

## *The Kitchen Prayers Peace Archive*

The Kitchen Prayers Peace Archive Exhibit at the UM Duderstadt Gallery 9/7/07 – 9/21/07 was the culminating event of seven years' illustrious work by the Project for Transforming thru Performing: re/placing Black womanly images. The Peace Archive is now permanently housed in the UM Libraries for the enjoyment of artists, scholars and witnesses for the future.

The entire collection, listed below, is in the Labadie Collection, Special Collections Library. In the Askwith Media Library and the Music Library, you will find Kitchen Prayers performances on DVD and well as interviews with the performers and our scholarly partners on DVD. At [DeepBlue.lib.umich.edu](http://DeepBlue.lib.umich.edu), you can access selected Kitchen Prayers performances and events from your computer.

## What's in the Peace Archive

*WHAT'S COOKIN' IN THE KITCHEN?* a planetary portrait  
9/11/01 - 9/11/04. *COOKIN'* is a 2-disc DVD set completed in 2006.  
It gives you an overview of the work of **The Project**.



## SCRIPTS

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You can either read the scripts (A1 – A5) or view them on CD (A6 – A10).

- A1. Kitchen Prayers, a performance dialogue on 9/11 and global loss December 11, 2001. Trueblood Theatre
- A2. Kitchen Prayers, a performance dialogue on 9/11 and global loss May 19, 2002. Trueblood Theatre
- A3. Kitchen Prayers in Turkey/ Summer 2002  
(new material and background research to create an expanded script)
- A4. Identities on Trial, a kitchen protest prayer  
April 11, 2003. Trueblood Theatre
- A5. Sapphire's New Shoe, the kitchen table summit  
October 29, 2004. Duderstadt Center

## CDs

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- A6. Scanned Script/ Kitchen Prayers 2001
- A7. Scanned Script/ Kitchen Prayers 2002
- A8. Scanned Script/ Kitchen Prayers in Turkey
- A9. Scanned Script/ Identities on Trial
- A10. Scanned Script/ Sapphire's New Shoe



## DVDs

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- A11. Kitchen Prayers, a performance dialogue on 9/11 and global loss  
December 11, 2001. Trueblood Theatre
- A12. Kitchen Prayers, a performance dialogue on 9/11 and global loss  
May 19, 2002. Trueblood Theatre
- A13. Kitchen Prayers in Turkey  
July 13, 2002. Enka Acikava Tiyatrosu, Istanbul, Turkey
- A14. Kitchen Prayers in Turkey  
July 18, 2002. Bogazici Universitesi, Bebek, Turkey  
July 19, 2002. Sabanci Universitesi, Karakoy, Turkey
- A15. Identities on Trial, a kitchen protest prayer  
April 11, 2003. Trueblood Theatre
- A16. Kitchen Prayers, a performance dialogue on 9/11 and global loss  
April 12, 2003. University of Michigan (Dearborn Campus)
- A17. Sapphire's New Shoe, the kitchen table summit  
October 29, 2004. Duderstadt Center.

## Newspaper Articles and Other Research

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You can either read this resource material in hard copy (B1 – B4)  
or view it on CD (B5 – B8).

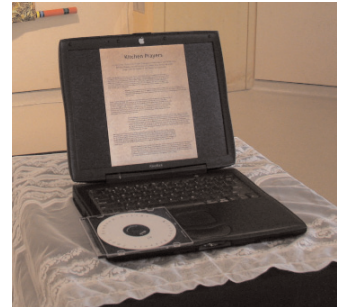
- B1. Table Work/ Kitchen Prayers  
December 2001 thru May 2002
- B2. Table Work/ Identities on Trial/  
Spring 2003
- B3. Table Work/ Fall 2003/  
workshopping “SAPPHIRE”
- B4. Table Work/ Spring 2004/  
workshopping “SAPPHIRE”



## CDs

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- B5. Scanned Images/  
Kitchen Prayers 2001-2002
- B6. Scanned Images/ Identities on Trial
- B7. Scanned Images/ Sapphire Workshop/  
Fall 2003
- B8. Scanned Images/ Sapphire Workshop/  
Spring 2004



## DVDs

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- B9. Michelle McCullough, Walonda Lewis, Kim Staunton and Rhonda Bantsimba are interviewed/ November 16, 2003
- B10. Walonda Lewis and Lisa Richards are interviewed/  
November 17, 2003
- B11. Workshopping “Sapphire”/November 19-20, 2003
- B12. Workshopping “Sapphire”/November 21, 2003
- B13. Workshopping “Sapphire”/Spring 2004
- B14. January and March 2002 workshops with responses from Jill Dolan, Haiping Yan and Elin Diamond. Room 1550, Frieze Building
- B15. Ifeoma Nwankwo workshop with Prayerful Performers/Fall 2004
- B16. Studio Work/Taping Scenes for “COOKIN”/Spring and Fall 2004
- B17. Rehearsals for “COOKIN” (5/10/04)
- B18. Rehearsals in Turkey
- B19. Symposium “Transforming thru Performing” May 2002. UM Museum of Art.
- B20. Freda Scott Giles Interview
- B21. Michael Kennedy Interview

