



Salon 94 presents a **performance** by

ALIX PEARLSTEIN: ARENA

A video shoot staged as a live performance event

With Lynn Cohen, Ronald Cohen, Christen Clifford, Catherine Curtin,
David Mazzeo, Steven Rattazzi, Michael Stumm

Two Dates Only: Sunday September 26, 3 PM & Sunday October 3, 3 PM
Space is limited for each performance. Please RSVP: 646-672-9212

This is Alix Pearlstein's first live performance project. Pearlstein's videos feature groups of actors. They function as abstract dramas, which operate in a realm between the theatrical and the cinematic. Pearlstein's pieces examine behavior, relationships, group dynamics and social constructs. Informed by an exploration of performative strategies, these works, often set in a purely neutral white void, condense psychological narratives.

Pearlstein's method involves running through scenes in sequence, unlike the procedure for film, yet not quite like a rehearsal for a play. The actors are given characters, narrative back-stories, motivations, briefed on their relationships and their role in the scenario. A detailed treatment outlines the actions, objectives, themes and plot. From this foundation there is improvisation, that is shaped from take to take.

Using Salon 94 and an audience as set, location and site, *Arena* will at once function as a video shoot and a live performance. As such, it is a work in process, a demonstration of a working method as action and event - akin to presenting an unedited video live in real time. Live feeds from three cameras will transmit the performance to monitors throughout the space. The audience may alternate or choose between live, mediated or simultaneous viewing.

The time is late September 2004, one month before the presidential election. Seven actors form two groups and assume their designated roles. They play an elaborate game to compete for power, money and status within this social space, as spectators bear witness to their competition. The stakes increase as the action repeats for a second round.

A single channel, real time video will be made from the final round of the October 3rd performance, situated to expose the mechanics of the live event, in between documentation and the fiction of the narrative.

Alix Pearlstein lives and works in New York. Exhibitions include Greenberg Van Doren Gallery, NYC; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Palm Beach Institute of Contemporary Art, FL; SMAK, Ghent, and The Museum of Modern Art, NYC.

Salon 94 is located at 12 East 94th Street, NY, NY, 10128. Please contact 646-672-9212 for more information