

**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**



**MARTIN KERSELS
*TUMBLE ROOM***

FEBRUARY 22 – March 24, 2001

Tumble Room, an ambitious new sculpture by Martin Kersels will be presented at Deitch Projects' 76 Grand Street gallery from February 22 – March 24, 2001. Turning on an axis centered on its back wall, a little girl's bedroom slowly spins, tumbling its contents from floor to ceiling. Nearly sixteen feet tall, the spinning room grinds its furniture much like a rock tumbler grinds its stones. An accompanying video, *Pink Constellation*, draws influence from Fred Astaire and Buster Keaton while dealing with issues of unsettledness and gravity. The work fuses performance and sculpture, comedy and pathos. The viewer is pulled into a vortex of dislocation.

Martin Kersels is a Los Angeles based artist who works with sculpture, video, sound and photography. Born in Los Angeles in 1960, he was heavily influenced by the variety of industries that make up Southern California culture, i.e. aerospace, film, automobile, etc. His work history is based in performance, namely his collaborations from 1984 to 1993 with the performance collective, SHRIMPS. From 1993 to the present he has been making sculptural and photographic work that uses concepts drawn from performance.

CONTINUED ON REVERSE

Describing Kersels' work in the March/April 1996 *Art Issues*, David A. Greene wrote:

scratch the surface of [his work] and one finds that any sweet whimsy and sad-sack slapstick attendant in its Sisyphean journey and autobiographical cumbrousness are really just easy diversions, pointing away from more abundant sentiments: specifically a mean streak, albeit an entertaining one, and a seething anger at , or about, the function and status of art.

Survey exhibitions of Kersel's work have been presented by the Madison Art Center in 1997 and the Kunsthalle Bern in 2000. His work has also been included in numerous group exhibitions such as Departures: 11 Artists at the Getty, 2000, Young Americans 2 at the Saatchi Collection, 1998, and the 1997 Whitney Biennial. His work is in the collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, the Norton Family Foundation, the Musée national d'art moderne, Paris and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami. Kersels lives in Los Angeles where he is Co-Chair of the Art Program at the California Institute of the Arts.

**GALLERY HOURS 12 – 6, TUESDAY – SATURDAY
OFFICE HOURS 10 – 6, MONDAY - SATURDAY
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT
SUZANNE GEISS AT 343-7300**