



Elana Herzog's model for the installation *If a tree...*

**Elana Herzog**  
*If a tree...*

May 7 - June 26, 2022

Elana Herzog is an artist who has defied easy categorization in her over thirty years of mature art making. Continuing her delphic approach, she is creating a new site-specific installation with Cathouse Proper in our exhibition space at 524 Projects. "Site specificity" arises here from Herzog's spontaneous yet muscular address of the temporary elevated platform currently installed in the gallery. In typical fashion for the artist, the form of this exhibition has evolved out of ongoing conversations begun over the past year as she has absorbed our changing gallery environment. Recently at the MacDowell artists' residency, Herzog has prepared elements for the installation that will be completed on site in the days prior to its opening on Saturday, May 7.

Vertically stacked logs, loosely resembling a tree, emerge through an opening in the raw plywood platform and are tethered to the ceiling. This tree-like form appears to provide a counterweight to another, more abstract assemblage suspended several feet away. Clues as to what the finished installation will look like are derived from the above pictured model that has been provided by the artist. Another reference is Herzog's earliest public installation *Place Setting* (1991), pictured below, in which the table tops, sited outdoors and pierced by planted shrubs, are analogous to the platform in the gallery. Now working inside, and at a much larger scale, the gallery becomes both a container, support and element of the artwork; a vitrine for a diorama that the viewer can enter.

Despite this theatricality, Herzog's activities are essentially materialist. Her work aspires to undermine vertical hierarchies of categorization and interpretation by making plain the mechanics of its production. Relevant, then, is the horizontal platform in the gallery that introduces an unusual separation into the distinctly vertical orientation of the room. The gallery is bifurcated into an above and below, conjuring iconic readings of division both literal and figurative, physical and psychic, conscious and unconscious, while creating a stratified landscape both natural and cultural.



Elana Herzog, *Place Setting* (1991), Snug Harbor, Staten Island, NY

*The artist would like to thank the MacDowell artist's residency, Peterborough, New Hampshire, for their invaluable support in the production of this work.*

Elana Herzog lives and works in New York City. She holds a BA from Bennington College and an MFA from Alfred University. Herzog received a 2017 Guggenheim Fellowship. Her solo and two person shows include ones at the Sharjah Art Museum, United Arab Emirates; Western Exhibitions, Chicago, The Boiler (Pierogi), and Smack Mellon, Brooklyn; the Aldrich Museum, Connecticut; Herbert F. Johnson Museum, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and Diverseworks, Houston, Texas. "De-Warped and Un-Weft," a survey of Herzog's work since 1993, was at the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art in Missouri in 2009. Her work has been exhibited internationally in the Republic of Georgia, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Canada, Chile and the Netherlands, and she has participated in numerous group shows at institutions such as The Brooklyn Museum, The Museum of Arts and Design and The 8th Floor in New York City, The Tang Museum in Saratoga Springs, New York, The Everson Museum in Syracuse, The Weatherspoon Museum in Greensboro, North Carolina, and The Kohler Museum in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Herzog has received grants from Foundation for Contemporary Art Emergency Grant; the Anonymous Was A Woman Award, the Louis Comfort Tiffany Award, NYFA Fellowships 2007/1999, Lillian Elliot Award; Lambent Fund Fellowship and the Joan Mitchell Award. She has been awarded residencies at Yaddo, MacDowell, Joan Mitchell Center, Fountainhead, Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, Marie Walsh Sharpe Space Program; LMCC Workspace, Dieu Donne Paper; Wave Hill; Back Apartment Residency, Russia; Søndre Green Farm, Norway; Gertrude Contemporary, Australia.



Cathouse Proper at 524 Projects  
524 Court Street, 2nd floor  
(enter Huntington St.)  
Brooklyn, NY 11231

Thursday–Sunday, 12–6pm  
F/G to Smith & 9th St.

The gallery is situated on unceded indigenous Lenape land.

The gallery is located on the second floor accessible by stairs only; should you need assistance gaining entry, please contact the gallery before or upon arrival.

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