



# The Kitchen

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## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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### For Immediate Release

## **The Kitchen presents an evening with The Electronic Literature Organization, Tuesday, December 13**

New York, NY, November 17, 2011—On Tuesday, December 13, The Kitchen presents an evening hosted by The Electronic Literature Organization (ELO) to celebrate the launch of the second volume of the *Electronic Literature Collection* (February 2011). Five projects from the volume will be presented including works by Sandy Baldwin, Oni Buchanan, Jhave, Cynthia Lawson Jaramillo and Stephanie Strickland with Paul Ryan, and Illya Szilak. The evening will take place at 7:00 P.M. at The Kitchen (512 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street). Admission is free, but capacity is limited. Seating is first-come, first-served.

Volumes 1 and 2 of the *Electronic Literature Collection* provide a rich and diverse model of evolving e-literature practice, including pieces that range from text movies to works made for a CAVE (Cave Automatic Virtual Environment). The program at The Kitchen will consist of five 12-minute performances of multimedia works, interactive performative-readings and other highlights from a variety of born-digital literary forms (game-inspired, collaborative, database, film/video, generative, and kinetic image work) seen in Volume 2.

First on the program is Oni Buchanan's *The Mandrake Vehicles*, an example of kinetic text effects made in collaboration with Betsy Stone Mazzoleni. The piece is an investigation of the biology, folklore, and ritual uses of the European mandrake and/or American mayapple plant. Next is Sandy Baldwin's *New Word Order: Basra*, a work experienced through the online multi-player game *Half-Life*. Third is Cynthia Lawson Jaramillo and Stephanie Strickland's *slippingglimpse*, which includes videos by Paul Ryan.

Infused with the absurdist spirit of Russian Futurism, the fourth piece is Illya Sziliak's *Reconstructing Mayakovsky*, a work that takes the shape of a commercial website gone amok. The last piece of the program is Jhave's *Sooth*, a set of love poems interactively triggered phrase-by-phrase to fly in flocks over original video. Jhave will also show an elegiac work associated with the tragedy in Fukushima, Japan.

The Electronic Literature Organization was founded in 1999 to foster and promote the reading, writing, teaching, and understanding of literature as it develops and persists in a changing digital environment. A 501c(3) non-profit organization, the ELO includes writers, artists, teachers, scholars, and developers. For more information, go to [www.eliterature.org](http://www.eliterature.org).

### About the Participants

**Sandy Baldwin** is an artist, teacher and scholar. He publishes widely on new media, digital writing and electronic literature. He is Associate Professor of English and Director of the Center for Literary Computing (CLC) at West Virginia University. Under Baldwin's leadership, the CLC is recognized as a leader in research into the digital humanities and electronic writing. His artistic practice includes

several books of codework—creative writing at the intersection of human and computer processes—and a long-term collaboration with the artist Alan Sondheim, exploring bodies and performance in virtual worlds. His most recent books are *Lurid Numbers*, an “unprintable” volume of codework, and a collection of essays on digital literature, co-edited with Philippe Bootz.

**Oni Buchanan’s** third poetry book, *Must a Violence*, is forthcoming from the Kuhl House Poets Series (U. Iowa Press) in 2012, selected by Mark Levine. Her previous books include *Spring* (selected by Mark Doty for the National Poetry Series) and *What Animal* (selected by Fanny Howe for the University of Georgia Press Contemporary Poetry Series). *The Mandrake Vehicles*, her large-scale kinetic poem, is on permanent display at the *Conduit* website. Buchanan’s poems have appeared most recently in the *New Orleans Review*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Hawai’i Pacific Review*, *Augury Books*, and *The Laurel Review*, and are included in *The Best American Poetry 2004* and *Legitimate Dangers: American Poets of the New Century*. She holds an M.F.A. in poetry from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, and a Master’s degree in piano performance from the New England Conservatory of Music. For more information, go to [www.onibuchanan.com](http://www.onibuchanan.com).

**Jhave** is a Montreal-based digital-poet whose focus is language-based online digital art, combinatorial poetics, and multimedia poetry. He is currently developing works that feature typographic experiments built through a synthesis of Flash, Mudbox, Vegas, Ableton, After Effects, and Mr. Softie. He has exhibited at Agence Topo, Chambre Blanche, Champ Libre, ELO, FILE, FOFA, Incident, Oboro, Turbulence, and 4 new media Biennales. Jhave uses algorithms as aesthetic tools and believes that moist matter is quasi-sentient. His work is an attempt to harmoniously reconcile computation, emotion, concepts, and the ancient idea of artist as conduit. Since 1999, he has published language-art online (instead of on paper) at [www.glia.ca](http://www.glia.ca).

**Cynthia Lawson Jaramillo** is an artist, technologist and educator. She works primarily with digital media and on themes of time and transience. Her work has been internationally exhibited and performed, including at Giacobetti Paul Gallery, Exit Art and HERE Arts (NYC), UCLA Hammer Museum (LA), Point Éphémère (Paris) and the Museums of Modern Art in Bogotá and Medellín (Colombia). She recently self-published *Of and In Cities*, an academically framed art book about five of her photographic projects, and *Cross Urban*, which documents the first two years of an ongoing collaboration with Klaus Fruchtnis. Since 2007 she has been an active participant in the university-wide project DEED: Development through Empowerment, Entrepreneurship, and Design, which she now directs. For more information, go to [www.cynthialawson.com](http://www.cynthialawson.com) or [www.slippingglimpse.org](http://www.slippingglimpse.org).

**Stephanie Strickland** is a print and new media poet whose work has both advanced the creation of born-digital poetry and creatively explored the intersections between print and digital. Her sixth book, *Zone : Zero* (book+cd), includes two interactive digital poems. She is the author of *V*, the first work of literature to appear simultaneously in print, *V: WaveSon.nets/Losing L’una*, and on the Web, *V: Vniverse*, as one work. Other digital works include *Ballad of Sand and Harry Soot*, *Errand Upon Which We Came*, and *Sea and Spar Between*, a poetry generator written with Nick Montfort. Her collaboration with Cynthia Lawson Jaramillo, the poem *slippingglimpse*, was introduced at *E-Poetry* in Paris and featured at *E-poetry* in Barcelona. Her essays appear in *Leonardo Electronic Almanac*, *ebr*, *Isotope*, and volumes from MIT Press and Intellect Press Ltd. On the Board of Directors of the Electronic Literature Organization, she co-edited the first volume of the *Collection*. For more information, go to [www.stephaniestrackland.com](http://www.stephaniestrackland.com) or [www.slippingglimpse.org](http://www.slippingglimpse.org).

**Illya Szilak** is a self-taught writer, and a practicing physician, who uses Creative Commons media and collaborations forged via the Internet to create hybrid digital novels. Her artistic practice explores perceptions of mortality, embodiment, identity and belief in an increasingly interconnected and virtual

world. Though her first novel, *Reconstructing Mayakovsky*, has been reviewed and exhibited primarily as new media art, in 2010 at the Japan Media Arts Festival in Tokyo, and in 2011 at Filmwinter in Stuttgart, Szilak considers the book to be a mutable form of literature. Her second novel *QUEERSKINS* (interface by Cyril Tsiboulski), which is about a gay saint who dies of AIDS will appear as an iPad app in early 2012. For more information, go to [www.reconstructingmayakovsky.com/](http://www.reconstructingmayakovsky.com/).

### **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

The Kitchen

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