

SECRET KITCHEN by Margaret Dragu

Secret Kitchen is an installation-performance that employs slides, text, dance, xerox, paper-mâché, found objects, borrowed objects and music. It is theatrical in nature in that the installation (a 'surreal' kitchen) is like a theatrical set; and in that the performance (a series of monologues from the research for MOMZ' RADIO) becomes a series of characters connected by a theme which is a classical "theatre" form (eg. Kennedy's Children).

I am quite suprised at how much the first version (see video) was more like theatre than performance art. I have worked in theatre but rejected it long ago at the same time I stopped working as a commercial actor in television and film.

I don't know if subsequent performances of Secret Kitchen will be as theatrical. It will evolve in some way or another. I call it Secret Kitchen as caregivers (usually women) of young children who are fulltime or parttime at home are often "stuck" in the kitchen—and the work they do at home is often invisible or secret. I am bringing the kitchen and the people in it out into the open. Their stories are often jagged and intense -- not the pastel-lambykings-bunny-baby-booboo image offered by t.v., magazines, billboards and the baby product industry.

The kitchen is a regular kitchen that has been papered and paper-mâchéd by xeroxes I have collected over the last 1½ years. There are two image banks of xeroxes; a famous rent strike in Harlem that took place in the early '60's, and, images of mothers and children from the newspaper (often in distress).

In Peterborough, I was in residence for one week. There was a screening of my recent film "I Want to Be Alone" which is 16 mm colour and my recent video "Breath" which is 3/4 inch colour NTSC.

I gave a lecture-demonstration-cum-workshop.

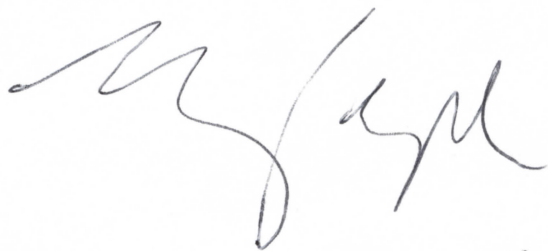
The gallery arranged for MOMZ' RADIO to be broadcast on Trent Radio.

I sold copies of my book REVELATIONS: Essays on Striptease and Sexuality; and also copies of my "little" books that are selfpublished by Same Day Edit Press -- New Way of Walking, Footloose and Sans Peur.

We are living in a media world

and I am a

Media Girl



(Margaret Dragan)

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