

Vito Acconci

VD LIVES/TV MUST DIE

1978

Installation (rubber, cable, bowling balls, video with sound)

Approximately 10' x 30' x 70'

'The Kitchen' New York

A space with five columns in the middle.

Each set of three columns is made to function as the support for a giant slingshot: a band of rubber wrapped around the columns and holding in place a bowling ball. The ball is hooked through the rubber to a cable in tension; the ball is directed toward a television monitor, held by cable to the columns. Potentially a person can unhook the ball: the ball would be shot to the television set. One of the two slingshots has its plot complicated: a second rubber band envelops the ball, in an opposite orientation -- the ball can be released not toward the TV monitor but toward a window, and out into the street.

Monitor 1: gray screen -- the sound of gunshots -- staccato voice: 'You don't want a prick that looks like that/She don't want a cunt that looks like that...I don't want my body!' -- quick flashes of sex, fade-in to vagina or penis.

Monitor 2: a field of penises and vaginas, grouped together, joined together in various combinations -- the scene shifts, the bodies are moved out of place and into place, my voice acts as a guide: '...over, move over...there, right there...no, no, you missed it...there, that's better, that's good o that's so good o that's so good...now, aim in... now you're almost like him...' Now and then the image blurs: '...But nothing lasts forever; and meanwhile, back in the jungle' (Sound of birds)... Now and then, another voice cuts in: 'Wait-warn them-Haven't they heard?-New York's been invaded-Look out-Look outside...'