



Faith in Doubt: a speculation on the function of humor in contemporary art
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Alix Pearlstein's video, *Bam, bam, bam* presents a series of cartoonish dashes between "reality" and representation, from the personal event to the media event, from birth through the evolution of humankind. Such "timeless tales" as evolution are performed in an oddly rote manner as Pearlstein takes us from our humble beginning as the proverbial egg, through life, and beyond. The last scene depicts a transcendent flight—albeit with strings—all to the tune of the theme from "Batman." At the end of the video loop, a child bangs a baseball bat on the floor while yelling "bam bam bam," augmenting reality with an additional soundtrack.

The insistent predictability of Pearlstein's narratives suggests an alternative response to confusion: mindless acclimation in a comedy of compromise.

RIGHT TOP: Detail of *Bam-Bam-Bam* 1994 by Alix Pearlstein, Video
 RIGHT BOTTOM: Detail of *Bat-Bat* 1993-94 by Alix Pearlstein, black and white photographs length 36'

