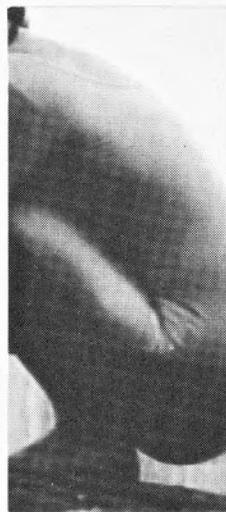


M A S S
BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

MARY LUCIER
ELIZABETH STREB



M A S S

BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

Mary Lucier and Elizabeth Streb
at the
ARTS CENTER
Portsmouth Museums
September 18
through November 21, 1992

Artist Reception
Thursday, September 17 - 7-9 p.m.

Preview opening receptions are a benefit of membership in the Portsmouth Museums. A donation of \$3.00 is suggested for non-members at the door. Your patronage is appreciated.

Mary Lucier will give a public lecture on Friday, September 18, 1992 at the Pungo Building Theater, Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach campus at 12:30 p.m.



The mass of a body is its inertia or resistance to change while in motion. Relative motion or movement involves space and time, thus the change of a body's relative position to its environment.

"MASS: Between a Rock and a Hard Place" examines the place of the individual in society through an ambiguous theatre of force and resistance and asks us to contemplate their interconnectedness. It forces us to look at the continual conflict between instinctual drives that propel us toward gratification and the defenses that oppose them.

The grounding for this consideration is the rich exchange of video and dance vocabularies of artist Mary Lucier and choreographer/dancer Elizabeth Streb.

The projected images are highly structured, yet dynamic; they are sequential yet appear to float in space, jumping through voids from screen to screen. At times the viewer experiences united images on all three screens, fragmented by each screen's isolation from the other.

Combined with the task-orientedness and physically challenging athleticism of post-modern dance, the concept becomes intellectually challenging. The images are at once romantic and chaotic, due to their graceful, though repetitious movement. This concept is continually repeated like the ontological loop it represents.

Even though Lucier uses a contemporary and democratic medium usually associated with realism and documentation, she is able to facilitate a personal, authentic experience with the viewer.

— Timothy Close, Curator of Art



Video still, 1988-90