B22. Harry Elam and Margaret Wilkerson Interviews

B23. Sapphire's New Shoe: Post-show Q and A  
October 29, 2004. Duderstadt Center

B24. Symposium "Symbols, Signifiers and Sapphire's New Shoes"  
October 30, 2004. Pierpont Commons

B25. Kitchen Prayers Peace Archive Celebratory Opening/  
September 9, 2007

B26. Kitchen Prayers Peace Archive Roundtable/September 11, 2007



The Project for Transforming thru Performing: re/placing Black womanly images is supported by a generous grant from the Ford Foundation.



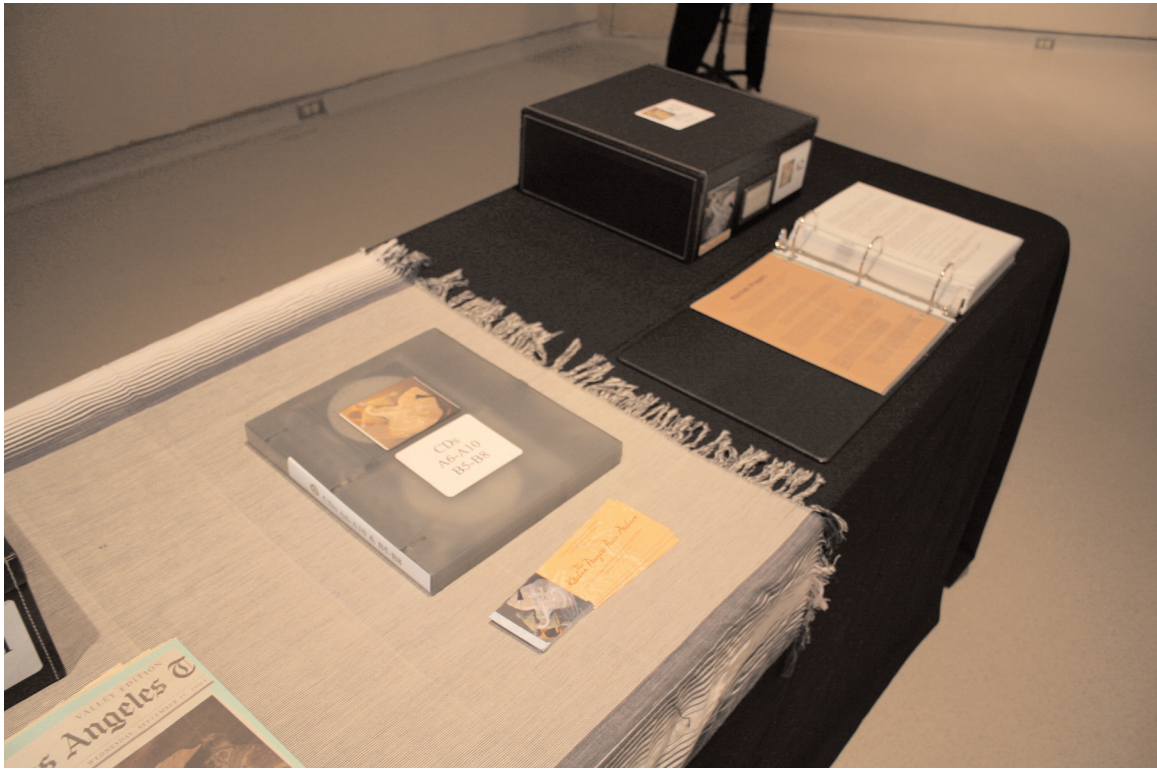








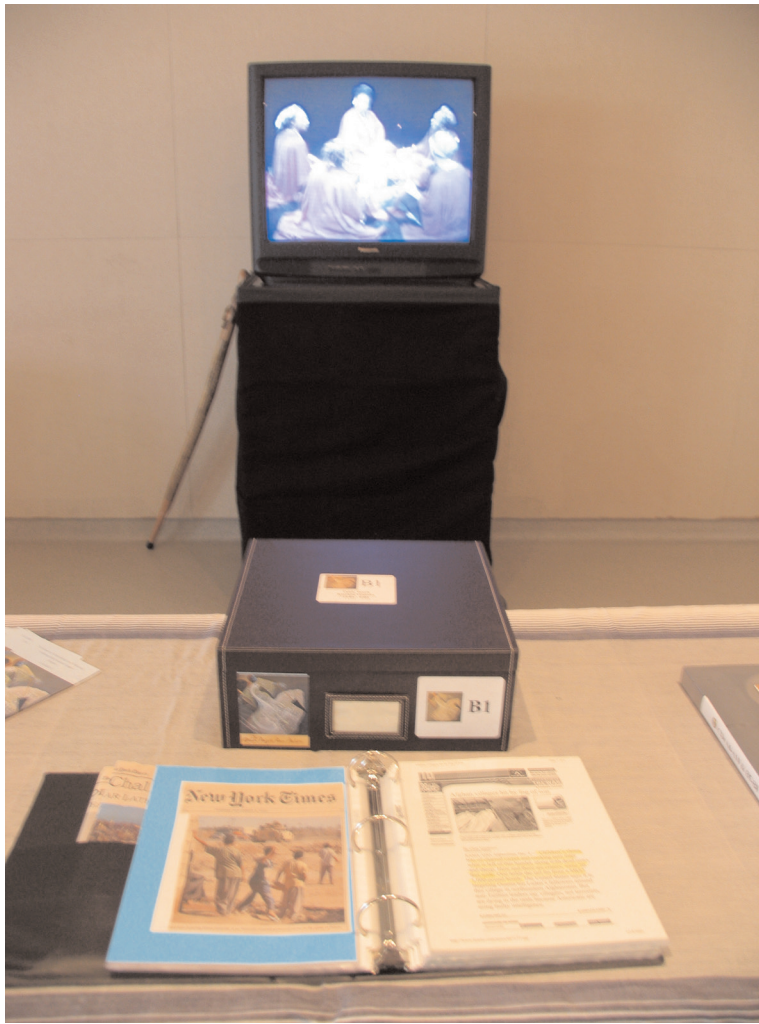



































**KITCHEN PRAYERS:  
TRANSFORMING THRU PERFORMING**  
Director's Notes

The Kitchen Prayers Performance Dialogue Series is presented by The Project for Transforming Thru Performing: re/placing Black womanly images. The Project collects and dramatizes stories from ordinary, everyday women who are sometimes forgotten by scholars when they consider gendered identity. In discussions held both during and after the performances, we place scholarly commentary next to the original narrative and the narratives of our audience. Thus the next Performance Dialogue.

When the Black womanly performer, humbly and respectfully, enters her body into a text based on history, myth and real life narratives, she adds a spiritual dimension to the dialogue. These performers might be called performance historians, but they are revealing history as witnesses for the future, so I call them Prayerful Performers.

During performances, the Prayerful Performers carry individually handmade scripts. These scripts serve as places of memory, memory as it relates to the Greek martyr, which connotes witness. I call them Witness Texts.

