth Streb, 1982
8 1/2 x 14 inches.
20. Postcard for *Fall Line* and *Ringside*, from *Dancing in The Kitchen* series, 1982
Front and Reverse, 4 1/2 x 7 inches.
21. Promotional poster for *Fall Line* and *Ringside*, 1982.
8 1/2 x 11 inches.

22. *Fall Line*, 1982, photograph by Paula Court
Reproduction, 10 x 6 3/4 inches.
23. *Fall Line* contact sheet, 1982, photograph by Paula Court
Reproduction, 10 x 8 inches.
24. Program notes for *Fall Line* and *Ringside*, page 1 and 2, 1982
8 1/2 x 11 inches.

Video Program (loop)

25. Andy de Groat (American, 1947 – 2019)
(Gravy) A medicine of spaces
April 1, 1981
Running time: 46:57 mins.
26. Susan Rethorst (American, born 1951)
The Life of the Wasp
December 18, 1980
Running Time: 43:02 mins.
27. Elizabeth Streb (American, born 1950)
Ringside/Fall Line
February 18, 1982
Running time: 37:45 mins.