

ALIX PEARLSTEIN
POSTMASTERS

Alix, what is your work about?

Alix Pearlstein: Control, freedom, captivity, time. That moment of tenuous existence... the point between existence and non-existence... a point of change. This creates the possibility for a narrative. For example, in the mouse piece, the game starts. Or in the dog piece, the dogs start walking around the tree.

So control is that frozen moment in time, the set-up?

Yes. And that moment before action is when I relinquish control of what one reads or interprets.

What about the physicality of your work?

There is a very logical physical thing working in all these pieces. Gravity, tension, basic physical ways of making something. An economy of means and an obviousness. The directness of this manipulation creates the dryness of it.

What is this piece called and what is going on?

This piece is called *Suspended Tree*. I needed something to hold up the branch, and the dogs do that. The tension of the strings attached to the three dogs, are supporting the tree. Dogs, trees — they go together. These decisions were also based on obvious dumb associations on a level of absurdity. There are enough things that do not make sense for it to make sense in some way.

Cat and Mouse has a very childlike quality to it, but a child would never think of doing it.

In this piece I am mostly interested in the expression of the mice... being coy. Also, there is a subtle perversity. It looks like everything is ok, but these animals have been put into situations that I am dominating.

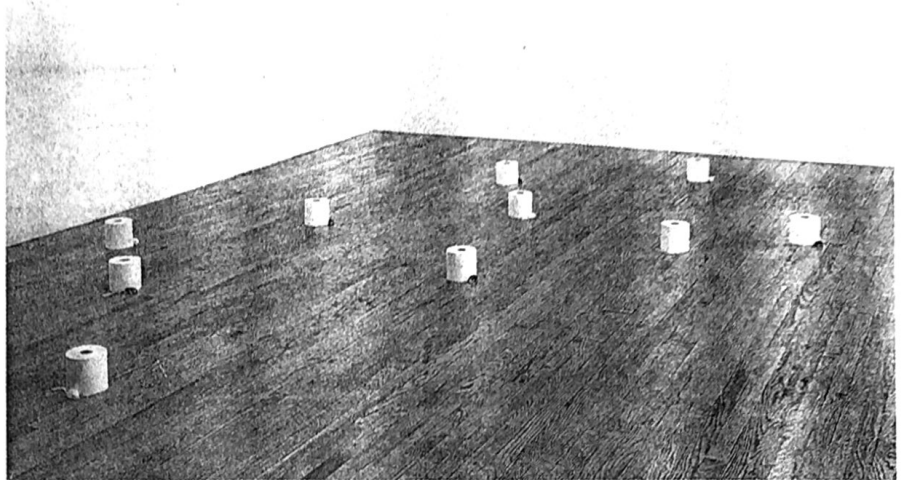
Anything else?

Love. That's what I want to make the next work about. The choice of using these dogs came out of my need for love from a small furry thing. To give and receive love. To have one in my life.

What about your siblings or your parents? Isn't that where children normally get this love?

You can not compare that love to the love of a small furry dog. This love is so pure and precious. It is sad. They just love you.

David Kelleran



ALIX PEARLSTEIN, CAT AND MOUSE, 1992.
TOILET PAPER ROLLS, FUR MICE.