The Kitchen Prayers Performance Dialogues take the kitchen as a central metaphor. The Prayerful Performers sit around a figurative kitchen table and tell their stories. After 9/11, we wanted to expand our storytelling to encompass stories of women who are not Black and of oppressed people who are not descendants of slaves. The voices featured in the Kitchen Prayers performances are global voices. We joined hands with millions of other hands, but we always kept the Black woman's performing voice at center.

"Kitchen Prayers, a performance dialogue on 9/11 and global loss" was presented in the UM Trueblood Theatre in December 2001, and May 2002 and in Istanbul, Turkey in Summer 2002. "Kitchen Prayers" dramatized global narratives which spoke to the reality of women living with war, terror and resistance every day. In our closing "stadium of confrontation", we celebrated the powerful drive these women exhibit to survive and transcend their circumstances.

In April 2003, in response to the American invasion of Iraq, I conceived and directed "Identities on Trial, a kitchen protest prayer". "Identities on Trial" was performed at the University of Michigan and dramatized testimony collected from global hearings, congresses, testimonies, tribunals and books on violations of women's rights.

In October 2004, after collecting global stories for three years, "Sapphire's New Shoe, the kitchen table summit" returned us to our original mandate, re/placing Black womanly images. More fully produced than previous performances, "Sapphire" was a mystic, time and place crossing, shape shifting dance of Black women in the news.

**Please visit the companion exhibit which focuses on "Sapphire's New Shoe" in the International Institute Gallery.**

"What's Goin' in the Kitchen" a planetary portrait 9/11-01-9/11-04, a documentary which provides an overview of the work of The Project, was completed in 2006. "Goin'" is an interactive 2-disc DVD which plays as part of The Exhibit. The Exhibit also contains Scripts, CDs and DVDs of the performances, as well as Costumes, Props, and other Artifacts.

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The Project for Transforming Thru Performing is supported by a generous grant from the Ford Foundation.







