

**Marja Samsom:
from Old Amsterdam to New Amsterdam :
1975 to today.**

In 1975 as a young Dutch artist I was invited to show my movies in NYC, at the Byrd Hoffman Foundation, now called Watermill Center, founded by Robert Wilson.

During this first trip I stayed in the Soho loft of my dear Gioia Timpanelli's friend, Lucy Lippard who had one condition .. that I'd take care of her iguana, a kind of scary proposition ...as well as use the hand operated freight elevator... so at night time I'd have to be careful not to get stuck in there.

Gordon Matta Clark's artist run enterprise 'Food' on the corner, Giorgio de Luca with his sandwich shop ,designer Bill Katz upstairs , Mary Ellen Mark, the photographer, all on Prince street. Then Susan Penzner invited me to a fabulous party downtown in Hal Bromm's beautiful 10 Beach street loft .. leading to lifelong friendships.

I was included in a group show 'Self portraits' at the Fine Arts Building in Tribeca, curated by Jeffrey Deitch, of course at the opening met so many fellow artists, Colette Lumiere, AA Bronson, Edit DeAk, Walter Robinson, Robert Longo, Julian Schnabel & with all that great energy, I couldn't stay away long from NY City.

I continued to create work while still living in Amsterdam, for a new performance space 'De Appel', and at the groundbreaking Galerie Riekje Swart.

I was offered a solo show in NYC, uptown at the Bertha Urdang Gallery. So during this time, as 'Miss Behave' & president of my imaginary 'OOC' club #outofcontrolclub, I rented a studio space in Hal Bromm's Tribeca project the 'Gerken Building'.

Later that year through Edmund Gaultney and Ronnie Cutrone, I met Andy Warhol at the Factory, who claimed I was 'Miss Crewcut': part of 'the scene' @Studio54, @the Muddclub.

Loved being here so much that after my performance in 1980 at Franklin Furnace

I left Amsterdam, settling in NYC. Of course I had to find my way to make a living. That wasn't so easy, but necessity is the mother of invention. I started baking my mothers recipe 'Linzertorte' for Bloomingdale's. That worked, and catering for Sony's 'Epic records', that also worked.

While bicycling downtown looking for a haircut, discovered a salon where i got the best haircut ever, from a Japanese man, who'd soon become my husband, the amazing genius Akiro Tasaka: such very Happy time followed...

In 1985 my trusted friend Hal Bromm offered an opportunity to live /work in my own space in the East Village. Soon inviting friends over to my 'salon': calling it 'The Kitchenclub', a weekly menu was on the answering machine!!

Then after receiving the 'green card', was able in 1990 to open up my own place on the corner of Prince and Mott/ in Little Italy.
now that area s called NoLita.

As producer of my Gesamtkunstwerk, an all inclusive art piece, I was the Flavor DJ and performance artist /restaurant owner,
Grateful and happy to maintain my 'undercover artist' presence on the downtown scene.

Then in 2010 after celebrating the Kitchenclub 20th anniversary, it was time for a change.

I decided to end this long performance piece, in order to pursue my new concepts of art.

In 2011 I was offered a residency @The Clocktower, culminating in a storytelling event / installation: 'Shrine'
couple of years later in 2015, published my limited edition 'Diary of a forgotten actress', available @Printed Matter

and most recently @Participant in 2016:
MBehave performances and Super-8 movie show

excited t b developing a couple of new projects
happy to keep you posted